

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
April 3, 2017**

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

Absent was Sydney Knowlton, SAC Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 PM and Gretchen Marinopoulos 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

Joe McMilleon, City Councilor, thanked the School Committee members and Dr. Reese for the presentation of the school budget at the Joint Education Subcommittee.

Mr. McMilleon stated that he had met with all the principals and Dr. Reese prior to the meeting having good discussions. He supports this budget and stated that it is a good feeling rebuilding of schools.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Recognition of Winter Sports Accomplishments

Greg Lingley, Assistant Athletic Director, spoke about the accomplishments of winter sports. He introduced Coach Bissaillon, track coach. Coach Bissaillon spoke about the girls indoor track team, placing third out of 35 teams. He introduced the captains of the team and the seniors, stating that all the girls are well rounded dedicated in sports as well as their academics. All the girls spoke about their accomplishments and what the future aspirations.

Greg Willis, Softball Coach, was then introduced. He thanked School Committee members, the public and Dr. Reese for their support throughout the season. Coach Willis spoke about their record, best in Amesbury ever, 19 and 1. He introduced five of his players who spoke about their accomplishment and their future aspirations.

Ms. LaValley spoke about the reception, before this meeting, congratulating all the girls.

B. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- Congratulated the winter sports athletes – great job
- ASCD Conference – attended the conference one week ago with Elizabeth McAndrews and Eryn Maguire, who presented. Over 125 people attended the session which focused on SEL, imbedding social, emotional learning. Dr. Reese spoke about the workshop, that he attended, which spoke about the success of attending a four year college, beginning with the success in middle school grades. The studies do not reveal why, yet, but the success is based on the attendance and grades at the eighth grade level. Mr. Hoyt thanked Elizabeth and Eryn for their performance at the conference and proud of their accomplishments. Ms. LaValley asked Elizabeth and Eryn to comment of their presentation. Eryn stated that she was impressed with the attendance and their questions at the end of the session. Very receptive of SEL integrated program. Elizabeth agreed with Eryn and added that the conversations after the presentation were impressive.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS**A. SAC Report – Sydney Knowlton**

No report, Sydney absent.

B. Other

Ms. LaValley spoke about AEFI Hall of Honor, April 28th honoring Peter Hoyt, Graham McKay and Joan Miller.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**A. Approval of Minutes: 03/20/2017**

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the minutes of the School Committee meeting dated March 20, 2017. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the minutes of the Executive Session meeting dated March 20, 2017. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrant: \$155,468.96 (03/30/17)

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the warrant dated March 30, 2017 in the amount of \$155,468.96. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. Second Reading of Policies:**a. GCCAA – Coaches/Advisors**

Mr. Hoyt stated that Ms. LaValley reached out, asking to bring this policy back to the sub-committee for further clarification. The policy was tabled and will be reviewed at the next policy sub-committee meeting which is scheduled for Monday, April 24th.

b. DN – Disposal of Surplus Property

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept Policy DN – Disposal of Surplus Property, as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

D. School Choice

Dr. Reese stated that after speaking to all principals, his recommendation for opening School Choice is as follows:

- ✓ Grades 6 through 10 – opening for 10 students
- ✓ Grade 11 – opening for 5 students

Ms. LaValley asked why not Grade 5. Dr. Reese stated that this is a transitional year for incoming fourth graders.

Mrs. Sherwood was questioning opening up for all Junior High grade. Dr. Reese pointed out the most Middle Schools' begin with Grade 6.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to open School Choice to grades as recommended by Dr. Reese, for school year 2017-2018. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

E. School Budget FY 18 Vote

- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of District Administration of \$653,720. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood. Vote: 1 objected (LaValley); 6 Yes.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of transportation of \$652,681. Accepted by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Discussion: Ms. LaValley asked if that includes late buses. No. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Amesbury Elementary of \$3,864,738. Accepted by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Vote: 1 objected (LaValley); 6 Yes.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Cashman Elementary of \$4,024,130. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Vote: 1 objected (LaValley); 6 Yes.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Middle School of \$5,736,488. Accepted by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes – 5; 2 excused (Hoyt and Chamberlain).*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of High School of \$4,552,101. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: 2 objected (LaValley and Marinopoulos); 5 Yes.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of District Technology of \$354,273. Accepted by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Maintenance of \$1,595,725. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

- **Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Curriculum and Professional Development of \$286,332. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.**
- **Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Special Education of \$2,856,603. Accepted by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.**
- **Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Employee Benefits of \$5,309,556. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.**
- **Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Innovation High School of \$702,947. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.**

Review of Objections:

- **District Administration:** Ms. LaValley stated that she would like to state, for the record, that with this diverse population of students, Dr. Reese is still working with a 15hr. secretary. She is hoping that more hours will be added next year.
Ms. LaValley withdraws her objection. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.
- **Amesbury Elementary:** Ms. LaValley stated regarding second priorities of additional adjustment counselor and kindergarten full day, will definitely need to consider these for next year with today's society and climate. Mr. Hoyt echoed Ms. LaValley's statement and will be a priority for FY 19.
Ms. LaValley withdraws her objection. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.
- **Cashman School:** Ms. LaValley has the same concerns with CES (behavior interventionist and full day kindergarten) as AES. She stated that she regrets voting this down. Mrs. Sherwood echoed Ms. LaValley's concerns and stated that this is short money which would pay off later in years. This needs to be a priority moving forward.
Ms. LaValley withdraws her objection. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.
- **High School:** Mrs. Marinopoulos read a script regarding second priority - Therapeutic Program. She stated that as an educator herself, this is the single, most alarming change that she has seen in her 25 year in education. She has listened to Mrs. McAndrews concerns at the high school, and feels the need to be proactive and can not ignore this program. She is asking to add \$58,000 to the high school budget to fund this most important program.
Ms. LaValley stated that she never amended a budget presentation, but feels the need to state adding a full time Athletic Director and eliminate one assistant principal. She went on to talk about decreasing the principals income to \$95,000 and adding the travel money of the assistant principal to the AD position (\$72,000 working 220 days per year).

Discussion:

- Mr. Hoyt stated that he would vote against Ms. LaValley's motion, will be approving Dr. Reese proposal. Mr. Hoyt does support Mrs. Marinopoulos recommendation, he supports the cost center management proposals. Mr. Hoyt stated that Elizabeth has done a great job in her first year and he will support the Team. He asked if Elizabeth would like to speak.
- Mrs. McAndrews thanked Mrs. Marinopoulos for her support in the Therapeutic concept. She went on to talk about the impact of the possible loss of an assistant principal for a full time Athletic Director which she felt would be detrimental to the well bearing of the students. By only having one assistant principal, that person will be dealing with discipline all day long. Department Heads will not be doing evaluations, so she will be doing all of them. Now, all three of them work on them. To train some of the Department Head to do evaluations, this will cost the district money. She felt the need to look beyond financial numbers and think of the students.
- Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about the benefits of having a full time Athletic Director, moving forward, how can this be supported. Ms. LaValley spoke about other districts having an Athletic Director and having the others help out. She was concerned with the needs of student athletes and better serving these students.
- Mrs. Sherwood was concerned with the Early College program and where that stands? Elizabeth stated that she is working with Senator Connor-Ives and Representative Kelcourse and is confident that the program will happen. They are looking at reducing the amount of time that professors are in the classroom, which will reduce the cost. Mr. Chamberlain stated the need to find the money to grow this program.

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley to add \$58,000 to the high school line item adding the Therapeutic Program to the Superintendents proposed FY18 budget. Discussion: Mayor Gray asked about cutting that amount in half (\$29,000). Mrs. Marinopoulos asked Elizabeth how that would fund her vision for this program. Mr. Hoyt asked if she had staffing for the program. Elizabeth stated that mid-year hiring is challenging, she does have staffing and a vision for the program. Mr. Hoyt asked Joan Liporto how she felt about adding \$29,000 versus \$58,000 to this budget. Ms. Liporto stated that they have already tapped all avenues, by adding \$58,000, this will offset other accounts. Vote: 4 yes, 3 opposed (Hoyt, Sherwood, Mayor Gray).

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to add a full time Athletic Director and cut one Assistant Principal to the Superintendents proposed FY18 budget. Vote: 2 yes, 5 opposed (Mayor Gray, Hoyt, Wheeler, Sherwood, Chamberlain).

F. School Committee Subcommittee appointments

Mayor Gray asked Mrs. Sherwood if she would like to Chair the Personnel Subcommittee, taking it from Mr. Wheeler. Mrs. Sherwood accepted.

G. Field Trip Approvals**a. AMS Gr. 8 class trip (Walt Disney Youth Education Series)**

Dr. Reese stated that this will be tabled until this years' trip has happened in June.

b. AMS Gr. 5 class trip (Camp Bournedale)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the fifth grade trip to Camp Bournedale in October 2017 as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

H. SEPAC Account establishment

Joan Liporto stated that two members of the SEPAC met with her regarding raising funds. The law stated the need to establish an account through the city, go through Mary Houde and do purchase orders. This is a vehicle to raise funds for the group.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to establish an account for SEPAC for the purpose of raising funds. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

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

Mr. Chamberlain stated no report at this time.

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated they will be meeting April 24 at 6PM

3. Personnel Subcommittee

Mr. Wheeler stated they have not met. Working on ratification with the union and job descriptions.

4. Joint Education Subcommittee

Ms. LaValley stated they met March 27th discussion on budget that was presented by Dr. Reese and Joan Liporto. Also discussed was AIHS building process. SPED fund – not funded, looking into those funds. Next meeting will be in June.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**A. School Committee Meeting – May 1, 2017****B. Ratification of Teachers/Nurses Collective Bargaining Agreement - TBD****VIII. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary