

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
April 4, 2016**

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

Absent was Katie Veseley.

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and Peter Hoyt led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement.

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 SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

A. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- MASS/DESE Workshop – Next Generation Assessment – Mrs. Jaques and Dr. Reese attended this workshop last week. Commissioner spoke about funding sources for technology, providing students with skills and being successful. Dr. Reese was hoping to find out more about the testing proper, but the workshop was more about the funding.
- Jeanne Geiger White Ribbon Breakfast will be in 2 weeks. This breakfast will host five different high schools in the area and students from these high schools will be speaking including AHS.
- Staffing updates – moving forward in hiring - quality people

B. Report of the School Resource Officers

Officers LeSage & Bybee with their superior, Sargent Donovan, spoke about the SRO positions and its success. Sargent Donovan stated that this is the second year of the four year grant. The SRO's reply to 8 to 10 calls a day in all schools in the district which reduces calls to the Amesbury Police Department.

Officer LeSage stated that they work rotating schedules (4 days on; 4 days off), attend sporting events; interact with students and administration and use their discretion in different situations with help from the school administration.

Officer Bybee added that this position has been a success working with administration, teachers and mentoring kids. Everyone is working as a team.

Mr. Chamberlain asked if all calls are logged. Officer LeSage stated that 60 – 70%

are logged depending on the situation.

Ms. LaValley asked about their uniforms; if they go into classrooms; how much time is spent at the elementary schools; if on a call, what happens if neither one of you are available and asked if they would attend an advisory board meeting at the Innovation High School.

Both Officers LeSage and Bybee stated that the “soft” uniforms that they wear is not as intimidating as the other uniforms. As for the classrooms, yes, they talk about law enforcement and answer all of the questions that the kids have. They do go to the elementary school but not as frequently as they are at the middle and high. If both of the SRO are unavailable for a call, the Amesbury Police Department will assist. As for the Innovation School, Officer Bybee stated that he is in contact with Bethany Noseworthy

Mr. Hoyt thanked Sargent Donovan for writing the Grant and asked if there is an opportunity for networking with other communities.

Officer LeSage stated that they work with SRO in California and all over the country. This position is now more of a necessity in districts (pro-active). Sargent Donovan stated that the SRO’s attend special juvenile training on many areas including social media, bomb threats and much more.

Mr. Chamberlain asked if they work with the Adjustment Counselors. Officer LeSage stated that they text all the time.

C. Report of the School Attendance Officer

Dave Muse spoke about his role as an attendance officer in the district (8 years). He stated that he finds kids; works on school choice and verifying addresses and residency.

Ms. LaValley asked about the difficulty living so close to New Hampshire. Mr. Muse stated that is a challenge, always looking at plates. He also stated that he can no longer run license plates, so that makes tracking the addresses a bit more difficult.

Mr. Chamberlain asked about the choice students. Mr. Muse stated that he checks on the choice kids three times a year (October, December and March) when the lists go out.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Advisory Council – Katie Vesely

Katie was absent.

B. Other

Mayor Gray spoke about the Robotics Team. Amesbury’s Carriage Team Robotics along with Sparhawk School came in first in Defense. Mayor Gray stated that they did a great job.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Request from Little League – flag pole at existing concession stand at the Cashman Field

Mike Buetow, representing Little League, spoke about the need to install a new flag pole at the Cashman Field and electrical lighting. He went on to say it would be a 21’ pole with a 15’ safety light, all permits would be pulled and the existing flagpole and lighting would be removed. An Amesbury family funded the equipment and will be recognized with a plaque. Mr. Buetow is looking for approval from the committee.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the installation of a flagpole and lighting at the Cashman field by the Amesbury Little League. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B. School Budget FY17 Vote

- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 010 District Administration of \$599,438. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 010 Horace Mann Charter/AIHS of \$649,986. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 011 Transportation of \$511,362. Accepted by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Discussion: Mr. McGee asked if this figure included late buses. Dr. Reese stated it did not, have not received a figure from Salter Transportation at this time. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 012 Amesbury Elementary of \$3,639,401. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. McGee. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 013 Cashman Elementary of \$3,882,623. Accepted by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 excused (Mr. Hoyt).***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 014 Amesbury Middle School of \$5,518,682. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 excused (Mr. Chamberlain).***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 015 Amesbury High School of \$4,520,593. Accepted by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 excused (Ms. LaValley).***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 015 Athletics of \$212,364. Accepted by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Discussion: Ms. LaValley referred to the comparison of user fees (neighborhood towns and DART) that Ms. McAndrews presented at her budget presentation. Need to look at aligning those fees. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 016 District Technology of \$422,341. Accepted by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 017 District Maintenance of \$1,643,911. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***

- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 018 District Curriculum of \$271,939. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 019 District Special Education of \$2,685,424. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 020 District Benefits of \$4,326,563. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of 911 Employee Benefits of \$785,000. Accepted by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. McGee. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept appropriation of Total Expenditures of \$29,669,627. Accepted by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler asked if this total included additional pieces. Yes. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to reduce bus fees from \$360. to \$250 for single rider and \$540 to \$450 for a family cap. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to reduce athletic fees from \$350. to \$284 for one sport, Co-curricular from \$80 to \$50 and family cap from \$1200. to \$900. Accepted by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

C. Revenue Account Budget (FY17) Vote

- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept the anticipated expenses to Transportation of \$90,000. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept the anticipated expenses to Athletics of \$240,505. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept the anticipated expenses to Preschool of \$73,901. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*
- *Motion, by the Chair, to accept the anticipated expenses to Rental of Facilities of \$40,000. Accepted by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept the anticipated expenses to South Hampton Tuition of \$156,198. Accepted by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept the anticipated expenses to School Choice of \$241,206. Accepted by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***
- ***Motion, by the Chair, to accept the Total anticipated expenses of \$841,810. Accepted by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***

D. Director of Student Services Contract

Mr. McGee stated that Dr. Reese has met with Mary Anne Houde regarding her contract. She will be beginning July 1, 2016 with a \$115,000. salary. The committee will need to vote on approving her contract presented.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept Mary Anne Houde, Director of Student Services, contract as presented by Dr. Reese. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

E. First Reading of Board Policy Development (BF) Revision

Mr. Hoyt spoke about the first reading of the Board Policy. He stated that the revision is to change policies on a “as needed” basis instead of annually. No action is needed on this policy tonight, but will come to the next meeting for a vote.

F. School Choice vote by the Committee

Dr. Reese stated that each year the School Committee vote to accept students as School Choice students. After speaking with Mr. Curry, Middle School and Ms. McAndrews, High School, Dr. Reese is recommending that School Committee open up School Choice to grades 6 through 10 accepting 10 students at each grade level.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. McGee to approve Dr. Reese’s recommendation of opening up School Choice in grades 6 through 10 as stated. Discussion: Mr. Chamberlain asked if class sizes would be bumped up with this recommendation. Dr. Reese stated that after his discussion with both administrators that class sizes would be manageable. Ms. LaValley stated this opening would be only at the high school not the Innovation High School.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

G. Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2016

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the minutes dated March 21, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

H. Warrant - \$286,207.62 (3/31/16)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to accept the Warrant dated March 31, 2016 in the amount of \$286,207.62. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 excused (Mr. Hoyt).

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Chamberlain stated they did not have a report.

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated their next meeting will be April 11th at 6:00 PM.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

Mr. McGee stated that they met prior to this meeting, discussion:

- Central Office organization
- Business Manager – job description – will be sending to full committee for discussion
- High School Dean versus Assistant Principal
- Staffing updates

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- Destination Imagination Presentation (5/2/16)
- Technology Update (5/2/16)
- Retirement Recognition (6/6/16)
- Whittier Regional Vocational Technical Update (6/6/16)
- Superintendent's Evaluation (6/20/16)
- School Committee Mid-Cycle Goals Review(6/20/16)

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session: Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to negotiations with AFT (Teachers, Paraprofessionals and MPFT) and for the purpose of negotiating with AFT, as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position.

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

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:15 into Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary