

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank – Community Rook
August 15, 2016**

Present at 5:30 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Tom McGee, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Nick Wheeler, and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

Absent was Gretchen Marinopoulos.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

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. GOAL REVIEW

Mike Gilbert was in attendance representing MASC. He began the meeting with; Where to go from here? Mr. Chamberlain felt that the goals need to be carried over.

Ms. LaValley stated that the committee was late in setting the goals and felt that with a full team at the central office will be able to identify the current data.

Mr. Gilbert went over a few items before beginning with the Goal review.

- Warrant signing
 - Chapter 40, section 52 & 56 (bill and payroll warrants)
 - Wording of signing of warrants – “May” designate an individual
 - Chapter 60 – Property tax
 - Special Education reserve fund

Mr. Gilbert began with the goals by asking the committee, “Where do you want to get better at?” This will show in outcomes – more data driven.

1st Goal – Education Goals:

Conversation regarding 1 - C Technology

- How measured?
- Textbooks phasing out to technology
- Metric or ratio
- State goal or school
- Building infrastructure to educate students

Rewrite #1-c to reflect: *Technology plan which ensures equitable access of students to technology instruction and decrease disruption to day to day technology when students are taking computer based assessments.*

Conversation regarding 1 – D:

- Who is the Education Dashboard
- Looking at website developer

- Identify and gather not too many key issues (2-3)
- How to make outcome clear to citizens

Conversation regarding #2:

- Definition of Social, Emotional and Physical needs
- Open to interpretation
- Responsibility to the community
- How much control
- PreK program mostly Special Education
- Spend time to do outreach with Pettengill and Geiger Center – type of services that are offered
- Focus internally – obligation to families

Rewrite #2 to reflect: *The Amesbury School Committee will strive to identify the social, emotional and physical needs of student and direct them to the appropriate resources.*

Conversation regarding 2-D:

- Measurable data – need to include 51A reports/suspensions/resource officers and student attendance
- Recognize needs of this community – direct hit to learning
- Use of appropriate resources
- Identify needs that are necessary

Additions to #2: *Utilize data from SRO, student attendance, and 51A reports.*

2nd Goal – Operational/Financial Goals

Conversation regarding #1:

- Capital plan
- Retirements – get a list for the next 3-4 years of who will be retiring
- Already done, but needs to continue into other years
- Change of dates

Rewrite #1 to reflect: *Continue to formally develop a proactive multi-year budget plan. Also take out dates in a & d to reflect ongoing.*

Conversation regarding #2:

- Innovation School – staying in the same building? Have a 1 year lease that will expire June 30, 2107
- Need to come up with an agreement with the church - ? purchase
- Debt payments– 2.8 million per year – will decrease in years – on the 5th year will be 1.4 million - need to stabilize accounts for the city side.

Additions to #2 – C: *Develop building needs assessment for educational facilities.*

3rd Goal – Public Relations Goals

Conversation regarding public relations:

- Felt that this goal was achieved – fits into the Strategic Plan. (Draft of the Strategic Plan that the Administration Team has been working on was handed out)

- Invite the 23+ new staff to the School Committee meeting to be introduced
- Change dates in this goal to “*ongoing or continue with*”

Mr. Gilbert asked the committee if they would like to add other goals. Ms. LaValley asked if APS goals meet the trends of other communities. Mr. Gilbert stated that the trend out in other communities are the high school state times. Some communities are talking about later start times for that age group.

Throughout the meeting, the “Draft” Strategic Plan was discussed that the Administration Team had put together. Dr. Reese stated that this is a work in progress. The community will be able to discuss the Plan as well as the School Committee hopefully by the end of September. Dr. Reese stated that under the “Theory of Action”, if we are doing it right the theory will work. Committee members were happy with the initial viewing of the Plan and that it ties in nicely with the goals.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pursuant to MGL c 30A, S21 (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, MPFT.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Gray to adjourn into Executive session. Roll Call was taken: Mayor Gray, Yes; Ms. LaValley, Yes; Mr. McGee, Yes; Mr. Hoyt, abstain; Mr. Chamberlain, abstain; Mr. Wheeler, Yes. Adjourned regular meeting at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary