

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

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray; Chair; Bonnie Schultz, Peter Hoyt, Christian Scorzoni Rob Chamberlain, Katie Veseley, SAC Representative and Dr. Gary Reese, Interim Superintendent of Schools.

Absent were Deb LaValley and Tom McGee

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:02 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

III. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

A. Middle School Presentation – Michael Curry, Principal

Mr. Curry began by acknowledging last night's wonderful AEFI Evening of Giving. Amesbury Middle School was awarded 2 grants totaling \$15,000. (Kathryn Hill and Mary Mitchell)

Mr. Curry presented the committee with a Power Point on happenings at the middle school:

INMAX (Independent Schools of Maximum Complexity) Consortium

- Partnership with TLA (Teaching and Learning Alliance) at AMS
- Lab classrooms – 16 teachers involved – teachers try-out innovative strategies with specific training – more collaboration – learning culture within the building.
- Expands learning environment
- Lab classrooms effect on school culture and climate – mini lessons with guided instructions – working together – students engagement with teacher
- More student choices – Anchor Charts – *Making Thinking Visible* + *Student voice* + *Sharing Word*
- Essential Learning's – *Meaningful Student Engagement; Teacher Collaboration; Purposeful Lesson/Unit Design; Reflective Practice; Thinking is Visible; Modeling; Gradual Release of Responsibility*

Questions from the committee:

Mrs. Schultz was wondering when the staff has time to get together and work on this program? *Mr. Curry stated during Early Release Days, PD and PRT Days.*

Mr. Hoyt asked if Mr. Curry has data to reflect the progress of students in this

new program? *Mr. Curry stated that the program is not perfected yet, but has received positive feedback from students and staff.*

Positive Behavior Based Incentive Program – Initiated by John Lyman, Teacher

- New this year – changing climate of the school
- Received a grant from Cumberland Farms for \$1500. to defray costs of incentives.
- New fifth graders were applauded when entering the kickoff assembly. Eighth graders will also be applauded at the final assembly of the year.
- Students receiving good deed tickets – 20 students have already receive prizes for good deed done
- John Lyman and Steve O'Connor working together on the C.A.R.E. (Character; Attitude and Accountability; Respect and Responsibility; Empathy) Program. – End of year big prizes

Grade 8 Trip

- Disney Trip – 14th year – great program. 70 – 80% of class attends no child has been denied for lack of funds. Student to chaperone ration 4:1. Cost this year \$900.
- Programs that are covered at Disney include Science; Theatre; Showcase; Behind the scene learning and many other learning experiences through the Disney *YES Program*.
- Real Life Benefits – Ambassadors of Amesbury; First time leaving Amesbury, in an airport, on a plane, staying at a hotel; Make decisions and work as a group; Depend on each other; Support and watch out for each other; Make connections and friendships with peers that normally don't occur at school.

B. MCAS Preliminary Data – Lyn Jacques

Mrs. Jacques spoke about the following:

- Report is different than in the past years – state is still analyzing PARCC data
- Walked through and showed an example of the Parent/Guardian Report that went home last Wednesday
- Coalition between MCAS Data and MAP Data
- Grades 3-10 take ELA and Math and grades 5, 8, and 10 take science, technology and engineering.
- Looked at district verses state results – noted that grade 5 and 6 are below state and working on the transitions between those grades to fill in the gap.
- What do we know? Amesbury on a trajectory of growth; Math in 5th and 6th grade area of concern; high needs population continues to grow; Will not know which test the state will decide to use until November.

Mrs. Schultz noted the big gap between the scores in 5th grade. *Mrs. Jacques stated that that is an area of concern with a lot of factor, 5th grade needs to be looked at. She did point out, looking at the chart the 7th, 8th and 10th grades correct themselves.*

C. Report of the Assistant Superintendent

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following:

- Tonight's finance meeting cancelled and rescheduled for November 2nd at 5:30
- AHS, MPFT, Walter Brooks will be retiring on November 30th after 28 years

of service.

- Interviewed 7 applicants out of 28 for Patrice Pierce's job. Will be calling back 2 today for a second interview. The interview team is: Joy Berube, Dr. Reese, Ms. Farrell. Patrice Pierce will be joining the team for the second interviews. Both candidates have technology and HR components – Looking to appoint someone soon.
- Transportation/bus passes – collecting fees – Bus drivers are checking green passes for ridership. Working closely with Salter Transportation
- Green Communities Grant at AMS – moving forward – proposals out there – safety of the students is our main concern.

D. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- **Educator Goals** – Dr. Reese went over his 3 Goals as part of the educator evaluation process (Student Learning Goal; Professional Practice Goal and District Improvement Goal, communication) – He asked for feedback from the committee.

Mr. Chamberlain liked the goals but felt there was a lack of outcome in the first goal. Mr. Hoyt expressed his appreciation for the time Dr. Reese put into these clear goals.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to appropriate Dr. Reese's Annual Goals as discussed. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

- **City Council** – Meeting held October 13th
 - Municipal Council – 2015-048 voted in favor of the establishment of a Special Education Stabilization Fund
 - Municipal Council – 2015-066 acceptance of \$106,000. in capital funding for technology in the APS
 - Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Schools – increase communication with City Council and School Committee – councilors Sherwood, McClure and Bezanson will be on the City side of this committee.
- **Update on Bill S.2020** – An Act Relative to Substance abuse Prevention – Dr. Reese spoke with Senator Kathleen O'Connor-Ives hoping to get more information and the expectations of the schools moving forward with this Bill. Senator O'Connor-Ives did not have a lot of answers at this time. This Bill will be going to the House for review. Dr. Reese will be updating the committee when the information is clear.
- **Upcoming Events/Activities**
 - October 23rd - Be a Buddy, Not a Bully Breakfast
 - AEFI Evening of Giving last week – also acknowledging Maggie Furlong
 - October 27th – MSBA Site Visit at AES
 - Athletics Hall of Fame – 9 individuals were inducted on Thursday evening (J. Sandy Roy, Ralph Divito, David Lahait, Murray Johnson, Terry Fortin, Michelle Cassavaugh, Tiffany Clark-Nigro, Gail Kelleher and Doug Wood).

Mrs. Schultz stated the need to select three member from the School Committee to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee with the three Counselors. She would like to have a meeting before the end of the year and stated that the committee had spoke previously about having the 3 Chairs serve on the committee (LaValley, Schultz and McGee). Mayor Gray stated that Ms. LaValley was filling in as a Chair on the Finance/Budget and was not appointed. After much discussion, the committee voted.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to appoint Deb LaValley, Bonnie Schultz and Tom McGee to serve as the School Committee Subcommittee on the Ad Hoc Committee. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Mr. Chamberlain ask Dr. Reese if there was a discussion with drawing down the revolving fund (Special Education Stabilization Fund). *No there was not.*

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Katie Veseley

Katie spoke about the following:

- Thank you Dr. Reese for having the water filter installed
- High School Clubs and Fundraisers are beginning
- Student Advisory conference this Sunday at Phillips Exeter
- Peer Leaders are hosting a Monster Mash next Wednesday at CES
- Supporting the moratorium on PARCC - Mr. Angerhofer's article in the Daily News

Mrs. Schultz stated that there is a Public Comment on PARCC in Malden from 4-7 on November 16th.

B. Other

- Mrs. Schultz congratulated Gail Kelleher on the dedication of the Field Hockey Field in her name, this past week.
- Mr. Scorzoni was inquiring what the process was to begin a new varsity sport. He has had many people ask him what the process would be to start up Lacrosse at the high school. Mrs. Schultz stated that Glenn is due to come do a presentation soon, he would be the one to ask.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. October 5th Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Ms. Chamberlain to accept the School Committee minutes dated October 5, 2015. Vote: 4 Yes and 1 abstain (Hoyt).

C. Policy Updates- First Reading

Mrs. Schultz read all of the Policies and then the vote was taken

1. JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students as read. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. ECAF – Security Cameras in Schools -New Policy

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve Policy ECAF – Security Cameras in Schools as read. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

3. EBC – Emergency Plans

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve Policy EBC- Emergency Plans. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. Warrant

\$430,179.34 (10/15/15)

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Warrant dated October 15, 2015 in the amount of \$430,179.34. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

E. MASC/MASS Joint Conference

1. Appointment of delegate from the Amesbury School Committee

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to appoint Mr. Chamberlain as delegate for the MASC/MASS Conference from the Amesbury School Committee. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. Discussion of Resolutions

Dr. Reese read over the 7 Resolutions and the committee discussed them

- 1) Regarding High School Starting Times
- 2) Poverty and Children
- 3) Tying Test Scores to Chapter 70 Funding
- 4) Support For an Equitable and Sustainable Placement Program for Students Covered Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.
- 5) Tax Reform Ballot Question
- 6) Membership of a School Committee Member on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
- 7) Relative to the Teaching Strategies Cold Assessments for Kindergarten Students.

VI INFORMATION ITEMS

A. W Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

None

2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz

Mrs. Schultz stated they met and discussed 2nd Reading of the above policies = also discussed policy on residency. Next meeting November 12th at 8AM.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee

None

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. Visit with State Representative and State Senator (11/16) – *Some committee members asked about topics for discussion – The Mayor asked them to email him their thoughts on topics. Mrs. Schultz added that a reception should be added before the meeting. Dr. Reese will speak to Carol on that.*
2. South Hampton Visit – (October 20 or November 2) *No Visit date yet*
3. SAC Presentation – Student Perceptions about PARCC (Nov. 2) – *Mrs. Schultz stated that SAC usually meet with the committee and have a reception around November, she asked Katie if they would like to combine these meeting or do it separate. Katie would like to keep it separate.*
4. MCAS Accountability Report (TBD)

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

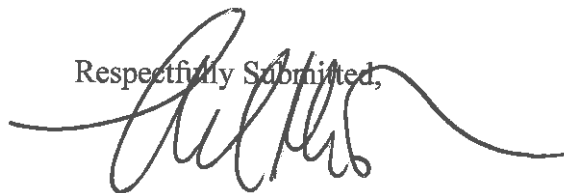
None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 9:02.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary