

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
January 19, 2016**

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

Mayor Gray called the Organizational Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. 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, DELGATIONS

None

III. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENEDEN AND STAFF

A. AMS Parent Advisory Group

Carey Creps, President of AMS Parent Advisory Group, updated the committee on activities of the PAG group. She stated that the events are to raise money to off set field trip costs, in-school programs and book fairs. Some of the events include dances, movie nights, trivia nights and the biggest fundraiser is AMS Idol. The committee typically meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Ms. LaValley and Mr. Hoyt thanked Mrs. Creps for volunteering and asked how parent participation is and if the fundraisers are successful. Mrs. Creps stated that the participation is strong at first, but then dwindles down. The turnout for volunteer during events is very good, AMs Idol being the biggest fundraiser.

B. Report of the Superintendent

a. Report of Entry Findings

Dr. Reese presented the committee with a power point on his Entry Findings on APS. These finding were a result of his entry plan activities over the past four months including: interviews with students, parents, staff and community members; review of key documents and data; observation of classrooms school visits and attending sporting and community events. The findings fell into four categories that outlined strengths and weaknesses on all four categories (teaching and learning; fiscal and asset management; community engagement and communication and professional culture). He stated that this information will be used to drive the strategic plan development. The information is on the web-site for the community to review.

b. MSBA Process Update

Dr. Reese presented the committee with a power point on the MSBA process for the phases on a building project for the Amesbury Elementary School. He explained that the next phase, Eligibility Period, is the one that we will be focusing on at this point. The phase may take up to nine months to complete (initial compliance certification; school building committee; educational profile; maintenance document and enrollment certification and local authorization of funding).

Questions from the committee:

Mr. Hoyt asked what level of confidence did Dr. Reese have – Dr. Reese stated that he was fairly confident.

Mr. Marinopoulos asked what was the anticipated time frame for beginning to dig. – Dr. Reese stated 3-4 years.

Ms. LaValley asked if there be a community forum for the education of configuration – Dr. Reese stated yes, it is a requirement from MSBA.

c. AHS Principal and Director of Student Services – 2 key positions to hire

Dr. Reese spoke about the process that will take place for hiring both of these key positions.

AHS – Principal

- ✓ Accepted applications until January 17th
- ✓ Survey on website, twitter and Facebook for students, parents, staff on characteristics that they are looking for to fill the position.
- ✓ Screening candidates – looking at certified teachers, administration and frequency of moves
- ✓ Development of questions
- ✓ Next week – interviewing
- ✓ Following week – site visits
- ✓ Week of February 8-12 – community forum and teacher forum to meet and ask questions
- ✓ Then final interview with Dr. Reese who will then recommend a candidate to School Committee

Director of Student Services

- ✓ Same as Principal search except NO site visit – spend time at the high school for small interviews with others.
- ✓ Recommendation of candidate to School Committee by March 7th.

Dr. Reese asked Ms. LaValley and Mr. McGee to be on the interview team for the High School Principal and Mr. Hoyt and Mrs. Marinopoulos for the Director of Student Services.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Katie Vesely

Katie stated that the Quill and Scroll were honored this evening for their performance in publications. She went on to ask about the February 1st agenda item (Early College) – will it be cut? Dr. Reese stated that there will be a meeting with NECCO soon – the program might look different but will not be cut.

Mayor Gray stated that the program is appropriated by the State and there is an open communication with Senator Connor-Ives and Representative Kelcourse. Ms. LaValley stated that there are other programs out there and will be inviting the college to come and talk to the committee. Amesbury needs to do a better job in marketing.

B. Other

- Ms. LaValley spoke about the vacancy at the School Committee. The open seat was announced during the City Council inauguration and information is on the web-site under news and notices. The applicant must be an Amesbury resident, fill out an application or write a letter of intent to be given to the City Clerk by February 4, 2016 by 4:00pm. This is a 2 year commitment which will end on December 31, 2017. On February 9, 2016 there will be a joint (City Council and School Committee) hearing at 7:00 pm to appoint a candidate.
- Mr. McGee spoke regarding the School Committee goals that were adopted last month to align with the Superintendent's goals and Strategic Plan.
- Mr. McGee spoke about the Joint Education Sub-Committee. He spoke with newly appointed Councilor Scorzoni, President, to look into forming a City committee. Councilor Scorzoni will be revamping the sub-committee list during the March meeting and will look at the scope of responsibility to align with needs. Looking at having an open relationship with City Councilors and School Committee members. Mr. McGee stated the need to begin draft and get the ball rolling
- Mr. Hoyt stated that this past Sunday he and his wife attended an event at the Whittier Home, honoring Lainie Senechal as the first Poet Laureate in Amesbury. Member of the Museum spoke favorably about Dr. Reese's involvement. Mayor Gray did a poetry reading also.
- Mr. Hoyt acknowledged newly appointed Councilors Einson and Stanganelli in the audience this evening.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. December 21, 2015 Minutes

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the School Committee minutes dated December 21, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

January 5, 2016

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the School Committee minutes dated January 5, 2016. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 abstain (Mr. Hoyt).

B. Warrant

1. \$391,358.22 (1/21/16)

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the Warrant dated January 21, 2016 in the amount of \$391,358.22 . Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain stated they met prior to this meeting and set the dates for presentation of the budget. (Dr. Reese will set the sequences of presentation from administrators). The dates are as follows and take place from 6:00 – 8:00pm: February 29th, March 3, 10, & 15 (snow date March 16). Public budget meeting will be March 22 at 6:30. A School Committee vote on next years' budget will take place during a regularly scheduled meeting on April 4, 2016.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated that there will be a meeting next Monday at 8AM to discuss the following:

- Food Service
- Student Activity Accounts
- New sport team – Lacrosse
- MASC – opioid, heroin training for nurses

Ms. LaValley stated that on January 30th at Essex Northshore Danvers, MASC sponsoring “Charting the Course”. Great program for new members – Gretchen Marinopoulos and Ms. LaValley will be in attendance.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Tom McGee

Mr. McGee stated that there is a unique situation this year in the negotiation session. There are members that cannot participate in the negotiations because of a conflict of interest situation. Mr. McGee is recommending a two people sub-committee; Ms. LaValley and Mr. McGee for Teachers negotiations and Ms. LaValley, Mr. McGee and Mrs. Marinopoulos for Para-professionals, Maintenance Facilitators & Technician negotiations.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the negotiation team as stated above. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gray read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

- A. Early College Program (2/1) *(Dr. Reese stated that this is a tentative date)*
- B. Elementary PTO (2/1)

Mr. McGee - (2/1) add the mid-cycle evaluation of the Superintendent.

Mr. Chamberlain asked when typically the committee would begin the Strategic Plan process. Ms. LaValley stated that it would begin in the summer. Need to look at various models and welcomes community input.

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 8:27PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McGee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom McGee, Secretary