

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
August 31, 2015**

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

Absent was Christian Scorzoni.

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:05 and Tom McGee 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:

A. Amesbury Innovation High School Update

Eryn McGuire, Principal, presented the committee with a power point on the updates of the Innovation School.

- Lease agreement at All Saints Church expires December 30, 2015 – the church is looking to sell the building.
- Have been looking for a new home for the school since August. Have met with Building Inspector, Jim Babbin and the board on 3 different options that fit with physical need and the schools' mission statement
- Looks like 11 Chestnut Street would be the best fit - Advantages: space to grow, bathrooms, on one level, adequate parking, close to downtown, and many opportunities for internships.
- Moving forward – need to move some walls, make the building safe, and get the building up to code.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Eryn for the presentation and felt the move would be wonderful and will support it 100%.

Ms. LaValley felt this new building would have room to grow and expand – perfect match.

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following supporting the move after her tour of the building last Thursday. What will it take moving forward:

- Construction and elimination of none bearing walls
- Electrical work – PA system
- Building is fairly new, but still need to get the building up to code
- Looking at a 5-7 year lease
- Need to hire an architect - Cost of approximately \$10,000.

- Estimated cost for converting the building into a school (\$75,000 to \$100,000)
- Lots of ways to come up with the funding (bundle into the lease, using the leftover money that was budgeted for the church for FY16, use of our revolving account in building rental).

Discussion from the committee members on many different questions to Ms. Farrell.

- What would be the first steps? *Ms. Farrell stated that they are looking for direction and approval to move forward and pursue this venue. First steps is to appropriate the money for the architect.*
- How did you come up with the estimated cost for architect and renovations? *Ms. Farrell stated by speaking with different people and the building is fairly new so it is straight forward on what needs to be done.*
- Will have a 5-7 year lease – what are the owners willingness of building out that allowance? *Only the beginning stages right now*
- Grant is for 5 years – Envision of growing – Other communities looking to come in? *Yes looking at attracting 10 students from other districts to choice/tuition in.*
- Time sensitive – Tight schedule – this is August, December is the end of lease at All Saints need to vote on appropriating \$10,000. for an architect.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to allocated and not to exceed \$10,000 from the Building Rental fund to hire an Architect for the purpose of the Innovation High School at 11 Chestnut Street . Discussion: Mrs. Schultz asked if the grant is for 5 years what happens after that. Eryn stated that the Grant does not end in 5 years it is a cycle not an end. Vote: Yes, Unanimously.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following:

- Hiring – Wednesday school starting – Was fully staffed as of Friday but just got word one new hire will not be coming. Now need a 7-8 Grade Special Education Math Teacher.
- 23 new faces – 4 are positions that were funded through the FY16 budget: 4 top priority from the principals
 - AES – Fourth Grade Teacher
 - CES – Adjustment Counselor
 - AMS – Grade 6,7,8 Spanish Teacher
 - AHS – Math Teacher
- Hot water heater in the kitchen failed at CES – replacement coming tomorrow
- Bus lists are posted on our website
- Issues with supplies delivered – no pencils at CES

Ms. LaValley thanked Ms. Farrell for working with the DPW on the potholes at the high school and the construction down the street. Ms. LaValley also stated her concerns with the increase in lunch prices and new hours, should there be a connect-ed to inform the parents? Ms. Farrell stated that the principals have let the parents know and that the information will be going out in the first day of school packets.

B. Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- Thank you to the leadership team for their guidance – today was first full day in the district.
- Opening day is Wednesday, high level of enthusiasm
- First Annual Steve Gerber Award – *Stroke of Guinness Award* – Awarded to Ann Fuller – Amesbury High School Teacher – Innovation and Leadership Award. Thank you AEFI.
- Tomorrow is Professional Development at each school working on technology
- Thank you to Administration, Custodial staff and secretaries for getting everything ready
- Thank you to Deirdre for all the work that she has done

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Other

- Ms. LaValley spoke about the following:
 - Thanked Dr. Reese for his remarks at opening day for the teachers
 - Thanks AEFI for the chargers
 - AEFI Honor of Giving is set for October 19th at the Ale House

Mr. Hoyt stated that Dr. Reese is now an active member of the Newburyport News and will be judging the Poet contest.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. 1. 2015/2016 School Committee Meeting Dates

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the School Committee Meeting Dates (school year 2015-2016) as written on the handout . Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. Dr. Reese's appointment to the CREST Board

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to appoint Dr. Reese as the newest member of the CREST Board. Vote: Yes, Unanimous .

B. Warrant

1. \$145,701.03 (9/3/15)

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the Warrant dated September 3, 2015 in the amount of \$145,701.03 . Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Next meeting September 21 at 6:00

2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz

Mrs. Schultz stated the next meeting will be September 24th at 8:00 AM

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 (TBD)
2. South Hampton Visit (TBD)
Deirdre will set up
3. MASC/MASS joint Conference (TBD)
Ms. LaValley asked to bring calendars to the Sept 21st meeting to appoint a delegate to attend the conference.

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