

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
May 16, 2016**

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

Absent was Mayor Gray.

Ms. LaValley called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and Nick Wheeler 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. AHS Math Team

Christopher Cioffi, Captain of the AHS Math Team, spoke about their success as members of the Team. He also introduced the members that were in attendance this evening.

- Division 2 school (divisions are based on the number of students in the school)
- AHS won all 6 meets
- Some members were top scorers, 1st place and 2nd place winners
- Must try out to be a member of the Team
- For seniors, some get scholarships. This year Cole Legg and Christopher were awarded scholarships.
- Explanation of how the meet is orchestrated – 5 questions with 10 minutes to answer – each team have 5 members. Top ten scorers get candy bars and plaques

Mr. Hoyt congratulated the Team and commented on their skilled coach, Ms. Leary. Having success under her leadership. Chris agreed and added that Ms. Leary pushes everyone to be the best they can and goes over and beyond.

Ms. LaValley asked about the Math Team history. Chris referred that question to Ms. Leary. She stated that this is their 11th year of winning in a row. Ms. Leary went on to say that the Math Team has been in existence for 50 years and that the kids work hard at it.

B. All State Band/Chorus

Ms. Suzanne Meyer, AHS Performing Arts Teacher, spoke about the students that perform in her class. She went on to say that three singers and three instrumentalist auditioned and only one student will be accepted in the Lions Club All State and Northeastern District Chorus (Lauren LeGault, Eli Ratner and Michael Lynch).

Ms. Meyer stated that Michael was the recipient of the Lions Club All State in chorus and he also sent in a tape (with Russ Monroe's help) to the All National Chorus and will find out in June if he was accepted. The three students spoke about their personal experience and their love of music.

Ms. Meyer then spoke about the three instrumentalist – (Cooper Wigglesworth, Kayleigh Hooper and Patrick Ives). They practiced for three days with other students from around the state. They had two concerts in Dedham on April 30th. Amazing job. The three students then spoke about their personal experience and how amazing it was.

C. Introduction/Report of the Interim Director of Finance and Operations

Gail Zeman, Interim Director of Finance and Operations, thanked the committee for the opportunity to work here in Amesbury. She has been busy getting to know the community, district and all of the ins and outs of the budget. She went on to speak about the following:

- Working with city finance department to implement a protocol of budgetary forecasting.
- Tour district schools and looking at needs, conditions and cleanliness
- Meeting with Leadership Team
- Met with Norm Fredette on building and grounds
- Met with Interim Director of Special Education
- Looked at health insurance costs
- Looked over recent audit and financial review
- Meeting with Dr. Reese on a daily basis to discuss issues
- Financial Overview – Looking at having a \$0 balance by the end of the fiscal year
- Working with Candace (very knowledgeable and works well with Excel) and Joy
- More details will be available at the next meeting.

Ms. Zeman concluded by stating that she will be going to a MASBO conference at the Cape and will be bringing the brochure that Dr. Reese put together regarding job description for the Director of Finance and Operations.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Ms. Zeman and commented on the huge accomplishments that she has done in only her one month here.

Mr. Chamberlain asked if she could provide more details on the revolving accounts.

Mr. Zeman stated she is working on balancing this year for next year.

Ms. LaValley thanked her for the detailed report and is looking forward to the report on the revolving accounts.

Ms. Zeman asked the committee, if possible, to get questions to her before meetings so that she can be prepared and have the answers ready.

D. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following updates:

- AEFI Grants – 9 grants were awarded totally \$31,846.70. Additionally, Woody Cammett donated \$100,000.00 for the high school courtyard renovation and for the upkeep of the area.
- Rotary Club Educator of the Year was awarded to Maryanne Dower, AES PreK Teacher. She will be honored on June 2nd.
- Excellence in Education Award recipients are: Joanna Dodier , Julie Kermelewicz, Michael Tanzella, Kate Bissell, Ellen Elliott, Kim Shepard, Cathy Jackson, Joanne Baker, Kathy Scott, Russ Monroe, John Lyman, Renee MacKinnon and Glynis Cooney. They will be honored at a luncheon at Flatbread on May 23rd.
- Strategic Plan – sent out a survey monkey to identify core values, input vision and mission. Will then review and refine the survey results and use with Administration Team.
- School Budget – City Council Finance Committee Meeting was a very positive process. It helped to have questions ahead of time.

Ms. LaValley asked what the wishes of the committee was for voting on the grants. (one at a time or as a whole).

Discussion amongst the members whether a vote was necessary or an acknowledgement. After much discussion the item was tabled until next meeting. Mr. Hoyt will see what the language is on the policy of donations and report back to the committee.

Mrs. Marinopoulos asked Dr. Reese what the deadline was on the survey. Dr. Reese states within the next two weeks.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Advisory Council – Katie Vesely

Katie stated that this would be her last meeting, with only 9 days left of school. She thanked the committee members for giving her this opportunity. She has learned a lot through this experience. She will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall studying Neuroscience.

She gratefully introduced the new member of the Student Advisory Council rep. would be Sydney Knowlton. Sydney will be joining this committee on June 6th. Sydney thanked the committee for this opportunity and is looking forward to joining the committee.

B. Other

Mr. Hoyt spoke highly of Gale and Jessica Regis and teaching into an “Art”. He and his wife Patty had the opportunity to experience a Math lesson at Lowell’s Boat Shop with Jessica’s students.

Ms. LaValley spoke about some upcoming events. May 23rd top 10 Dinner and June 4th High School graduation, weather permitting, at Landry Stadium. She advised the committee members to meet at the tunnel at 6:45 PM.

Mr. Hoyt spoke about marching together, as a committee, in the Memorial Day parade.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

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

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve Policy School Mascots and Other Identifiers (CN). Discussion: Ms. LaValley would like to amend #5 E to D. She stated that the Athletic Booster member should be a parent. Mr. Hoyt referred to Dr. Reese for his opinion. After much discussion, Mr. Wheeler suggested that F be added, stating that at least one member of the athletic boosters be present.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept Policy CN as amended above.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Dr. Reese stated that he will start the process of looking at the school mascot. Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that Mr. Lavoie, City Councilor, would like to be included in the process. At the June 1st joint meeting the mascot discussion will be on the agenda.

B. Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2016

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the minutes dated May 2, 2016. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

D. Warrant - \$185,086.94 (5/12/16)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to accept the Warrant dated May 12, 2016 in the amount of \$185,086.94. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Chamberlain stated they will be having a meeting on June 6th at 5:00

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated next meeting will be May 23rd from 5:30 – 6:30

3. Personnel Subcommittee

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

- Gail Zeman as Interim Director of Finance and Operations. Dr. Reese has posted the position and has received 20 resumes. Time line: will review applications through end of this week; Dr. Reese has made up a brochure with job description; next week interview; have site visits and district visits; goal is to present candidate on June 6th School Committee meeting.
- Dr. Reese evaluation – time line steps to take; review aspects to use; look at indicators to evaluate; feedback by end of this week on elements, send to Mr. McGee by Friday.
- The following are the Indicators with the chosen elements that the Personnel Subcommittee decided on:

*Instructional Leadership = B. Instruction 3. Diverse Learners' Needs
E. Data-Informed Decision Making
2. School and District Goals*

*Management and Operations = A. Environment
1. Plans, Procedures and Routines
3. Student Safety, Health, Social and Emotional Needs*

Family and Community Engagement = C1. Family Engagement
Professional Culture = A1. Commitment to High Standards
F3. Consensus Building

- Job Description – Dr. Reese has begun reviewing job descriptions at Central Office and has presented descriptions to Joy and Candace to review and redo.
- Union negotiations coming up

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 Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. McGee to adjourn at 8:16 PM.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary