

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
May 2, 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, Nick Wheeler, Katie Veseley, SAC Representative and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and Gretchen Marinopoulos 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. Destination Imagination Presentation**

Mrs. Costello updated the committee on what DI is all about with a power point presentation.

- Creative problem solving
- Compromise and negotiation
- Fun and use of imagination
- Students of grades kindergarten thru eighth grade
- Run by volunteers, staff and parents
- Compete for Regionals, States and then Global
- Variety of programs to choose from

Different teams of students then spoke about what their presentations were about and how they placed in the competition. One high school group spoke and is hoping that next year Destination Imagination will grow and become popular at the high school level. Katie Veseley stated that she will try to help at the high school level. She stated the need to find an advisor to work with the group and also the need to have it approved by the high school principal.

Mr. Hoyt spoke about the problem solving skills that these students are learning about and how proud the parents must be. Ms. LaValley asked how many students participate and asked what the biggest challenges are to run the program. About 90 students are involved - biggest challenges are: parent volunteers; commitment; Team managers and appraisers.

## **B. Technology Update**

John Dubuc presented the committee with a Power Point on the technology updates:

- Wireless Update – installed 21 cloud based managed points at high school and 15 at middle school
- Infrastructure Update – installed 8 switches at high school and 6 at middle school
- Computer Upgrades – installed 80 donated computers district wide; windows XP upgrades district wide 90% complete; Chromebook carts (2 each at AHS & AMS; 1 each at AES, CES, AIHS)
- 5 year technology capital plan – year one (this year) \$106,000.; year two \$160,460; year three \$164,510; year four \$172,510; year five \$164,510).

Questions from the committee – Mr. McGee asked if a leasing program would be an option. Mr. Dubuc stated that it would be a viable option to stay current, but added that it would be costly the first year. Mr. Chamberlain asked about the status of the phone system. Mr. Dubuc stated pricing still has not come in. They are looking at putting in a central phone system and hubs at each individual school. Ms. LaValley asked if Microsoft 13 was being used in the computer labs. Mr. Dubuc stated that some have it but most are using Windows 2010.

## **C. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning**

Lyn Jacques spoke about the following

- APS Summer Literacy Camp will be the first two weeks of August (Mon thru Thurs. 9-11AM). Information on the web site.
- Grant Allocation FY15 and FY16 – State Grants end on June 30<sup>th</sup> and Federal Grants end July 31<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Jacques had a handout showing the differences in grant money from FY15 to FY16. First time in her time at APS that they are in the positive. Mr. Hoyt asked why there was a -\$5000. difference in the Early Childhood Special Education Grant. Mrs. Jacques commented no direct impact on salaries, based around professional development. Mr. Chamberlain asked if she was working on any competitive Grants. She stated not at this time.
- Exciting work with a partnership with Wiggins and McTighe, Understanding by Design (UBD). Revised curriculum – backward designs – has 3 stages
  - Stage 1: Desired results
  - Stage 2 – Evidence
  - Stage 3 – Learning Plan

## **D. Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Reese spoke about the following updates:

- Thanked Lyn Jacques for the work that she has done with Understanding by Design. It has been an exciting process as administrators.
- Day on the Hill – Dr. Reese, Amy Sherwood, Mr. Wheeler and Ms. LaValley attended this event this past week. Great day with information about Chapter 70 Funding, State of Education, nice to see the process. Also in attendance was Senator Connor-Ives and Representative Kelcourse.

- Strategic Plan Development – Dr. Reese printed a timeline summary – would like to develop plan jointly with School Council, School Committee and Leadership Team.
  - May/June – Identify core values; group meetings; collection of feedback.
  - July – refine vision
  - August – Theory of Action at Leadership retreat; identify strategic objectives and initiatives
  - September – Draft Strategic Plan; revision of draft
  - October – draft Strategic Plan presented to School Committee; School Committee adoption of Plan.
- Staffing Updates – Gail Zeman from Ipswich is the Interim Business Manager. She is looking into projections on financing. Looking into securing permanent person for next year. Mrs. Zeman is helping looking thru resumes.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Dr. Reese for the Strategic Plan of action – a lot of work. Ms. LaValley asked to put the Strategic Plan vision outline on the website. Mayor Gray stated that this was a great first step and it has been a long time coming.

#### **IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Katie spoke regarding the generous donation of \$100,000. for the redoing the high school courtyard which was presented at the AEFI function. She also stated that the Advisory Council is planning the trip to the Middle School to promote high school clubs

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

- Ms. LaValley spoke regarding the Joint Meeting with the City Council – spoke about the budget overview. Next meeting will be June 1<sup>st</sup> with topics on AES Building and the Innovation High School.
- Regarding the AEFI evening at NECCO last Friday night. Congratulation to Linda Young, Tom Hanshaw and Brandon Morrissey – Beautiful evening – AEFI is looking for members to join and assist with AEFI
- Day on the Hill – great day – received a lot of information
- Mr. Hoyt stated that the President of the United States announced that this is National Teacher Appreciation week. He wished all the teachers the best.
- Mrs. Marinopoulos thanked Cindy Joyce for revitalizing the C-Pack Committee – They met Wednesday at 4:00.
- Mayor Gray congratulated the Math Team – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Tri State – core skills here at the district
- Mrs. Marinopoulos the Arts – Shrek performance – All State Band and Coral group – fabulous performance
- Ms. LaValley suggested extending an invitation to the Math Team and All State Band.

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

**A. First Reading of School Mascots and Other Identifiers (CN)**

Dr. Reese spoke about this policy and stated that this is the first reading and added that there is no change in the mascot at this time.

Mr. Hoyt stated that this was a step in the process and thanked Dr. Reese for putting it in the drop box. Mr. McGee also thanked Dr. Reese and added that this was the framework to have dialog on the subject.

**B. Second Reading of Board Policy Development (BF)**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept Board Policy Development (BF) as read Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**C. Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2016**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the minutes dated April 4, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**D. Warrant - \$191,557.61 (4/8/16)**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Warrant dated April 8, 2016 in the amount of \$191,557.61. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**\$320,831.86 (4/28/16)**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Warrant dated April 28, 2016 in the amount of \$320,831.86. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee**

Mr. Chamberlain stated they met this evening with a full agenda.

- Interim Business Manager – working with Softright program; freeze in the budget at this time; will have an assessment of where we are by end of May
- Food Service – Kevin Kish spoke to the committee on how we stand. Better shape than last year in owed money (\$14,800. versus \$5500.). There is only a small number of students that owe.
- Chart of accounts
- Close out procedures
- Discussion on presenting the budget
- Estimate on late buses for next year

**2. Policy Subcommittee**

Mr. Hoyt stated they met on April 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:

- Food Service Policy – Kevin and Gary
- Drug & Alcohol Policy – nurses will review the policy
- Read the new policy of School Mascots and Other Identifiers (CN) out loud.

**3. Personnel Subcommittee**

Mr. McGee stated they have not met but will be meeting with union members on Wednesday of this week.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

- 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)

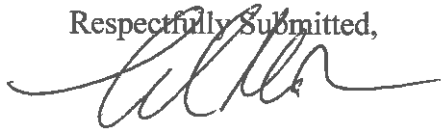
**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn at 8:46 PM.. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary