

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
September 6, 2016**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, DELGATIONS**

Cindy Yetman, AFT President, addressed the committee regarding Question 2 on ballot, Charter Schools. She urged the public to vote "NO" on Question 2, stating that a yes vote would hurt public school funding.

Walter Armstrong, also addressed the members, explaining that if this Resolution passes, public schools will lose Chapter 70 funding. He went on to explain that Charter Schools are private entities, not public schools. Mr. Armstrong presented the committee with an updated "*Resolution Against Lifting The Cap On Commonwealth Charter Schools*" and read aloud.

Ms. LaValley stated that on June 20<sup>th</sup>, this committee voted on that Resolution, but noted that this one has different dollar amounts. Mr. Hoyt stated that this one has more updates and should be revoted on to join the partnership with the AFT Union.

A copy of the signed Resolution will be attached to these minutes.

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. McGee to reaffirm the commitment with the "Resolution Against Lifting The Cap On Commonwealth Charter Schools" with the updated amounts. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***

**III. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF**

A. **Report of the Superintendent** – no report - Dr. Reese was absent.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **Other**

- Mr. McGee stated that Mr. Hoyt, Mrs. Marinopoulos and himself were in attendance at the new teacher breakfast. This event was well received with lots of energy and excitement.
- Ms. LaValley stated that she was unable to attend the breakfast because of prior commitments. She asked the Mayor if he would like to speak, next meeting, on the upcoming Fireball Run that will be happening in Amesbury on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

**A. Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs (IHAMB) – Second Reading**  
*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept policy (IHAMB) Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs, as a second reading, this policy is in line with MASC.*  
*Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**B. Drug Free Workplace Policy (GBEC)- Second Reading**  
*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept policy (GBEC) Drug Free Workplace, as a second reading, this policy is in line with MASC. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**C. Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited (JICH) – Second Reading**  
*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept policy (JICH) Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited, as a second reading, this policy is in line with MASC.*  
*Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**D. Field Trip (IJOA) – First Reading**  
 Mr. Hoyt thanked, Mr. McGee, Mr. Wheeler and Mrs. Marinopoulos for their input on this policy. Mrs. Marinopoulos brought in Field Trip policies from Masco., Woburn, and Ipswich to look at what they had. (very helpful). Mr. Hoyt read the entire policy as a first reading. Ms. LaValley asked if the building principals looked at this updated policy and their feedback. Comments and suggestions should be directed to Mr. Hoyt.

**E. MSBA – School Building Committee Representative Selection**  
 MSBA will need to have the name of the School Committee representative by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Wheeler has offered to be that representative. Ms. LaValley and Mr. McGee suggested that an alternated should be in place also. Discussion about the time commitment that this implies.  
*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to appoint Mr. Wheeler as the School Building Committee Representative. Discussion: Regarding the need for Mr. Wheeler to be a voting member of this committee.*  
*Mr. Hoyt amended his previous motion.*

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to appoint Mr. Wheeler as a voting representative of the School Building Committee. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**F. Approval of School Committee Goals and Protocols**  
 Mr. McGee stated that he corrected #1-E on the Goals  
*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the School Committee Goals and Protocols as written. Discussion: Ms. LaValley thanked MASC for helping with the process. Mayor Gray stated he was pleased with the process, aligned with the Strategic Plan and moving in a good direction. Mr. Chamberlain was also pleased with the process and stated the need to check in on milestones. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**G. Approval of School Committee Meeting for 2016-2017 school year**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the School Committee Meeting dates for 2016-2017 school year. Discussion: Ms. LaValley stated that the budget dates will need more discussion, should we approve now or hold off on those dates. After brief discussion, committee opted to vote on all dates, and if needed change at that time.*

*Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**H. Meeting Minutes –  
August 8, 2016**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the minutes dated August 8, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**August 15, 2016**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the minutes dated August 15, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**August 22, 2016**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the minutes dated August 22, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**I. Warrant - \$194,841.95 (8/18/16)**

*Motion by Mr. McGee seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Warrant dated August 18, 2016 in the amount of \$194,841.95. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**\$143,124.98 (9/1/16)**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Warrant dated September 1, 2016 in the amount of \$143,124.98. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**\$13,300.00 (9/8/16)**

*Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the Warrant dated September 8, 2016 in the amount of \$13,300.00. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee**

Mr. Chamberlains stated that they have not met.

**2. Policy Subcommittee**

Mr. Hoyt stated that they met on August 29<sup>th</sup> on the Field Trip Policy. Next meeting will be September 26<sup>th</sup> will be discussion Opioid, Student Activity Accounts and School Mascot.

**3. Personnel Subcommittee**

Mr. McGee stated they met prior to this meeting discussing:

- Job descriptions
- Official title for the Director of Teaching and Learning – Lyn Griffin. Curriculum and Professional Development reflects her role. Get feedback to Dr. Reese

- New Staffing report – would like an organizational chart with salaries (previous, budgeted and hired at)
- Next meeting – continue with job descriptions and administration contract.

**4. Joint Education Subcommittee**

Ms. LaValley stated they met on August 24<sup>th</sup> discussing:

- Strategic Plan – work in progress
- Social, Emotional learning piece
- School Building
- Area DESE district schools
- Next meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. MCAS Results Presentation (TBD)**
- B. Visit with State Senator and Representative (TBD) -Mayor will set up**
- C. South Hampton Visit (TBD) – Check on going to South Hampton**
- D. MASC/MASS Joint Conference**
  - a. Appointment of delegate from the Amesbury Public Schools**
  - b. Discussion of Resolutions**

Additions:

- Fireball Run – Mayor – next meeting
- New Goals for Superintendent
- Whittier Vo-Tech visit

**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

- IX. Executive Session: Pursuant to MGL c 30A, S21 (a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparations for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. AFT Teachers, Paraprofessionals, MPFT.**

None

**X. Adjournment**

***Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.***

***Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary

# Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

**WHEREAS**, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and

**WHEREAS**, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Amesbury is losing \$490,558 to Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the state are losing more than \$408 million this year alone — a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and

**WHEREAS**, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and

**WHEREAS**, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive out students they don't want to serve; and

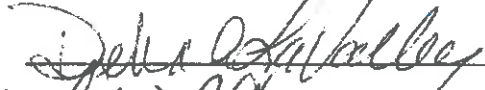

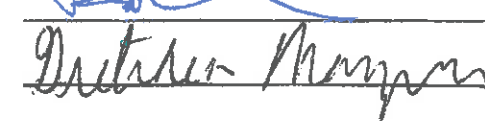
**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth charter school system is creating separate and unequal opportunities for success; and



**WHEREAS**, lifting the cap on charter schools would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Amesbury School Committee in concert with AFT Amesbury, LOCAL 1033 opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools.

Signed this 6 day of September 2016.

Amesbury School Committee

AFT, Amesbury



