

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
September 15, 2014**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Ken Gray, Chair, Debra LaValley, Bonnie Schultz, Peter Hoyt, Christian Scorzoni, Michele S. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools, Jill Hadwen, SAC Representative
Absent were: Stan Schwartz and Tom McGee

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Jill Hadwen led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mission reads as follows:

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

II. PRESENTATIONS

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School:

Mr. Bill DeRosa, Superintendent Whittier Regional Vo-Tech High School

Mr. Charles LaBella, Amesbury Representative, Whittier Regional Vo-Tech

Mr. DeRosa gave a presentation to the committee regarding various subjects.

- Past 8 years 100% passed MCAS
- Last year 160 8th graders (66 students from Amesbury) took the tour of the school, 24 applied and 16 were accepted.
- Graduations: 3% went into the military; 30% students continued in related field; and 63% went for higher education
- New iPad program – will be leasing 750 iPads instead of updating the computer labs.
- The school is now certified in hospitality; receiving a grant 2 years in a row.
- Students doing lots of community service; i.e. repairing park benches

Mrs. Schultz asked if there was a reapplying process? Mr. DeRosa stated that this is done in January. Mr. Hoyt asked about the Special Education population which is 25%. Ms. LaValley asked what is new in the horizon? 1:1 technology; a building study by KB Architects and an Open House the first Sunday in November.

School Showcase:

Mr. Joseph Costello, Teacher AMS and Mrs. Dee Cote, Parent AMS

Mr. Curry presented the Committee with a Power Point Presentation on the 8th Grade Disney Trip.

- This will be the 13 year that the class trip will be going to Disney
- In 2002 the trip was cancelled due to 9/11 – the class went to 6 Flags that year
- In 2002 - 2 teachers approached Mr. Curry to consider going to Florida and joining in to the Youth Education Series Program – it was accepted and 92-95% attended.
- Cost has not increase much: in 2002 the cost was \$650 last year \$825. This cost covers everything including airfare; food and the parks.
- Adult to student ratio: 2 or 3 to 1
- Many courses offered at each park including science, history, environmental, physics. These courses are 3 – 4 hours per course.
- Groups have approximately 15 students per instructor.
- There is a meeting in May with everyone. 2 nurses attend the trip; security guards have overnight duty and administration attends the trip

Mrs. Cote spoke about her experience as a parent chaperone. Stating that safety was her #1 concern. She was very impressed regarding the entire trip.

Mr. Hoyt asked Jill to reflect on her experience of the trip. Jill stated that she enjoyed it very much, had some great programs, the physic program was her favorite.

Mrs. Schultz stated that the hotel doors have magnets on them with string so that the students cannot leave their rooms.

Ms. LaValley asked if the trip accomplished what they thought it would. (yes) She continued by saying that the 5th graders go to Camp Bournedale in the fall and then end their experience at the middle school with going to Disney.

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Special Progress Report: Roy Hamond, Amesbury High School Principal

Mr. Hamond first filled the committee in with some highlights of Amesbury that took place today.

- WBZ weather reported broadcasted from Cider Hill Farm
- WBZ interviewed 2 students that were attending a program at the Windrush Farm
- The high school had some visitors from Denmark. Mr. Hoyt and Mr. Hamond had the pleasure of giving them a tour of the school. He is hoping to set up a sister program with their school.

Mr. Hamond then spoke about the NEASC report.

- Due on September 1st with 2 teachers co-chairing the committee.
- This report is a lot of work with progress already happening.
- Need to form a Rubrics Committee and how to report it. Need to work with Aspen

- Work with the School Council and the Achievement Plan.
- Need to respond to all standards
- October is the reporting of the 2 year follow up report.

Mr. Hoyt recognized that this report is very labor intensive.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Director of Assessment and Accountability

Lyn Griffin presented the committee with a Power Point Presentation on MCAS vs. PARCC testing. She stated that this is the only year that the school systems will have a choice, after that the state will decide. The presentation was on comparing the two tests and the pros and cons on coming to a decision to present to this committee for a final vote. Dr. Robinson stated that this decision has been going on since last August and that the leadership team has worked very hard on coming up with this recommendation.

At the end of the presentation, Ms. Griffin stated that the districts recommendation is to stay with the MCAS testing for 2015.

Mr. Hoyt stated that he was happy with the recommendation. Mr. Scorzoni stated that all of the information that was brought to the committee's attention was helpful. He also asked what is being done to get ready for what is ahead next year?

Ms. Farrell stated that there is a 5 year tech plan to get the classrooms ready for the 21st century. Dr. Robinson added that this is our responsibility to have this for students to be successful. Mr. Scorzoni added that with a new governor, maybe help is coming.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to take Item 2A (MCAS/PARCC) out of line and vote now. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Recommendation was made by Ms. LaValley to stay with the MCAS testing for 2015.

Motion by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to stay with the MCAS testing for 2015. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

The committee thanked the administration, leadership team and parents for not rushing into this decision and doing such a thorough job.

B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Deidre Farrell updated the committee with the following:

- Opening Day – processing through the paperwork, forms (lunch/buses). Working through lunch balances from last year, but not wanting to penalize the child. She thanked Helen Nadeau for processing the forms for the district.
- School Safety – Will be meeting on the 17th with administration, police, SRO, fire department on goals and objectives. Mr. Curry and Ms. Farrell attended a meeting on “Alice” lock down. On Saturday, Nov 1st Amesbury

will be having a mock incident at the high school with patient transferred to Anna Jacques Hospital.

- Technology – she stated that the federal government turns over technology every 4 years. John will be looking into writing a grant for \$140 thousand dollars for some technology from Pease.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke regarding the following items:

- Worked hard on MCAS vs. PARCC. Thanked the committee for their support.
- MCAS scores are in but cannot share until the Education Department releases results.
- Coming up – CES will take the National Education of Progress which is tied with Title 1 – 99 kids will be taking it this spring.
- District Determine Measures – the state extended the date till December 1st which is due to the state.
- APS was selected for an accountability review. We will be held to 6 standards and we have 2 months to prepare. The site visit will be the week of November 17th. By October 15th some documents will be needed but at this time we do not know what is needed.
- Election Day – No School. Professional Development day for the staff.
- Academy – Farwell to the president Pat Reblin. Also Deb O'Malley, student member of the board. They will both be missed. Jeremy Cabana, retired teacher, will now be on the board.
- Reminder of events that will benefit the students: September 27th, Corn Hole Tournament; September 30th, Flatbread fundraiser for Althea Cynewski Scholarship Fund; October 20th, AEFI Autumn Evening of Giving
- Need to change the October 20th School Committee Meeting to October 21st because of the AEFI night.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Jill Hadwen

Jill stated that she was happy to be back.

- Water filling station was installed. Jill stated that this is saving 1600 plastic bottles.
- Fundraising lottery – lots of dances planned
- September 23rd will be the elections on goals for the school year.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. 1. September 2, 2014 Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to approve the regular minutes dated September 2, 2014. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

B. Warrant

1. \$161,732.86 (9/18/14)

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Warrant dated September 18, 2014 in the amount of \$161,732.86. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Stanley Schwartz**

Met October 6th.

2. **Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**

Met last week on new policies. Will have the first reading next meeting. Next meeting September 23rd at 8.

3. **Personnel Subcommittee – Thomas McGee**

Met today on job description, personal report and para assignments. Next meeting October 21st at 6.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

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| 1. School Committee Goals | 10/6/14) |
| 2. Bill Scott, Dept. Office of Community Dev. | (10/6/14) |
| 3. Report on <i>Go Math</i> | (10/21/14) |
| 4. Academy MOU | (10/14) |
| 5. Superintendent's Evaluation | (10/14) |
| 6. Visit with State Senator | (10/14) |
| 7. School Calendar 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 | (10/14) |
| 8. South Hampton Visit | (10/14) |

Things that were stated that the committee would like to add on future meetings:

- *Mr. Hoyt – Out of District placements? Dr. Robinson stated that this will added to Mr. Pierce's report.*
- *Mrs. Schultz – John Dubuc Technology report in November*
- *Mrs. Schultz – Keep SAC on the radar*

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

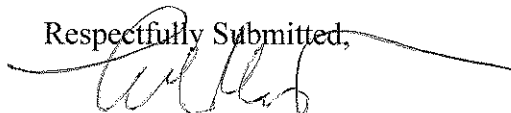
None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaVallee, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 9:15.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary