

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
October 31, 2016**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Tom McGee, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Nicholas Wheeler, and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

Absent were: Gretchen Marinopoulos and Sydney Knowlton, SAC Representative

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to MGL c 30A, S 21 (a) (2)

- *To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. AFT Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and MPFTs, AFSCME Cafeteria Workers (Local 93)*

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the regular meeting to order at 6:56 PM and Mr. Chamberlain 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.

III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS and DELEGATIONS

None

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

A. Report of the Superintendent –

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- Amesbury Mascot – Group met on October 4th & 20th. Spoke about having a Survey Monkey that will be going out to staff, alumni, students, community member and other interested parties. The group will be putting out an ad in the Daily News also for feedback. Although we are talking about a mascot, it really is a symbol/icon, we do not have someone that dresses up like an Indian. Looking at having 2 people, having both different prospective to come speak to School Committee. Survey will be available soon. The group would like to wait to put the survey out until after Thanksgiving, when a lot of alumni are in the area. Ms. LaValley asked if Dr. Reese would be putting it out on Facebook, Twitter and the web site. Yes. Mr. Hoyt thanked Dr. Reese for his acknowledgment of the situation and establishing leadership.
- Strategic Plan – Meeting with the Leadership Team next week to discuss action steps, outcomes and measures. Will have a draft to present to School Committee at the November 21st meeting.
- MSBA – tomorrow the second deliverable submission (educational) is due, it is done and we are right on schedule. The next step is enrollment certification which is due in 90 days and the maintenance/capital plan.

Looks at maintenance policies of the district, not just AES.

Ms. LaValley asked when the school building committee begins their work. Dr. Reese stated within the next 90 days they will begin.

- Friday –attended the North Shore Superintendent’s Round Table breakfast. Topic - Educator Evaluation – speakers Rob Noble and Rob Curtin from DESE. Highlights of proposed changes, moving away of district determine measures but keeping common assessments. Looking at elements – reflects what we would like our teachers to be doing. Also looking at accountability process and adjustment (Level with numbers, indicators). Maybe some flexibility of how the state looks at this.
- Children of the Holocaust – program at the high school attended on Friday. Thank you to AEFI and Maggie Furlong (wrote the grant). Setting of the performance is in 1943 living in the concentration camp (5 children). Got to see examples of bullying and how to deal with that it, very powerful play. The advisory board helped to process the contents of this play, to further make connections for the students between what they saw and heard to current events.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. SAC Report – Sydney Knowlton Absent

B. Other

Mr. Hoyt stated that Monday, November 7th at 6:00 PM will be the AEFI Evening of Giving at the Ale House – awarding the Jordan Shay memorial Grant of \$10,000 and 2/ \$5,000 Grants. Also, there will be two honored retirees of the APS; Richard McAllister ‘Dick’, his family will be there and Harry Lucier. The superintendent will be putting together some engaging raffles. If you are interested in attending the event the tickets at \$25.00 and can be purchased through the website.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. AFT Teachers Contract Ratification

Mr. Hoyt and Mr. Chamberlain excused themselves from the meeting at this time.

Mr. McGee stated that they have been in conversation with the teachers and nurses for many months and he is pleased to say that they have a tentative agreement that will be voting on this evening. This is a very fare agreement with great dialogue. Birdseye view of the 3 year agreement (Sept. 3, 2016 to Aug. 31, 2019)

1st year- 1% increase

2nd year – 1% increase and on the 91st day additional 1%

3rd year – 1% increase and on the 91st day additional 1% and a new top step (17 years of continuous service).

Additionally, some language changes in sick leave, years of service and other language changes. Mr. McGee recommends, to the committee, that they support this contract.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with the Amesbury School Committee and the AFT Amesbury Local 1033 as presented tonight. Discussion: Ms. LaValley stated that the high school schedule be completed no later than January 15, 2017. Mr. Wheeler thanked everyone for their hard work. Mayor Gray commented on the nice job with AFT and School Committee. **Vote: Yes, Unanimous.**

After the vote, Mr. Hoyt and Mr. Chamberlain rejoined the meeting.

B. Approval of release of Executive Session Minutes

Mr. McGee spoke regarding some housekeeping on the Executive Session Minutes. He stated that typically when the minutes are done, they are not public because of obvious reasons (contracts). Still need to look at them and vote. The policy states that the members look at them quarterly and decide if they should stay private or released to the public. On the books there are quite a few to vote on. Discussion on how to proceed. One motion for all. Some of the meetings, new members were not present. Also on May 31st. part of the minutes were regular meeting and the other part executive session. Pulled apart, wait to vote on that. Dr. Reese stated that the context was the same.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the following Executive Session Minutes: August 14, September 2, 9, October 6, 24, 2014; Feb. 7, July 20, 27 December 7, 2015; January 5, 19, February 1, 22, 29, March 21, April 4, May 23, July 11, August 8, 15, 22, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous (Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Wheeler abstain, was not a member at those times.)

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the minutes from the regular School Committee meeting from May 31, 2016. Discussion: Ms. LaValley stated that the vote use to be annually; quarterly sometimes issues are not resolved, should Policy Sub-Committee look at? Need to be compliant. Yes will revisit. **Vote: Yes, Unanimous.**

C. First Reading of Policy:

a. BEDB-E Agenda Format

Mr. Hoyt read the Policy(BEDB-E) out loud. No Discussion

b. JJE – Student Activity Accounts

Mr. Hoyt read the Policy (JJE) out loud. He thanked Joan Liporto for her assistance and stated that this policy reflects the practice that are in place. Discussion: Ms. LaValley stated that it should reflect “City” not Town.

D. Review of School Committee Goals – Operational/Financial Goal #1

Mr. Chamberlain read goal 2 under the Educational Goal for discussion and review by the members. Discussion:

- Ms. LaValley stated that this goal was helpful in sub-committee meetings.
- Mr. Hoyt stated that APS is in a nice position with Mrs. Liporto in place who has identified problem areas and solutions in her short term of 2 months here.
- Mr. Chamberlain agreed with Mr. Hoyt. He stated that he is fully confident in making these goals. Having a building plan for AES. Mr. Chamberlain asked about stability for AIHS.

- Dr. Reese stated that currently at AIHS they are looking at vendors for a site review, cost for anticipating work and moving forward. The goal is to have a plan in place at the end of the one year lease to either purchase the building or move.

VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee**
Mr. Chamberlain stated will be meeting November 21st
2. **Policy Subcommittee**
Mr. Hoyt stated will be meeting November 14th
3. **Personnel Subcommittee**
Mr. McGee stated that they met prior to this meeting and discussed the following:
 - Adopting Dr. Reese's goals – looked at elements and indicators – suggested changes. Power elements of principals. If you have any suggestions and comments direct them to Tom
 - Received staffing lists from Mrs. Liporto, 2 different ones. Staff/salary/accounts. These lists will be used to build the budget and end of year report.
 - Job Descriptions - central office & Assistant principals – some are similar job descriptions, will review.
 - Continue with Para-professional and MPFT contract tomorrow
4. **Joint Education Subcommittee**
Ms. LaValley stated that their next meeting will be on November 15th in the high school bank room. On the agenda will be AES school building updates. Anything else, please let her know

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. **South Hampton Visit (TBD) -Dr. Reese will be reaching out**
- B. **Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning: Curriculum Development Work (11/21)**
- C. **Meeting with SAC (12/16) (will be the first or second meeting in December)**
- D. **Visit to Whittier Tech (11/1) tomorrow**
- E. **Joint Education Committee (11/15) Ms. LaValley stated that this does not need to be posted in this section.**
- F. **Review of School Committee Goals – Operational/Financial Goal #2 (11/17)**

IX. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

X. **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. McGee to adjourn the meeting at 7:43PM. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary