

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
August 24, 2015**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray; Chair, Debra LaValley, Bonnie Schultz, Tom McGee, Peter Hoyt, Christian Scorzoni, Rob Chamberlain and Dr. Gary Reese, Interim Superintendent of Schools.

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:03 and Peter Hoyt 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

None

II. PRESENTATIONS:

None

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent

Deirdre Farrell handed the committee her report and spoke about the following:

- End of year transfers and reports has occurred
- Auditors has begun preliminary work for the FY15 audit on August 20th.
- Aspen rollover has been committed – working toward implementation of the DESE School Interoperability Framework (SIF) so that rollover can happen earlier in the summer, less errors
- Summer projects – masonry work at the Middle School is completed; floor replacement (VCT Tiling replacing carpeting) at the Middle School is in progress; preventative maintenance in all schools
- Received Chromebooks (29 units per cart) waiting for wireless infrastructure improvements - hoping to have them available by mid September
- Improvements to our Website have been made by principals
- Transportation – Salter has finalized bus route and routes will be posted on website
- FY16 hiring – outstanding - one Elementary Special Education Facilitator position and three paraprofessional positions.
- Legislation – Governors' veto for full day Kindergarten was overridden. Expecting funding of approximately \$70,000. Since kindergarten has already been budgeted, need to discuss where to use that money at next finance subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Schultz asked about the status of the high school chorus room – *Completed work in July.*

Ms. LaValley concerned with potholes in the high school driveway and the construction on highland/hillside – *Ms. Farrell will get an update and will work with DPW.*

Mr. Chamberlain asked for a financial report with details and questioned the electric bills.

Ms. Farrell stated that she would be happy to sit with Rob and go over the report.

Regarding the eclectic bills – they are separate meter readings.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Other

- Mr. Hoyt spoke about the FY16 new hirers and invited the committee to the Teacher Induction breakfast tomorrow morning at 8:00 at the high school.
- Mr. Hoyt commented on the 8th Grade Disney trip. He had spoken to a parent who accompanied the class and applauded the student, staff and the high quality program that they were able to be a part of.
- Mr. Hoyt applauded the Amesbury Elementary School (Wally and Alicia) for welcoming a new family into their school and making them feel so welcomed.
- Mr. Scorzoni spoke regarding the Energy Committee and the opportunities that lie ahead for the city and the schools. Looking to the future – possibly cutting the electric bills in half (5 cents per kil for 20 years – 5-6 mil savings) with the Titcomb pit project – This is an opportunity to think outside the box and look ahead. Good news for Amesbury.
- Mr. McGee spoke about Goals meeting – need to set dates – What will we do as a group – Cannot lose site of setting goals as a group.
- Mr. Chamberlain asked about the MASBO report and Goals setting – Where to go as a school system and School Committee
- Ms. LaValley would like to go over the developments of the Strategic Plan with Dr. Reese and get his feedback.
- Mr. Hoyt asked to invite Tom Bourassa to a meeting to go over the Solar plans and progress.
- Mayor Gray spoke about the energy plans and going from 10 cents to 5 cents a kil hour – where to apply those funds – this is predicable revenue – need to have a discussion about that and keep the public informed. Mayor Gray will invite Mr. Bourassa to a meeting for a discussion.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. 1. July 20, 2015 Minutes

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to approve the regular minutes dated July 20, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. July 27, 2015

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the regular minutes dated July 27, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

3. August 4, 2015

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to approve the regular minutes dated

August 4, 2015. Ms. LaValley pointed out two errors in the minutes (Reconvene motion on first page should state "seconded by Ms. LaValley"; and second page fix date when Deirdre would return, should read "August 18th") Vote: Yes, Unanimous with amendments .

2. 2015/2016 School Committee Meeting Dates

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the School Committee dates (school year 2015-2016) as written on the handout . Discussion: Ms. LaValley stated a need to meet sooner rather than later to discuss the Innovation School (before Sept. 8th when City Council meet). Will meet August 31st at 7:00 and change the Budget Finance Meeting to September 21st at 6:00. Meeting in January is scheduled for a Tuesday because Monday is a holiday. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Goal Setting Meeting Dates

Mr. McGee stated that a different approach is needed in setting goals – He would like to see two separate meetings instead of just one relating to School Committee improving functioning , MASBO report, how can we be successful moving forward and Dr. Reese's goals. Mr. Hoyt would prefer School Committee goals aligned with Dr. Reese's goals when he has more handle of the district. He asked that Carol send a copy of the current goals to each committee member before the first goal setting meeting. Mr. Chamberlain would like to look at accomplishments – lay out the calendar – not to go away from the district goals. Mr. Scorzoni would like to fill in the gaps with City Council and align their goals with Dr. Reese's goals. Ms. LaValley felt the need for more community involvement, address the goals and build from that. Mrs. Schultz would like to brainstorm and use more communication. After much discussion dates were set for two meetings to be held in the bank room: October 1st and November 12th at 6:00.

B. Warrant

1. \$31,840.64 (8/6/15)

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the Warrant dated August 6, 2015 in the amount of \$31,840.64. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. \$343,099.30 (8/20/2015)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the Warrant dated August 20, 2015 in the amount of \$343,099.30. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Mayor Gray nominated Rob Chamberlain to be on the Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob accepted.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to nominated Rob Chamberlain as the newest member of the Finance/Budget Subcommittee. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz

Mrs. Schultz stated a need to set up dates to meet with the other members.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee

Mr. McGee will be setting up dates to meet.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. Visit with State Representative and State Senator (9/15)
Discussion by Mr. Scorzoni regarding the need for this visit – Both attended the retirement meeting in June. Discussion with the committee – would like to see them visit twice a year (Oct./Nov. and June) to thank them and speak to them on issues.
2. South Hampton Visit (9/15)
Deirdre will set up
3. MASC/MASS joint Conference (9/15)
Ms. LaValley commented on the need to vote for a delegate on the Sept 21st meeting – the conference is Nov. 4-7

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

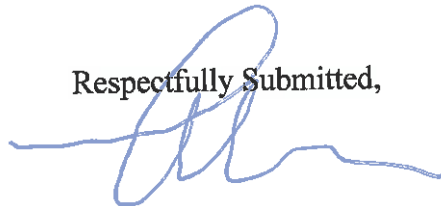
None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

***Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.
Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary