

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
June 5, 2017**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Deb LaValley; Acting Chair, Peter Hoyt, Nick Wheeler and Amy Sherwood, Michael Gonthier, SAC Representative and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

Absent were Mayor Gray, Rob Chamberlain and Gretchen Marinopoulos.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. LaValley called the regular meeting to order at 7:07 PM and Mr. Hoyt led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement.

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.

II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS and DELEGATIONS

None

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- a. **Early College High School** – requested by a member to develop criteria NECCO and AHS. Will be having a focus group this week. Dr. Reese reported that on May 25th, Senator Connor-Ives earmarked \$200,000 for NECCO Early College Program– will see how this impacts our funding requests.

Also on May 25th Mrs. LaValley and Dr. Reese attended the NECCO graduation of 12 AHS Early College participants.

- b. **Presentation of Goals for Evaluation** – met with the Personnel Subcommittee prior to this meeting and reviewed progress on goals and the assessment of the goals. Reviewed specific elements – there are 35 elements, but focused on 8 of the elements. Dr. Reese spoke about the process that Mr. McGee established, summarizing and then tallying all the reports from the members. Dr. Reese will post his goals on the website for the public to see.

B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Joan Liporto will be presenting at the June 19th School Committee

C. Report from the Athletic Director

Glen Gearin spoke about the following in regards to spring sports:

- good spring – 200 students participated – shout out to the parents, students and filed workers.
- Accolades for boys tennis, girls tennis; baseball, softball (qualified for the MIAA State Tournament Next game is June 6th at Whittier Tech), boys track and girls track (still playing, next game will be next week)

Mr. Hoyt asked if the girls track is a young team. Mr. Gearin stated that it is.

Glen Gearin also spoke about new sport – Lacrosse. He was accompanied with George White and Chris Heline (Lacrosse coaches).

- Sustained growth/numbers at the youth level – currently 5 participating at Triton under the Co-op
- Facilities – co-op using the CES field and Sparhawk facility
- Title IX – currently provide opportunities for boys and girls
- Co-op possibilities - second year with Triton, first year with Whittier
- Funding – private?, public?, or both?
- Reviewed the participation of present youth teams in Amesbury (U9 -5 kids; U11 – 17 kids; U13 – 18 kids; U14 – 19 kids; high school – 5 kids)

Discussion: Mr. Heline stated that he is confident that there is enough interest to have a high school team. Stating that at present they have approximately 20 per age group. Mrs. Sherwood asked how many players are on the field at one time. Mr. Heline stated that there are 10 kids on the field at one time and they typically target 18 kids on a team.

Ms. LaValley stated that the numbers do look good, but need to look into funding. She suggested that Michael speak to the 8th graders about joining, when they present this week.

Mr. Hoyt asked about implementation of a JV team and when would they begin.

Mr. Gearin stated he would like to begin this September but will need funding for a coach and transportation.

D. Educational Showcase – Amesbury Middle School – Kristen Dore and Gale Regis

Mrs. Regis, sixth grade Science Teacher, spoke about her students working with Boston College Seismologist. They learn about earthquakes, different layers, brain storm while building their own seismology. This program began in 2007 with an AEFI grant and has continued ever since.

Mr. Hoyt commented that he had the pleasure of seeing them in action and was very impressed.

Kristen Dore, seventh grade Life Science Teacher, spoke about working with Derek Bent on a Headstart program working with endanger Blanding Turtles. Mrs. Dore spoke about the 2 turtles that she has had in the classroom since October and will be letting them go in June. The students do daily and weekly data on the turtles. Mrs. Dore commented on this is real work Science.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. SAC Report – Michael Gonthier

Michael stated that they have a tentative date of June 13th at 1:00 to go to the Middle School and promote the different clubs and sports that are offered.

B. Other

- Ms. LaValley stated that AHS graduation was nice, but a bit chilly
- Dr. Reese talked about the Grad Night, a safe final get together for the seniors. The night was well attended and he thanked all the parents that helped out including graduated moms.
- Mr. Wheeler ask where they went for Grad Night. Michael stated that they went to Boda Borg and Prince Pizzeria

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 05/15/2017

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood to accept the minutes of the School Committee meeting dated May 15, 2017. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler abstained from the vote to accept the May 1st minutes, which was not reflected on the minutes of May 15th. Motion by Mr. Hoyt, second by Mrs. Sherwood to accept the minutes of the School Committee meeting dated May 15th as amended. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrants: \$405,677.55 (05/25/17)

Motion by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the warrant dated May 25, 2017 in the amount of \$405,677.55. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. First Reading of Policy:

a. JKAA-R Restraint Prevention and behavior Support Policy and Procedures.

Dr. Reese stated that because of the OCR complaint, their attorney has suggested that they table this policy for now.

D. Student Handbook Approval

Mr. Hoyt thanked all of the principals and secretaries for getting the handbooks to him in a timely manner. Mr. Hoyt stated that the following were the changes:

- AES & CES – they share their handbook – this year is AES’ turn to update it. Wally noted that the only changes were policy updates, who to call, where to start, staffing and dates
- AMS – hats, lids and headdresses, Grade 5 – 2 teams, visitors and two means of egress, personal properties, suspensions – reason for.
- AHS – narrative for NHS, research papers standards, library media center, new rhythmic, MVP, John Greenleaf and GPA requirement
- AIHS – Page 14 change to Mr. Fijalkowski not Mr. Horan.
- Ms. LaValley added page 12 – excessive tardiness – free block

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the 2017-2018 student handbooks for all schools as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

E. TechPoint (Educator Evaluation) Contract

Dr. Reese discussed how My Learning Plan was purchased by a different company and they have been looking at different companies. TechPoint is locally based and is less costly. The high school has piloted it and thought that it was easier. This would be a 3 year commitment (\$14,652 with a yearly cost of \$4,884) a savings of \$4,000 a year. Ms. LaValley asked if this has been brought up to the finance sub-committee (no).

Motion by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to purchase TechPoint for a three year commitment. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler asked if present information will easily be transferred, Dr. Reese stated it would be. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**A. Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee**
Meeting will be June 19th
2. **Policy Subcommittee**
Mr. Hoyt stated they will be meeting Thursday at 5:00.
3. **Personnel Subcommittee**
Mrs. Sherwood stated they met prior to this meeting and discussed personnel and Dr. Reese's evaluation which will be completed by end of June.
4. **Strategic Plan Subcommittee**
Mrs. Sherwood stated they have not met.
5. **Joint Education Subcommittee**
Ms. LaValley stated they will be meeting on Wednesday, June 7th at 6:30 in the bank room.
6. **Building Committee**
Mr. Wheeler stated that they will be meeting Wednesday, June 7th at 5:30 in the AHS library.
7. **Building and Grounds**
Will be meeting Monday, June 12th at 5:30

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. **Retirement Recognition – June 19**
- B. **Superintendent Evaluation – June 19**
- C. **SPED/SEPAC Presentation – June 19**
- D. **Educational Showcase: Amesbury High School – June 19**
- E. **Presentation by School Resource and Attendance Officers – June 19**
- F. **Review of Summer Reading Program – June 19**
- G. **Out of State Field Trip Approval: Disney Youth Education Series – June 19**

Additions:

Ms. LaValley added the recognition of Track and Softball students.

Discussion: Mrs. Sherwood asked about the contract with AIHS. Dr. Reese stated that it will come to School Committee – will post – has 30 days – looking at the beginning of July to get a lease. Ms. LaValley stated that they are working with the attorney. Mr. Hoyt asked Ms. LaValley who was on the Board off Advisory. Mr. Wheeler asked about the current lease. Dr. Reese stated that it ends at the end of this month. He is hoping to request a month to month lease. Commencement for AIHS is this Friday at 6:00.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary