

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
December 7, 2015**

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

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:04 and Christian Scorzoni 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

Golf Team recognition – Taken out of order

Coach Dodier recognized the Golf Team, who were in attendance. Coach stated they went through the season undefeated and were the CAL League champs for the second year in a row. Also placing third in the state divisional meet. Mrs. Schultz asked what advise Coach Dodier would give to younger students to prepare for high school golf. Coach Dodier spoke about the youth programs that Applehill and Garrison Golf Courses offer.

A. South Hampton School Visit

Kim Molin, school board representative, spoke regarding the long standing relationship South Hampton has with Amesbury High School on a tuition basis. She presented the committee with enrollment projection for the next 9 years (averaging 7 students, with a large increase – 14 - in year 5). Amesbury has had a positive collaboration with the town of South Hampton, NH for the past 45+ years. Bob Sullivan, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the committee.

B. Athletics Report, Glen Gearin

a. Fall Sports Summary

Glen Gearin, Athletic Director, congratulated the golf team for their successful year.

Mr. Gearin stated that there are 240 students that participated in fall athletics this year. He went on to name some of the sports and their successful year (10 All League players this year so far). He also spoke about the field hockey team and the need to work with this program looking into playing on turf rather than grass and its cost. Having turf fields would illuminate numerous

injures, but as Mr. Chamberlain commented, there are health concerns with turf field.

Ms. LaValley asked Mr. Gearin what his thoughts were on the football shift (from 6 divisions to 8). Mr. Gearin stated that was not a fan of the change. He went on to say that it is a MIAA “work in progress”.

b. Procedures for identifying new sports

Mr. Gearin presented to the committee the process for initiating a new sport activity to the district. He spoke about the 5 things to look at when considering adding a new sport.

1. Number of youth programs
2. Title 9 in compliance (boy and girl component)
3. Adequate facilities
4. Funding
5. Co-op possibilities with a near-by community (host with Whittier for ice hockey and wrestling)

Mr. Gearin stated that he has not added a new sport while here in Amesbury.

Mr. Scorzoni spoke about the interest of adding lacrosse at the high school level. Members of the audience were then asked to speak on their interest of having a high school lacrosse team.

Chris Lane, parent/coach, stated that he has started a lacrosse youth program here in Amesbury and have been joining the Newburyport teams. Newburyport has now grown and so has Amesbury, that they can no longer support additional children. Mr. Lane went on to talk about the number of students and teams that he has and it is now time for the high school to join in.

Eight Grade student, Noah White, spoke to the committee about his experience playing lacrosse with Newburyport. Noah stated that some of the kids including himself, are looking forward to continuing playing in high school, and looking to choice out if not offered in Amesbury.

The committee spoke about the cost, wear and tear on the fields, and the safety of the sport having no netting installed for the sport. They also spoke about Title 9, how many students would we have to participate and would it take away from the existing sports. They also discussed that students that can, will be attending other district schools, need to look into this further. Mr. Gearin will look into it and follow up with the committee and the public. Katie Veseley, stated that the student body has showed a great interest on this sport and that lacrosse is a growing sport.

C. Cashman School Presentation

Patty Bradley, Marcia Stellmach (CES teachers) and Liz Morris (AES teacher) brought 4 blanding turtles for the committee to see as they presented their power point on “Blanding Turtle Head-Starting Program”. Through the help of retired teacher Marlene Schroeder, they were able to receive a grant under the Parker River Association. They received the turtles in October and will have them, in their classrooms, through May when they will release them and continue tracking them. They presented and spoke about the opportunities for learning including math, science, language arts and all aspects of the curriculum.

D. Report of the Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Farrell was absent.

E. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- MCAS/PARCC for Spring 2016 – we have a choice – Will be getting input from teachers and the Leadership Team as to their option. Will then come back to the committee to present and get a vote.
- ESEA Reauthorization – Every Student Succeeds Act. House passed, will go to the Senate for approval by the end of the week. This will replace “No Child Left Behind”. This will give local control to the communities, decrease and consolidate Federal programs.
- MSBA – SOI update – Received a call this week with Mayor Gray asking about the community readiness – Good conversation, she was careful and encouraging – Should hear by end of December.
- Entry Plan Update – Will have a report of findings.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Katie Veseley

- Last weekend “Own Town” play – Great show
- Student concerns – Athletic fees – cross country and hockey have the same fees – concerning.

B. Other

- Mr. McGee spoke about the Committee’s goals that were sent out. Did not hear from anyone. What is our next step? Need to move forward. Ms. LaValley stated that new members would be joining in January and would like to wait. Mrs. Schultz asked if Mrs. Marinopoulos could be emailed the goals and get her feedback now so that we could move forward and vote. Mr. McGee asked the committee to email Dr. Reese with changes or additions so that we can move forward.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. November 16th Minutes

Motion by Ms. LaValley , seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the School Committee minutes dated November 16, 2015. Discussion: Mr. McGee stated that Mr. Hamond’s name was misspelled, only has one ‘m’. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B School Calendar – Election Days

Met with Town Clerk, Bonnijo Kitchin and Mr. Hamond, walk through the gymnasium to check on feasibility of holding the election there. Might be easier, smaller and accessible to the handicap ramp. Will try at the smaller election in September 2016 and see how it works with parking and having school in session. Ms. LaValley voiced her concerns on the floor in the gym. Mr. Hamond did not think that was a concern. Would like to get the Facility Technicians’ opinion.

C. Policy Updates – Second Reading

a. JFAB – Non-Resident Students

Motion by Mrs. Schultz , seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept Policy JFAB – Non-Resident Students as written.. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

D. Warrant

\$203,148.77 (11/25/15)

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept the Warrant in the amount of \$203,148.77 dated November 25, 2015. Vote: 6 – yes, 1 abstain (Mr. Hoyt).

\$6,940.00 (12/3/15)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept the Warrant in the amount of \$6,940.00 dated December 3, 2015. Vote: Unanimous.

VI INFORMATION ITEMS

A. W Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Ms. LaValley stated that the meeting was rescheduled.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz

Mrs. Schultz stated they will be meeting Thursday, at 8AM.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee

Mr. McGee stated they continue to meet with the union.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. SAC Presentation (12/21)
2. MCAS Accountability Report - *Dr. Reese stated that the report recently came out and will be working with Lyn Jacques.* (TBD)

Mrs. Schultz asked if the parent groups (PTO, PAG, School Councils, and Boosters) could be invited to a future meeting to give an update.

Mrs. Schultz also stated that Kevin Pierce is trying to revitalize C-Pack and will be having an informational meeting on December 16th with the combination of the schools and the police department.

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to MGL c30A, S21 (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. *Superintendent*

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

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:58PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary