

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
January 17, 2017**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Nick Wheeler, 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 7:06 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

Mr. Stan Schwartz, former School Committee member, came to personally thank Tom McGee for his 9 years of service on School Committee. He went on to say that Tom was persistent in his high school years attending meetings and even serve on them. He is a true friend and leader. He wished him well in his future endeavors.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. School Committee member recognition – Tom McGee

Representative James Kelcourse presented Tom McGee with a citation for his years of service from the House of Representative.

Mayor Gray presented Tom McGee with a proclamation from the State Senate.

Mr. McGee was also presented with a proclamation from the School Committee by Mayor Gray and a Amesbury rocking chair with plaque by Ms. LaValley.

Mr. McGee addressed the members and community by thanking them. He went on to state that he served as a high school student rep in October of 2005, served on the high school building project and in 2007 there was an opening to be on the committee, and he got in. He stated that in the 9 years of service there were lots of challenges, he learned a lot and enjoyed working together with the board. He concluded by stating to the members, to stay transparent, set goals and stay objective – work is never done.

All of the members, individually, thanked Tom for his commitment to the Amesbury community and kids; his detail and persistence; his honesty; always ready to listen; being respectful; always here for the right reasons; team player; articulate; knowledgeable. They all congratulated him on his future endeavors and wished him and Katie the best. These will be big shoes to fill.

B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

No report

C. AIHS Presentation, Ms. Eryn Maguire, Principal

Ms. Maguire introduced 3 students from the Innovation High School that will be presenting this evening. (Kassidy, senior, 4 years at this school; Anthony, junior, came middle of his freshman year and Sierra, junior, joined AIHS this year). The three students presented a power point, on their school highlighting the following:

- Project Day – 3 days in groups working with all ages and putting ideas together (Shark Tank and Political Party)
- Restorative Practice – students are rarely suspended, work on resolving issues, peer mediation
- Students – help each other, advice through peers, everyone knows each other and treats each other with respect.
- Staff – keep the students on tract, role models, students get comfortable with the staff, staff take the time to teach them
- Principal – Eryn is like a second mom to the students, she hears them out, she does everything from her heart and makes a point to speak to each student every day, gives advice and helps us all

Discussion: Ms. LaValley asked the students what the school needs. They answered, “To get rid of their bad reputation”. Ms. LaValley suggested they write a letter to the editor about their school and happenings and also get on the Lyman show (Eryn stated they were on in November).

Mr. Hoyt thanked Eryn and stayed that the students did a phenomenal presentation. He suggested a “road show”. He asked if the Project Day is student driven. They said it is but the teachers will help when needed.

Mrs. Marinopoulos thanked the students and said that they are prepared for whatever is next. Their presentation was articulate, honest and they take pride in their school. She concluded by asking if she could be notified when the next Project Day is so that she can be present.

Mr. Wheeler thanked Eryn and the students for their presentation and stated that they are ambassadors for their school. Great job.

Mayor Gray stated that they have changed the school, great job.

D. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese thanked Eryn and the AIHS students for their presentation. Dr. Reese went on to speak about the following:

- Educator Evaluation calibration: leadership team has been spending time watching videotapes from the DESE to get a common understanding and discussions to provide the educators to improve their practice.
- Budget Development: this Thursday is the final presentation of various department on budget. At these meetings, the departments shared their goals and discussed budgetary implications working toward achieving those goals. Next month departments will present numbers.
- Legislative Breakfast: last week attended breakfast (Northshore Superintendent Round Table) concerns of Chapter 70 funds – formulas does not capture cost – looking at the long range.

- MASC Updates:
 - Charting the Course Dates: Training for new school committee members.
 - Low Income to Economically Disadvantaged – Moving ahead on the Foundation Budget Review Commission – Tomorrow night meeting on changes in low income status to economically disadvantage – impact on Title 1 funding.
 - MASC/MASS Joint Summit on Poverty: On March 10 at Clark University in Worcester summit on how students poverty impact learning.
- High School Bathrooms: high school will be establishing two gender neutral bathrooms. Will be converting a staff bathroom on the first and second floor. This will have no impact on staff.
- Curriculum Development: Last week during the early release day, teacher worked together to review overarching goals from each subject area.
- Upcoming Dates: AHS play “The Three Musketeers” January 23, 2017 at 5:30 – tomorrow night the class of 2017 is having a “Soup night” as their fundraiser.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. SAC Report – Sydney Knowlton

Absent – no report

B. Other

- Ms. LaValley state February School Committee meeting midyear review of goals – have not established yet. Discussion: waiting till the open seat is filled and doing after vacation. Will be doing a pole of dates and come back to the committee.
- Mr. Hoyt stated that AHS student, Tristan Sullivan, received a \$25,000. Scholarship from the Horatio Alger Association. Mr. Hoyt read the newspaper article and concluded with stating, “this is our hope and dream of what an AHS graduate will look like”.
- Mrs. Marinopoulos discussed the possibility of reconfiguring these tables and looking into more curved tables, easier to speak to one another.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 01/03/2017

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the minutes of the School Committee meeting dated January 3, 2017. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler stated that in the appointments of the subcommittee members, there is a chair but no vice. Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the minutes of School Committee meeting dated January 3, 2017 as amended. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrant: \$575,111.54 (1/19/17)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the warrant dated January 19, 2017 in the amount of \$575,111.54. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

C. 2017- 2018 School Calendar

Dr. Reese presented the 2017-2018 calendar to the committee for approval.

Discussion: Ms. LaValley asked if there was a reason why PRT days are always on a Wednesday. Dr. Reese stated no, that he was just following past practice. Ms. LaValley asked for 2018-2019 school calendar. She stated that they have been voting on two years. Dr. Reese will work on the following year, in the meantime, voting on next years' tonight.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented. Discussion: Mr. Chamberlain asked why a PRT day in June. Dr. Reese stated it is for transition. Ms. LaValley asked about election day in September. Dr. Reese stated that this past year, election day was done with school in session and it worked well. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

D. Whittier Tech School Committee Representation

Mayor Gray stated that Mr. LaBella is interested in staying as a Whittier Tech School Representative. Ms. LaValley stated that the opening should be posted for public knowledge before voting on.

E. School Committee Meeting Dates for 2017

Discussion on meeting one time a month and more focus on sub-committee meetings. Reach out to other districts and see what their policies are in meeting times and consider effectiveness. Also reach out to MASC with concerns on signing warrants. Perhaps if more time for sub-committee meetings, could bring back some sub-committees that have been lost.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Chamberlain stated so far the budget meeting have been good – need to work on all capital projects.

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated that they will be meeting on Monday at 5:30 addressing BCAA Policy, Cut Policy and city policy surplus

3. Personnel Subcommittee

Mr. Wheeler stated that they will be meeting on February 6th.

4. Joint Education Subcommittee

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

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that Sharon McAfee has updated the AHS Boosters website which is extremely interactive.

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that the AHS bathroom change is phenomenal, need to look at AMS bathrooms, providing those students with the same option.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Budget Goals/Initiatives:**
 - a. January 19, 2017 – CES, AES, Technology, Special Education**
- B. Superintendent Mid-Cycle Progress Review (2/6/17)**
- C. Report of the Director of Student Service (2/6/17)**
- D. Budget Meetings – Presentation of Financial Information by department**
 - a. Feb. 13, 2017 – Central**
 - b. Feb. 16, 2017 – AMS, AIHS, AHS, Athletics**
 - c. Feb. 27, 2017 – AES, CES, Sped, Technology**
- E. Complete Budget Presentation – March 6, 2017**
- F. Budget Hearing – March 13, 2017**

Mr. Wheeler added - April 3, 2017 Budget vote.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary