

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
February 6, 2017**

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

Absent were: Mayor Gray and Sydney Knowlton, SAC Representative.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. LaValley called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 PM and Nick Wheeler 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:

Mid-Cycle review – Dr. Reese stated that the draft appendices will give them a brief overview of the goals. The Mid-Cycle report was discussed during the Personnel Subcommittee prior to this meeting.

Goal areas are:

- Student Learning Goal #1 – 80% of students will be able to define and discuss five competencies Social Emotional Learning framework.
- Student Learning Goal #2 – MCAS student growth percentile score for mathematics will increase by 5 percent in four of six grade levels.
- Professional Practice Goal #1 – integrates with the first student learning goal. Staff will integrate SEL competencies while realizing student growth in this area, translating to academic growth for students.
- Professional Practice Goal #2 – develop more effective ways to address leadership team meeting to focus on instructional improvement.

Strategic Plan – the draft plan will be ready to present at the next meeting.

MASC – upcoming event “*Day on the Hill*” April 25th, meet with the State Legislature

Grant – AHS is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant – workshops for students, focusing on financial literacy (spending, jobs, and finances).

Mrs. Marinopoulos asked Dr. Reese to reach out to the parent that inquired about financials 2 months ago regarding this grant.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Dr. Reese for the Appendix report on Mid-Cycle – added meat to the entire process.

Ms. LaValley asked if the financial literacy grant was intended to include all grades at the high school. Dr. Reese stated that the workshops will be for all grades at the high school.

B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Joan Liporto spoke about the following:

- Sent out the second quarter expense report and revolving account report. Ms. Liporto stated that there is a budget freeze, concerns with Special Education, Circuit Breaker. Regarding the salary line items on Psychologist (AES & CES). Salary was paid out under AES line item which is leaving them in the red, while CES has nothing out of that line item, this is a shared position. Need to make corrections to reflect that. Ms. Liporto stated that she has concerns with balances for next year.

Mr. Chamberlain asked if there was any relief with Circuit Breaker. Ms. Liporto stated that there are a lot of students at the collaborative, and transportation costs are not funded.

- Food Service contract – advertised the RFP on December 15, 2016 with proposals due by January 20, 2017. Had two companies interested, but only received one bid (Chartwells) current vendor. At this time, Chartwells is projecting a \$9,069 profit for 2017-2018. Ms. Liporto is requesting that the School Committee vote to approve the district moving forward and entering into a contract for one year with four renewal options with Chartwells School Dining Services effective July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the proposal from Chartwells School Dining Services as recommended and presented by Joan Liporto. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler asked if a profit of \$9,400 is typical. Ms. Liporto stated that this is an advantage and was excited to see that in the proposal. Mr. Hoyt thanked the secretaries for their help in collecting the unpaid funds. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. SAC Report – Sydney Knowlton

Absent – no report

Ms. LaValley asked Dr. Reese to touch base with Ms. Leary regarding getting a representative, from SAC, to attend meetings.

B. Other

Ms. LaValley spoke about the vacant School Committee position. At present, there are three applicants with a February 10th deadline. The vote will be held at the City Council meeting on February 14th.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 01/17/2017

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the minutes of the School Committee meeting dated January 17, 2017. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrant: \$162,899.63 (2/2/17)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to accept the warrant dated February 2, 2017 in the amount of \$162,899.63. Vote: 4, yes; 1 excused (Hoyt).

C. 2018- 2019 School Calendar

Dr. Reese presented the 2018-2019 school calendar to the committee for approval. He stated the school year will begin August 29, 2018 and conclude on June 17, 2019 (without snow days).

Discussion: Mr. Chamberlain asked for an explanation on the built-in snow days. Dr. Reese stated that they are required to build in 5 snow days, which are indicated as (M) on the calendar. Ms. LaValley asked Dr. Reese to alert the principals to put the calendars on their website and weekly polys for the public.

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Chamberlain spoke about the following:

- Revolving accounts – difference 2016
- Projected salaries
- Official budget meetings: Key things-
 - Need infrastructure, technology, security, state mandated testing (necessary hardware)
 - Capital improvements
 - Need support with Special Education demographics especially at the middle school, staffing programming, cost avoidance
 - Support services in all buildings allowing teachers to focus on their tasks.
- Budget meeting, Monday 13th at 7:00 PM – great job – tough budget.

Discussion regarding moving technology up to present on the 13th. Ms. Liporto stated that technology cost center needs to come back to school, instead of city, as it is now. She went on to suggest checking with Mary Houde to move up to the 13th and have John Dubuc attend both the 16th and 27th presentation to be with the schools. Dr. Reese will check on that suggestion.

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated they met on January 23rd reviewing the following:

- Athletic Policy – Elizabeth and Glen were in attendance. Reviewing AHS student handbook, need more “meat”. Elizabeth and Glen will be working on it, looking at other district handbooks and coming back to the committee.

- GCAA – revisit – implementation changes. Dr. Reese will give a draft with changes and deletions.
- Next meeting March 2nd.

Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about the participation policy – cut policy. The policy is loosely written. Would like to have the entire committee and an open meeting to discuss this policy. This year, 17 students were cut from sports. Ms. LaValley stated that Policy Sub-Committee might be better served if they met prior to first meeting of the month. She stated that all meetings are open to the public. Mr. Hoyt stated that Elizabeth and Glen would need a couple months to review this policy, March is too soon. Ms. LaValley stated that a timeline is needed so that this policy would be in hand by May. Mr. Chamberlain asked if the cut was due to the policy, lower numbers – need a balance.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

Mr. Wheeler stated they met prior to the meeting discussing the following:

- Mid-Cycle report
- Staffing report
- Athletic Director
- Next meeting will be Monday, February 13th at 6:00 PM, prior to the budget meeting.

4. Joint Education Subcommittee

Ms. LaValley stated will be meeting March 22nd - agenda Building Committee and representation of faculty.

Dr. Reese stated that he has reached out to teachers and parents to be on the committee for the next phase of the building project.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. Budget Meetings – Presentation of Financial Information by department

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| 7:00 | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Feb. 13, 2017 – Central b. Feb. 16, 2017 – AMS, AIHS, AHS, Athletics c. Feb. 27, 2017 – AES, CES, Sped, Technology |
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B. Complete Budget Presentation – March 6, 2017

C. Budget Hearing – March 13, 2017

Added April 1, 2017 budget vote.

Ms. LaValley stated the need to do Mid-Year evaluation – asked if the wishes of the members were to wait until the new member is appointed. Yes, set for second meeting in March.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary