

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
July 11, 2016**

Present at 6:00 p.m.: Deb LaValley, Acting Chair; Tom McGee, Peter Hoyt, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Nick Wheeler, and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

Mayor Gray arrived at 7:00 pm

Absent were: Rob Chamberlain and Sydney Knowlton, SAC Representative.

Deb LaValley called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm and Peter Hoyt 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

Mr. Hoyt stated that he and Mr. Chamberlain were in attendance at the vision strategy session last Tuesday along with Dr. Reese. He stated that this meeting was very helpful and nice to see dialogue from the public.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

A. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following updates:

- Very busy during the summer months
- Hiring new staff – started early, getting highly qualified candidates
- Vision strategy session last week – Very informative; 40+ people in attendance. Vision for the next 3-5 years. Appreciate feedback, will put out draft of meeting
- Joan Liporto, Director of Finance and Operations, contract – working with Georgetown to fulfill the needs for that community, before starting here in Amesbury.
- Will be meeting with MSBA on July 20th regarding MA School Building project (AES) – First hurdle; establish funds; feasibility study; meet with MSBA representative. Will keep the committee updated on the progress.
- School Choice – voted in May to open Choice in Grades 6 – 12. Have had 19 applications (3 outside of open grade levels). Accepted 16.
- Conference at the Cape for Superintendent Executive Institute tomorrow – Looking forward to it.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. **Other** - None

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. **Middle School and High School Tennis Courts**

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that she toured the courts with parents regarding the deteriorating conditions of the courts at both the Middle and High Schools. She stated that the courts are unsafe and needs better maintenance.

Parent, Jim & Scott and Coach Brett Manoloff presented a power point and hand-out on the deteriorating conditions of the courts. They were supported by many parents and students in attendance.

The presentation included pictures of:

- Structural Cracks of 2" wide
- Colorcoat wearing, increasing risk for slipping
- Center-strap base wearing
- North face at AHS failing

Four companies have seen the courts and made recommendations for repair/updates. Types of proposals include:

- Fill and repair cracks only
- Repair cracks and fix AHS net posts foundations
- Repair cracks, fix net posts and colorcoat (AHS)
- Repair both courts completely

Proposals included in the hand-out from New England Sealcoating Co., Inc. (the recommended company) which are available and ready to get the job done with approval. Discussion from members of the committee regarding tight budget but would fall under capital improvement for the city. The need to go with option 4 and not just put a band-aide on the court. Councilor Einson was in attendance. He stated that this would most likely fall under emergency measures. Should contact Mayor and district councilors to press the issue.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to bring the tennis court renovation proposal to the city council for consideration of using capital improvement funds. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. **Director of Finance and Operations Contract**

Mr. McGee stated that the sub-committee met with Dr. Reese 2 weeks ago and discussed the proposed contract for Joan Liporto. Mr. McGee stated that the contract continues to coordinate with central office contract. Mr. Hoyt stated that compensation is in line with the area. Ms. LaValley asked if Gail will be staying on till Ms. Liporto begins. Dr. Reese stated that he will have a better idea of the time frame mid week.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept Ms. Liporto's contract as presented. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

C. Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs (IHAMB) – First Reading
Mr. Hoyt read policy IHAMB aloud for First Reading. Ms. LaValley asked if there was a time line from MASC. Mr. Hoyt stated there was not.

D. Drug Free Workplace Policy (GBEC) – First Reading
Mr. Hoyt read policy GBEC aloud for First Reading.

E. Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited (JICH) – First Reading
Mr. Hoyt read policy JICH aloud for First Reading. Mrs. Marinopoulos asked if students would be barred from all school events. Dr. Reese stated that it would depend on the situation.

F. Student Activity Accounts (JJF) – First Reading
Mr. Hoyt asked for this policy be tabled for now.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to table Policy (JJF) Student Activity Accounts.

Discussion: Mr. Wheeler asked to have this policy on the August meeting.

Vote: Yes, unanimous.

G. Student Handbooks Approval
Mr. Hoyt spoke about student handbooks:

- AES & CES – change in staffing & scheduling – thanked Mrs. Ward.
- AMS – change in calendar and staffing
- AIHS – First handbook – looks good
- AHS – not ready, need to table till August meeting – need some policy update – working with Ms. McAndrews

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept AES, CES, AMS and AIHS Student Handbooks as presented. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to table AHS Student Handbook until the August meeting. Discussion: Ms. LaValley asked to invite the SAC representative to attend the August meeting to get input from her. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

H. Acceptance of gifts - \$2,500 from the Institution for Savings Charitable Fund for Windrush Therapeutic Riding Program

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the gift of \$2,500. from the Institution of Savings Bank for the Windrush Therapeutic Program. Discussion: Ms. LaValley asked if a letter of thank you can be sent. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

I. Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2016

Motion by Nick Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the minutes dated June 20, 2016.

Vote: Yes, unanimous.

J. Warrants - \$190,710.58 (6/30/16)

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Warrant dated June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$190,710.58 . Vote: Yes, unanimous.

\$35,743.64 (6/30/16)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Nick Wheeler to accept the Warrant dated June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$35,743.64 . Vote: Yes, unanimous.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Chamberlain absent – will be meeting again before the August School Committee meeting.

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated they met June 27th.

- Working on the 3 Drug and Alcohol Policies previously discussed.
- Next steps Mascot – late summer will go into fall
- Working on the MASC Opioid Policy
- Need to look into overnight filed trip policy
- Next meeting July 25th from 5:30 to 6:30

3. Personnel Subcommittee

Mr. McGee spoke regarding Ms. Liporto contract and they continue to meet with unions. Still working on job descriptions.

4. Joint School and City meeting

Ms. LaValley stated next meeting will be August 24th at 6:30 pm. Discussion on Strategic Plan and Tennis Court renovations.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. School Committee Mid-Cycle Goals Review (8/15 & 8/22 @ 5:30PM – Newburyport 5 cent Savings Community Room)

B. Strategic Plan Update (8/8)

Mr. Hoyt thanked the middle school for providing the summer reading lists. Ms. LaValley asked to have the lists put on the website. Mrs. Marinopoulos stated the city library has the lists and books set aside.

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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, MPFT.

Motion by Ms. LaValley to go into Executive session. Roll Call was taken.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:04 into Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary