

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
April 1, 2019**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Tim Kisielewski, Robert Lavoie, Ellie Costello, Joan Liporto, and Jared Fulgoni, Superintendent of Schools.

**Amesbury Public Schools Mission Statement**

***The Amesbury School District is unconditionally committed to every child, ensuring that all students experience success through the development of attitudes and skills necessary for lifelong learning by providing the highest quality staff, meaningful learning experiences, and a vitally involved community.***

***This meeting will be broadcast live on ACTV and will also be recorded.***

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Mr. Lavoie led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

***A motion was made by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley to move all agenda items other than the Public Hearing for the Budget and the introduction of Shannon Nolan to the Monday, April 8, 2019 meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.***

Superintendent Fulgoni introduced Shannon Nolan, new principal for Amesbury Elementary School. Mrs. Nolan shared that she was excited to be joining the team in Amesbury. She has begun meeting with AES staff and will continue to do so as she prepares to begin working with them.

**II. Public Comment on FY20 Proposed Budget**

Mayor Gray opened up the floor for comments on the proposed FY20 budget. Each speaker will be given three minutes. School Committee will hear all comments and any response will be held to the end. Before the comments, the Superintendent was asked to provide background on how the proposed budget had been developed. Mr. Fulgoni shared that the budget has been developed thoughtfully, taking into consideration the following:

- Began this school year in a deficit
- Providing additional programming - full day kindergarten and enhanced special education programming
- Right-sizing staffing to meet enrollment changes – there has been a decrease in enrollment of almost 300 students since 2016. Even with these changes, class sizes are still very favorable and meet School Committee Class Size Policy. Most staffing changes are a result of attrition
- Increased special education costs, specifically out of district placements
- Decreased state funding

A number of community members including staff, parents, residents, and city councilors shared comments and concerns about the proposed FY20 budget. The following comments/concerns were shared:

- Increase in special education placements was not unanticipated
- Concerns that the proposed staffing changes will be a detriment to the students
- Support of the proposed new special education programs
- Concern that the teachers and staff at the schools were not a part of creating the budget
- Suggestion that we have contingency funds
- Teachers need to be provided with the resources they need
- Appreciation for the work that the School Committee does
- Lack of support for the proposed budget

Comments were closed at 8:07 pm.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Vote: Yes, unanimous***

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary