

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
June 20, 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 Sydney Knowlton, SAC Representative.

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and Tom McGee 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. Sports Team Recognition

Glen Gearin, Athletic Director, thanked the school committee for honoring such great athletes. He stated it has been a productive spring and recognized the following teams:

- Girls Basketball – CAL League – Baker Division Champs
- Boys Tennis – CAL League – Baker Division Champs
- Boys Baseball – CAL League – Baker Division Champs
- Girls Softball – CAL League – Baker Division Champs
- Boys Track – Division 4 State Champs
- Girls Track – Individual CAL Champs - Girls State Heptathlon Champs (participation in 7 events)

Coaches from the individual teams spoke about the teams' accomplishments and introduced the students that were in attendance.

B. Director of Finance and Operations Search Update

Dr. Reese updated the committee on the search process for a recommendation of a Director of Finance and Operations.

- Advertised in School Spring and MASBO
- 20 candidates applied
- 10 not qualified
- 5 interviewed

Dr. Reese recommended Joan Liporto for fill this position. Ms. Liporto comes from Georgetown and has started from the bottom and worked her way up. Dr. Resse introduced Ms. Liporto to the committee.

Ms. Liporto spoke briefly about her background starting as a Special Education secretary and working her way up. The members of the committee then asked her questions.

- Attraction to Amesbury – *wanted to come back to a city, wanted a change, population in Amesbury good size, had a superintendent with an entry plan*
- Opportunity to come up through the ranks, working with staff, examples – *worked extensively with Newmarket Food Service and transportation, having a good eye with staff that step-up*
- Looking at Georgetown finances – your role in preparing the narrative – *adapted a new software, budget should tell a story, every line item is explained.*
- How to communicate to staff and finance subcommittee, policy stated quarterly reports – *would meet every month with monthly transfers, will report however is decided on with finance subcommittee*
- Worked with Munis, any other software – *Softright will be a learning curve.*
- What are some accomplishments and challenges – *turned around two difficult department, medicare revenue and food service struggles*
- Last override, were you there – *Yes for the construction and lost 9 positions*

At the completion of all questions by the committee, Dr. Reese stated that Ms. Liporto would be a great addition to our staff here at APS.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the recommendation of Dr. Reese and hire Joan Liporto as the Director of Finance and Operations. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

C. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following updates:

- Many end of year celebrations – Last day of school June 24th – ½ day (10:50 dismissal for high and middle school; 11:30 dismissal for elementary schools)
- Two weeks ago AIHS graduation – 7 graduates – staff connect with students – overcome their challenges
- MARS Workshop – End of Year Budget Report
- Strategic Plan Update – 2 vision sessions next week June 29th @ 9AM and June 30th @ 6PM. Call Carol Bartlett if you are planning on attending.
- Meeting next Friday regarding eligibility in building project for AES.

Ms. LaValley asked about a contract for Joan Liporto. Dr. Reese stated he will be working with personnel subcommittee on the contract.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Advisory Council – Sydney Knowlton

Sydney was absent – no report.

B. Charter School Cap Resolution

Mayor Gray read the “*Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools*” aloud. Committee members than had a discussion and agreed that there is no accountability of the finance and that Charter School and Public Schools are not “apples to apples”.

***Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to support, adopt and send to the Legislature our acceptance of the Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter School.
Vote: Yes, unanimous.***

C. Other - None

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Administering Medication to Students (JLCD) – Second Reading

Mr. Hoyt spoke about the new policy *Administering Medicines to Students* (JLCD). He stated that policy was read last meeting and would like the committee to adopt this policy.

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve policy JLCD as presented .
Vote: Yes, unanimous.***

B. School Committee Summer Agenda Setting

- Discussion about summer meeting dates – They will be: July 11th and August 8th both at 6:00 PM
- Discussion regarding Goal Setting meeting dates – They will be: August 15th and August 22nd both at 5:30 PM at Newburyport Bank Room

C. School Committee Mid-Cycle Goals Review

Mr. McGee spoke about reviewing their own goals and see how they have been adopting the goals. Mr. McGee stated that these goals were adopted six months ago and felt they have done an OK job. Regarding the goal of *Public Relations*, Dr. Reese has used this format and school committee needs to make that commitment, work in progress. Going forward need to hold our selves accountable. Working on Strategic Plan.

Mr. Hoyt spoke about this being the year of great change with staff. Mr. Hoyt felt that the accomplishments were remarkable, and doing a better job than we think we are doing.

Ms. LaValley also stated that this was the year of interims. Need to look at the accomplishment and fine tune them. Ms. LaValley stated that regarding the *Public Relations Goal* have done well.

Mr. Chamberlain and Mrs. Marinopoulos felt have done a nice job on the Educational Goal with the needs of children.

Strategies moving forward – with 3 new committee member since these goals were adopted – need to revisit. Being a transitional year, need to develop goals early on and need to align goals with Strategic Plan.

D. Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. McGee thanked the members for returning comments promptly. He stated that all areas of Dr. Reese's Evaluation was rated Proficient. Mr. McGee had a Power Point of the strengths and focus areas of the Evaluation. He stated that this time around it was a lot easier than in the past and thanked Dr. Reese for a job well done.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the Superintendents' Evaluation as presented .Discussion: Ms. LaValley thanked Dr. Reese and stated this process has been easier than in the past. Mr. Chamberlain appreciated seeing everyone's comments. Mr. Hoyt stated that this Friday will be Dr. Reese first year here in Amesbury. He thanked Dr. Reese and stated that he is the whole package and Amesbury is blessed. Mayor Gray said good job. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2016

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the minutes dated June 6, 2016. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

D. Warrant - \$307,538.92 (6/23/16)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Warrant dated June 23, 2016 in the amount of \$307,538.92 . Vote: 6 Yes, 1 abstain (Ms. LaValley).

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Chamberlain stated they met this evening prior to this meeting and Gail Zeman highlighted the following:

- Chart of Accounts – projection/close out of accounts – notes left behind for the new Director of Finance and Operations
- School Warrants – making warrant approval process more meaningful
- Foundation budget process – accurate submissions

2. Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Hoyt stated the next meeting will be June 27th at 5:30 – Will be reviewing 4-5 policies.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

Mr. McGee spoke about process of Superintendent Evaluation and working with the Team – He thanked Mrs. Marinopoulos for her help in the process.

4. Joint School and City meeting

Ms. LaValley stated their next meeting will be August 24th and they will be discussing: finance process and Strategic Plan.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Need to add the following:

- Student handbook approval (7/11/16)
- Discussion about looking at Field Trip/Social Media – Should it be reviewed by Policy Subcommittee.
- Discussion about looking at AIHS graduation and policy

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

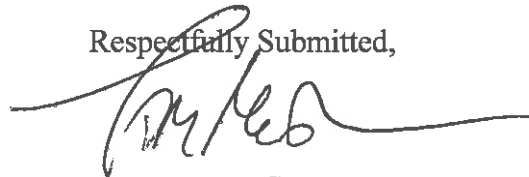
*Executive Session: Pursuant to MGL c 30A, S 21 (a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. **AFT Teachers, Paraprofessionals, MPFT.***

No Executive session needed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to adjourned School Committee meeting at 8:44 PM. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

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