

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
February 1, 2016**

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

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. 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, DELGATIONS**

None

**III. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY THE SUPERINTENEDEN AND STAFF**

**A. Elementary PTO – Tom Cassidy (CES President) & Sara Graham (AES President)**

Sara Graham spoke about events that the PTO sponsors (Ice Cream Social; Science Fair; Family Fun Fair; Boys Dance; Staff appreciation luncheons; enrichment programs and new last year adult events). She went on to say that they do 2 fundraisers during the year (Charleston Wrap & Yankee Candle). The money goes toward field trips (so much money per child) and in school programming. How to get involved – join the PTO, Facebook page and hoping to be able to sign-up on line in the fall.

Ms. LaValley thanked Tom and Sara for volunteering for this big job and asked if the teacher participation was the same in both schools. *Yes.*

**B. Early College High School Program**

Ms. LaValley disclosed, to the committee, that she was an employee of NECCO.

Marybeth Exner and April Rivers lead a presentation highlighting the Early College Program and how successful it has been. Mrs. Exner thanked Mr. Scorzoni and Ms. Farrell for the success of the program and for working with Senator Connor-Ives and Representative Kelcourse to fund the program. Some of the highlights of the presentation were:

- Why Early College – students engaged, prepared for college, credits are transferable, cost is lower to name a few.
- What is Early College – opportunity for students to get college credits
- When you can enroll – as a sophomore you can begin.
- Credits – potential of transferring 34 college credits
- Funded – \$1965.00 (3 college courses) minus \$1165.00 Partnership Contributes leaving a cost of only \$800.00

At the conclusion of the presentation, 2 former graduates of AHS and graduates of college spoke about their positive experience, how the college that they attended accepted all of their credits earned in this program and how they were able to graduate in 3 years instead of 4/5 years. Twelve AHS students, that are currently in the program, spoke about their experience, how it has helped them achieve their potential, helped with their organizational skills and their grades. One parent spoke about her daughters' positive experience and how this program gave her daughter the confidence she needed to succeed.

Mr. Hoyt thanked the students for such a great presentation and congratulated them on their success. Mrs. Marinopoulos echoed Mr. Hoyt accolades and asked if a student can begin as a Junior. Ms. Rivers stated that they can but added that it is difficult to catch up.

Mr. Hamond, AHS Principal, stated that he could not have spoken about the Early College Program any better. He went on to say that the students that participate have a passion for the program. They learn to balance high school life plus college experience without missing out.

### **C. Report of the Superintendent**

#### **a. Superintendent Evaluation – Mid Cycle Review**

Dr. Reese presented an overview of the superintendent evaluation process. He highlighted the following with a power point presentation:

- In the fall, identified a five step cycle of continuous improvement (self-assessment – annual plan - implementing goals – progress report – documents of summative)
- Presentation of the progress report – where Dr. Reese is with the goals (progress on goals, and need to adjust, feedback from the committee)
- Student Learning Goal – Measure of MCAS performance.
- Professional Practice Goal – development of multi-year strategic plan with annual goals/benchmarks
- District Improvement Goal – improvement of communication with parents, school & city community. Would like to establish a communication committee.

Dr. Reese concluded his presentation speaking on the End-of cycle evaluation report form. He asked that the committee members complete the form individually and then will have conversations. The chair and vice chair will then compile the report and present it as one report. The committee will then give the superintendent ratings (unsatisfactory, needs improvement, proficient and exemplary). Dr. Reese stated that the rating 'proficient' is where the state believes that most will fall into. There is always room for growth to work toward exemplary.

Mr. Hoyt excited about working with Cummings Foundation. Timeline? Mr. Hoyt also stated that he was happy to see that Dr. Reese was looking into the 5 & 6 grade Math concerns.

*Dr. Reese stated that will hear, regarding the grant, about getting formally invited in by mid February and by mid May/June if we received the grant. He ended with stating he anticipated to be further along with the Math concerns.*

**b. Strategic Planning Update**

Dr. Reese spoke about following the Strategic Plan that is recommended through MASS and endorsed by DESE. He recommended that one of the subcommittee's look into all models that are offered, then make a recommendation to the School Committee as a whole. Ms. LaValley asked if there was a cost – *No, not with superintendent protocol*. Ms. LaValley suggested having a workshop, look at the models, discuss and provided feedback. Mr. Chamberlain liked that suggestion and stated that it was a good process to develop the goals. Mr. McGee also would prefer all members be involved.

**c. Massachusetts School Building Authority**

Dr. Reese stated that the MSBA has stated that the building project at AES has moved to the next phase. There are 26 communities that will be going into the next step. Amesbury's 270 days will begin in July, but can start moving forward with the educational programming.

**d. Staffing Updates**

High School Principal:

- 40 applicants
- 4 interviewed
- Survey to parents, staff and students to identify their vision and goals
- 2 finalist – Elizabeth McAndrews, current AHS Assistant Principal and Brendan Sullivan, currently Assistant Principal in Saugus.
- Site visits this week

Director of Student Services:

- 25 applicants
- Interviewing next week with focus group
- School Committee to meet candidates at the first March meeting

Ms. LaValley asked if the staffing update is on the web – *Yes*. Mrs. Marinopoulos asked what the time frame was on completing the survey on the Director position. *Can complete survey till the end of this week.*

**e. School Safety**

Dr. Reese stated that school safety is taken very seriously given all the threats that area schools and other organizations have been having. He stated that he has discussed current practices and protocols for the safety of all. Each classroom has a protocol book and the district is working closely with Amesbury's public safety officials.

#### **IV. COMMUNICATION**

##### **A. Student Advisory Council – Katie Vesely**

Katie stated that the students were happy to be involved in the interview process.

##### **B. Other**

- Ms. LaValley stated that her and Mrs. Marinopoulos attended the MASE conference and found it very informative. Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that they will be working with neighboring districts as resources on Chapter 70.
- Ms. LaValley stated that there is a new meeting law with the Senate. Need to look into it and weigh in on it.

#### **V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

##### **A. January 19, 2016 Minutes**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the School Committee minutes dated January 19, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

##### **B. Warrant**

##### **1. \$238,366.04 (2/04/16)**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to accept the Warrant dated February 4, 2016 in the amount of \$238,366.04. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

#### **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **A. Subcommittee Reports**

##### **1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain**

Did not meet.

##### **2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt**

Mr. Hoyt stated that they met this morning and discussed the following:

- Residency requirements
- Truancy
- Food services & balances a lot lower than a year ago (\$15175.00 FY15 - \$6864.00 FY16) – looking into serving alternative lunches in the spring.
- Technology – acceptable use – next steps
- Student Activity accounts

##### **3. Personnel Subcommittee – Tom McGee**

Mr. McGee stated they met this evening and discussed the following:

- Process of the interviews for High School Principal and Director of Student Services
- 15 staff retiring – already posted but will have some internal shifting in staffing
- Meeting with teachers bargaining unit tomorrow

Ms. LaValley stated February 9<sup>th</sup> will be the joint meeting with the city to fill the open School Committee seat. If interested in filling the seat, have till Thursday at 4:00 to put in paperwork with the City Clerk.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Gray read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

- A. Early College Program – part two (TBD) – *focusing on financial and sustainability*
- B. Athletics Boosters (TBD) – *continuing effort*

Ms. LaValley suggested that the committee get a report/update from the attendance officer and the resource officers.

**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

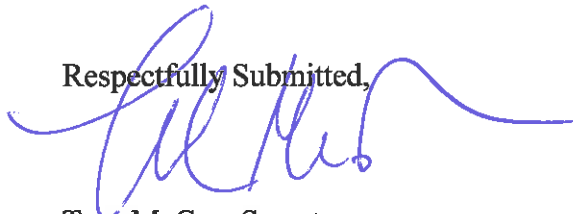
Pursuant to MGL c30A, S21 (a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. *Superintendent*

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

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary