

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
May 15, 2017**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Nick Wheeler and Amy Sherwood, Sydney Knowlton, SAC Representative and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM and Ms. LaValley 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:

- Early College High School Program – working on the MOU from last year – working with the college on the college intent and AHS intent – working on a growing partnership – great opportunity for student, will continue this program.
- Budget Update – presented to City Council last Thursday and answered their questions.
- CES – environmental report was given to the committee members and will be online for families.
- Excellence in Education – today attended luncheon with Mayor Gray and Mr. Hoyt to recognize 12 educators in the district at Flatbread – Great event
- Rotary Teacher of the Year – Leslie Barnaby is the recipient of this years winner, nominated by Peter Hoyt
- Number of end of year activities coming up – a list of activities are on the Master Calendar.
- Superintendent Evaluation – will be on the agenda for the last meeting in June with documentations
- MSBA – met with them last Friday – working on the feasibility study – documents needed – will be looking into the process of selecting a project manager.

- Staffing – hiring a BCBA – resignation mid year – in the process of interviewing – Also hiring a Football Coach – interviews are today and tomorrow.

Mrs. Marinopoulos asked if the BCBA is for Elementary Schools. Dr. Reese stated that APS has 2 BCBA's and they are used in the middle school and both elementary schools. Ms. LaValley asked if the list of School Building Committee members could be posted on the city and school web-sites. Dr. Reese will take care of that.

B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Joan Liporto stated that the Finance sub-committee met prior to this meeting about the following:

- Revolving Accounts – concerns with the Pre-K tuition (negative \$7000)
- School Choice and Circuit Breaker Accounts – need to watch closely
- June will be looking over rental fees and tuition rates
- Transfers – salary line items - \$644,000 transfers – will be reflected in next report.
- Working with principals about areas to spend – this year budget frozen in November – in good shape

C. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning

Lyn Jacques gave the committee a status update of her department, reviewing the following:

- UbD curriculum work – defining the vision for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) integrating across the curriculum. This year everyone on the same page – curriculum facilitators were amazing, cannot do the job without them– next year will be working with small groups in grade levels.
- Professional Development – consumed by the curriculum alignment and integration work but had some opportunities at the building level. Looking into possibility of reimbursement from the MIIA rewards program.
- New educator induction program – just finished with our monthly meetings this month. Great program
- Civil Rights – first year as the Title IX Coordinator for the district – consumed by Coordinated Review process – 26 sections of report – huge project.
- Observation & Evaluation – Principals will be wrapping up in June. Will be changing from MyLearningPlan to Teachpoint for the software program – no additional cost.

Mr. Hoyt asked how many facilitators there were in the district – Lyn replied, 16 and are paid for by a stipend through a Grant. They were trained first and then they are training the others. Ms. LaValley asked for the Grant name – ‘Title II’

D. Presentation by Dr. Charette, Cashman Elementary Principal

Laurie McAllister, Building Coordinator; Kate Bissel and students from the Cashman Elementary School presented the school committee with a report on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) work that they have been doing during the school year. The students highlighted some of the programs and activities that support SEL including meditation techniques and learning yoga.

They spoke about Ms. Zappala-Stewart, retired APS teacher, and her work with the students at CES teaching them yoga, relaxation and breathing techniques. The students demonstrated and had the committee work on the 'balloon breath'. Mr. Hoyt asked if the students have noticed a difference with their peers. Samantha stated that the students seem calmer during their morning work.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. SAC Report – Sydney Knowlton

Sydney stated this would be her last meeting as she graduates from AHS and will be attending Curry College. She introduced Michael Gonthier as her replacement. Michael thanked the committee and is looking forward to a fun year. Ms. LaValley asked Michael to meet with Gary and Carol to get set up with email and name plate. Sydney added that Michael will be going to AMS to speak to 8th grade students regarding clubs and activities offered at the high school.

B. Other

- Mrs. Marinopoulos asked if she could share, to the public, the email that they all received from Brett Manoloff. Mayor Gray suggested that they consult their attorney first; he did not feel comfortable sharing the email at this time. Mrs. Marinopoulos asked to invite Mr. Manoloff to the next meeting so that he could read the email.
- Mrs. Marinopoulos asked about the rescheduling date of the postponed NHS induction. Dr. Reese stated that the induction is now scheduled for tomorrow night at 7:30PM.
- Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about a Facebook video that she saw regarding senior students walking through the halls of middle school and elementary school with their cap & gowns on. Very moving video, suggested maybe APS could look into doing this.
- Mr. Hoyt asked that student handbook drafts be put in by next Wednesday.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 05/01/2017

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the minutes of the School Committee meeting dated May 1, 2017. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrants: \$256,609.46 (05/11/17)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the warrant dated May 11, 2017 in the amount of \$256,609.46. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. Second Reading of Policies:

a. JJ – Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

Mr. Hoyt stated Policy JJ was read last meeting with no discussion. He is recommending that the policy be approved.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to adopt Policy JJ – Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

D. Acceptance of AEFI Spring Grants

Ms. LaValley read the following awarded Grants for approval by the committee:

Absolutely Normal Chaos – J.Pizzi and S. Blanchet - \$1,765.75

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the AEFI Grant in the amount of, \$1,765.75, Absolutely Normal Chaos. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Anchor Your Anxiety – B. Noseworthy - \$3,600.00

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the AEFI Grant in the amount of \$3,600.00, Anchor Your Anxiety. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Creating More AHA Moment with iPads – N. Coughlin \$4,000.00

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the AEFI Grant in the amount of \$4,000.00, Creating More AHA Moment with iPads. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Mindful Me, Pt II - CES Leadership Team \$3,091.79

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the AEFI Grant in the amount of \$3,091.79, Mindful Me, Pt II. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Weather Watchers - Deb Hewey \$ 740.00

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the AEFI Grant in the amount of \$ 740.00, Weather Watchers. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Inspiring STEM Careers Through Drone Technology – J. Firmes & J. Queenan \$5,516.00

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the AEFI Grant in the amount of \$5,516.00, Inspiring STEM Careers Through Drone Technology. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

*Maker Breaker Center: Developing a Mobile Creativity and Discovery Lab
Bruce McBrien \$1,339.78*

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the AEFI Grant in the amount of \$1,339.78, Maker Breaker Center: Developing a Mobile Creativity and Discovery Lab. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Ms. LaValley thanked AEFI for funding all of these Grants.

E. Last Day of School for students/teachers

Dr. Reese stated that Amesbury had 5 snow days making the last day of school June 22nd for students and para-professionals and June 23rd for teachers.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Superintendents proposed for the last day of school being June 22nd, as a half day, for students and para-professionals and June 23rd for teachers. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

F. Ratification of Teachers/Nurses Collective Bargaining Agreement

Dr. Reese spoke about the 3 items, on the contract, that needed to be approved and is recommending, to committee, approval of the teacher/nurses contract.

1. Regarding HS schedule – change in language and date (Jan. 15 to June 1)
2. Staff positions not listed in contract – SPED facilitators; AES & CES Audio Visual; AHS MBP advisor
3. Coaches stipend – 3 year proposal – this year and next no change – third year (18-19) 2% increase and 4 coaching positions increase of \$400.00.

Ms. LaValley asked if AFT met today to vote on the contract – yes, they did meet. She also asked about the schedule changes and if the staff's questions/concerns were addressed.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Teacher/Nurse contract as presented by Dr. Reese. Vote: 5 Yes, 2 excused (Hoyt and Chamberlain)

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**A. Subcommittee Reports****1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee**

Mr. Chamberlain stated there is nothing to add that Ms. Liporto did not review, except for the revolving account will be discussed at the June meeting.

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated there is no report at this time.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

Mrs. Sherwood stated there is no report at this time

4. Joint Education Subcommittee

Ms. LaValley stated they will be meeting in June after the budget vote.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. Early College High School Program Update – June 5

B. Athletics Program Update – identification of new sports process/ Lacrosse – June 5

C. Retirement Recognition – June 5

D. Superintendent presentation of goals – June 5

E. Superintendent Evaluation – June 19

Additions:

Ms. LaValley asked for a report from the SOR and attendance officer at the second meeting in June.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary