

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
July 20, 2015**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Debra LaValley, Bonnie Schultz, Tom McGee, Peter Hoyt, Christian Scorzoni, and Michele S. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools.

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:04 and Deb LaValley led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

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. Thivierge - spoke regarding Chapter 71 – Local and state government is not being taught adequately to students in Amesbury. He read the Law aloud to the committee.
- Councilor Lavoie spoke to the committee regarding his disappointment with the committee's decision not to place Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Farrell, into the interim slot as Superintendent. He explained that the #2 person is ready to take the command. Mr. Lavoie stated that he is hoping that the committee strongly considers to do the right thing and look at the significant savings to the district.
- Bryer Sousa – an 2012 graduate from AHS, spoke regarding his letter that was sent to Dr. Robinson, and copied for the committee, regarding the high school Mascot "Amesbury Indians". Bryer has teamed up with the NE Anti-Mascot Coalition who educate high schools about racial stereotypes in the public schools. He is hoping that the committee will consider revisiting the Mascot name.

III. PRESENTATIONS:

None

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following:

- Fiscal year end is completed – have taken all recommendation and feel it is better practice.
- Transit – revenue and expenses remain in various funds.
- Pre paid expenses and summer salaries funding by LEA
- Fund balances in revolving accounts – unanticipated costs from South Hampton enrollment (graduating 10 students only 3-4 in coming)
- Food Service accounts – end of FY16 food accounts to LEA – increased lunch prices by \$.15 in each school.
- Summer projects – Norman and Roger will be replacing faucets and ballasts – recommended to the Finance Committee to replace carpet in some areas at AMS and outside masonry work at AMS

- Green Energy – Awarded the Grant of \$225,000. – Will be using the monies to do work and upgrade the middle school
- Technology - \$106,000. (City funded) will be purchasing 29 Chrome Books – hoping to have them installed by September.
- Cleaning Service Bid – has some concerns – will be meeting with the company before moving forward.
- Transportation Bid – only one bid (Salter) for the three year contract. Finance Committee recommending to accept bid.
- HVAC Bid – State Bid list – no increase – Finance Committee recommending to accept bid.
- Softright Conversion - Went well – thank you to Joy and Patrice for all of their hard work on the conversion – First warrant was presented to School Committee in the new format.
- Veto – Early College and Full Day Kindergarten – The House will be meeting on July 29th to discuss reversing the veto. Kindergarten programs will be running the same with no change.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke about the following:

- Professional Development Calendar has been set – website training will be in August – working with Pettengill House, anticipated needs and regulations.
- Leadership Institute – working on goals and looking at the recommendations of the Walker Report.
- Summer School – full swing at AES, CES (Literacy Camp), AMS and AHS
- Mr. Pierce has submitted the Circuit Breaker Report
- Title 1 – Grant process
- New Hires – Met with a lot of new hires – very impressed with the great educators
- New Teacher Induction and Mentor program run by Lyn Griffin and Patti Hoyt
- Educator Evaluation tool is effective.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Other

Ms. LaValley spoke regarding the Academy transition to the Innovation School – lease was signed last week at the current location. Will be closing on the audit next week. Ms. LaValley asked Mayor Gray if the Committee could get a copy of the MASCO Financial Review – The Mayor stated that he would get them a copy of the review.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. 1. June 15, 2015 Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. McGee to approve the regular minutes dated June 15, 2015. Discussion – Mrs. Schultz stated that she had not stated the name of the principal as stated in the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Vote: 5 -Yes, 1 abstaining (Ms. LaValley).

June 30, 2015 Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to approve the regular minutes dated June 30, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

July 7, 2015 Minutes

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the regular minutes dated July 7, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. District Review Update

Dr. Robinson stated that they had received a rough draft of the report but felt that it was not adequately reported. The Leadership Team will be reviewing the report at the retreat in August. This is a work in progress and is only at the beginning stages. (a hand-out was given of the report)

Ms. LaValley stated that she would like this put on the August agenda.

Mr. Scorzoni stated that the hand-out was helpful and that this is work in progress that was done in March. He thanked Dr. Robinson and stated the need to look it over and move-on – need to be pro-active.

3. Second Reading Policy GCCD

Mrs. Schultz explained that this was the second reading of the Domestic Violence Policy and has been reviewed by the attorney.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to approve Policy GCCD (Domestic Violence - GCCD) as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

4. Interim Superintendent Applications Review

Mike Gilbert, MASC, started the forum by stating that the Committee had received 8 applicants for the position of Interim Superintendent. He suggested that good practice would be to interview at least 4 candidates which should include internal applicants.

- Ms. LaValley stated that past practice has been to interview internal candidates. She asked her colleagues to approve interviewing Lyn Giffin and Roy Hamond. The committee agreed. Ms. LaValley then offered the name of Dr. Gary Reese to be interviewed. Mr. Hoyt and Mayor Gray agreed with that recommendation regarding Dr. Reese's past employment. There was discussion regard the lack of a Mass License but Mr. Gilbert stated that it was not needed as an interim.
- Mrs. Schultz stated that Dr. Harry Fensom Jr. seemed like a good candidate. Ms. LaValley, Mr. Hoyt and Mr. McGee concurred.

Mayor Gray stated that Ms. Farrell did express interest in this position. He asked the committee to consider interviewing her. Mayor Gray stated that Ms. Farrell has been doing the job and knows it well. He felt that this would be a seamless transition having her take over as interim. Mr. Scorzoni agreed with the Mayor statements about Ms. Farrell. Mr. Scorzoni also had concerns about "back filling" if an internal candidate was chosen. He wanted to know where the committee was going with the stability and financial component in the decision to not consider Ms. Farrell. Mrs. Schultz stated that Ms. Farrell had not submitted an application and would like to stick with the four applications that they had previously discussed. Mr. Hoyt agreed with Mrs. Schultz and would like to follow the process. A show off hand was taken with 2 voting to have Ms. Farrell go through the interview process and 4 voting to stay with the four candidates previously named.

Discussion amongst the committee was: how much time should be given to each candidate; what time to begin the interviews; are we going to decide on the final candidate that evening; who will be contacting the candidates for the interviews; are we televising the interviews and how many questions will each committee member ask the candidates.

Mr. Gilbert was very helpful in coaching the committee members concerns. The end discussion was as follows:

- ✓ Each candidate should have at least 45 minutes to do an opening statement, answer questions from the committee and a closing statement.
- ✓ Mr. Gilbert will contact the 4 recommended applicants and set up the times.
- ✓ The committee decided to start the interviews at 6:00 on Monday, July 27, 2015
- ✓ The interviews will be public
- ✓ Each member will submit 1 to 2 questions to Helen by Thursday so that she can compile them and make packets
- ✓ Mr. Gilbert will send out questions to avoid, things to watch for and interview reminders.
- ✓ Hoping to have a possible candidate by the evening of July 27, 2015 (Mayor Gray stated that he would like to reconvene the following day for a discussion – Mr. Gilbert stated that most people will have a gut feeling that evening)
- ✓ Mr. Scorzoni asked if there would be public comments and his concern with that. Mr. Gilbert stated that, if the committee wishes, that would be fine – Take a break after the interviews and then could ask for comments. It is up to the committee at that time.
- ✓ All candidates will be asked the same questions

B. Warrant

1. \$162,450.67 (6/30/15)

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Warrant dated June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$162,450.67. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee –Ms. LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated: As recommended by Ms. Farrell, the Finance Subcommittee voted to take \$18,390. from the Facilities rental account at the Middle School to replace carpeting with VCT tiles in some designated areas and exterior masonry work.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to take out \$18,390. from the Facilities Rental Account at the Middle School, for tile work and masonry work as recommended by the finance subcommittee. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

As recommended by Ms. Farrell, the Finance Subcommittee voted to award the 3 year transportation bid from Salter Transportation (Year 1 \$562,548. + no K; Year 2 \$588,612. + \$12,750 K; Year 3 \$619,020. + \$21,250. K; Years 4 & 5 to be voted on separately)

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to award the Transportation bid to Salter Transportation as recommended by Ms. Farrell. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

As recommended by Ms. Farrell, the Finance Subcommittee voted to award the HVAC Bid to ENE System, Inc. with no increase (\$169,912.)for one year.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to award the HVAC Bid to ENE System, Inc. as recommended by Ms. Farrell. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Ms. LaValley stated that the Finance Subcommittee met briefly with Landry Stadium committee and will be coordinating a meeting with School Committee, Boosters and the Stadium Committee to better understand the process. No update on the cleaning service bid – hopefully in August.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz

Will be cancelling tomorrow's meeting

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee

Mr. McGee reported: continue to meet with the para-professional members. Last meeting came up with the agreement with the teachers, nurses, facilities technicians and Maintenance contract. (1 year extension; 1% wage increase and some language changes). Mr. McGee thanked the negotiation team for the great discussions.

Mayor Gray also thanked the successful negotiations with the union group.

VIII.. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gray read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. Visit with State Representative and State Senator (8/15)
2. South Hampton Visit (9/15)

VIII.. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

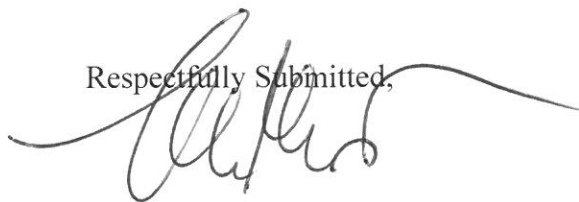
IX.. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, s. 21 (a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to *conduct collective bargaining sessions* or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. AFT Amesbury local 1033 Teachers/Nurses; Para-professionals and Maintenance and Facilities Technicians.

Motion by Mayor Gray to go into Executive session. Roll Call was taken.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 into Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary