

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
October 21, 2014**

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

Absent were Stan Schwartz and Chris Scorzoni.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Bonnie Schultz led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the School Committee Mission Statement.

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. PRESENTATION – SCHOOL/STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

**Louise Charette – Principal, CES**

**Lesley Barnaby – Technology Teacher, CES**

**Caleb Scotch – Fourth Grader, CES**

**Megan McAndrews – Fourth Grader, CES**

Ms. Charette introduced the presenters and explained that they will be speaking to the committee regarding technology at CES and how it is in cooperated into the Common Core Standards.

Ms. Barnaby presented a Power Point on the following:

- Golden Keyboards given at Level 10 (these are non-working keyboards that are painted gold and the student gets to keep them for one week)
- Golden Trophy given at Level 20
- Home-School Connection and how important that is. Came up with the “Study Island”.
- Project- based learning
- Word processing
- AES and CES will be working on writing to each other.
- Game Board Learning and how this is a fun way to learn.
- MAP Math – Intervention Block

Ms. Barnaby then introduced first, Megan and then Caleb for a demonstration of their favorite Game Boards.

Both Megan and Caleb were very articulate demonstrating their favorite games and all the levels that you can work on. They encouraged the committee to go on Ms. Barnaby’s website and try them out themselves.

The committee thanked them all for the presentation and acknowledge the students for doing a great job.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

#### A. Director of Student Services

Kevin Pierce updated the committee with the following:

- Spoke about the Walker Report – working on the number of Out of District placements, looking at pre-referrals, eligibility criteria.
- 528 Special Education Students (22%). This number has increased in the last 10 years and is up 6% from the state average.
- Looking at interventions so that we can identify early and catch early.
- End of last year had 40 out of district placement, currently at 35, but can change at any time. (1 @ elementary, 10 @ middle, 19 @ high, 5 at post graduate)
- New programs this year; self contained room at AES with 6 students; BCBA position for the district; intensive PreK at both elementary schools; AHS has a social, emotional disability program; small group learning in all grades
- This year's plan – good shape at the elementary level, need to focus on the Middle School.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Mr. Pierce for the up-date. He agreed that it is a good idea to focus on the Middle School for that transition from elementary to middle. He asked about the 19 students at the high school, and if Life Skills was still available to them (yes).

Mrs. Schultz questioned 504 plans verses medical need and who writes up those plans? Mr. Pierce answered that it is building based and it is used to help the student succeed. She also asked what happens to students that age out – Some go to Mass Rehabilitation homes, residential homes and some due day programs.

#### B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke regarding the following items:

- AEFI Autumn Night of Giving was last night. Great event. The two Jordan Shay Grant recipients were: Mrs. Kimball and Mrs. Harlov Music Teacher at both elementary schools; and Ms. Hill at the Middle School. Also awarded was \$13000.00 given to both elementary school library teachers; Mrs. McGrath and Mrs. Byman. These were given by the Haskell family in memory of their daughter, Elizabeth, who loved to read. Looking forward to the spring AEFI Hall of Honor event.
- Audits – met with DESE regarding what to expect in the audit. There will be a site visit the week of November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- *Be A Buddy not a Bully* is staying alive with activities at the all the schools.
- Academy – open position – hired Jim Babbin is working on project to give back to the community.
- Halloween Parade at the Elementary School will be Friday on Halloween. Lots of activities are going on in the community – enjoy and be safe.

Ms. LaValley explained to the committee regarding Haskell family – Elizabeth, their daughter, did not attend APS but Mr. Haskell was a DPW worker in Amesbury and they reached out to Amesbury to award these Grants.

Mr. Hoyt stated that the Evening of Giving was incredible. He spoke about Woody Cammett – in memory of his wife, Marcia, has given AEFI \$100000.00. Regarding the *Be a Buddy not a Bully* campaign, the high school took it on and has done a terrific job. Rosie Warner is looking into doing performances of *The Yellow Dress* and/or *Bus Stop* with support from the community.

## V. COMMUNICATION

Jill Hadwen – Student Advisory Council asked if a senior that has always attended APS but if now living in Merrimac, could this student continue to attend APS and graduate from here? Dr. Robinson stated that unfortunately school choice is closed in that grade, so that student would have to attend Merrimac schools.

## VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

### A. 1. October 6, 2014 Minutes

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the regular minutes dated October 6, 2014. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

### 2. CREST Updated Agreement

Dr. Robinson stated that this vote is necessary because of a memo that Hamilton-Wenham has withdrawn from the Collaborative.

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the withdrawal of Hamilton-Wenham from the original CREST document. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

### 3. Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. McGee thanked Stan and Bonnie for all of their help. He handed out the summative evaluation report of Dr. Robinson to the committee. He explained that this report reflects the cumulative rating from the committee and some of the commentary that were on the evaluation forms. He suggested that the committee meet with Dr. Robinson to discuss their individual comments with her directly. The following are the ratings:

- Professional Practice Goal – Met
- Student Learning Goal - Met
- District Improvement Goal - Significant Progress
- Instructional Leadership - Proficient
- Management and Operations - Proficient
- Family and Community Engagement - Proficient
- Professional Culture - Proficient

Mr. McGee asked for feedback on the process, think about it now so that everyone in on the same page. Mrs. Schultz asked for a timeline and asked that everyone stick with the dates that things are due. Mr. Hoyt thanked everyone that was involved compiling the information. He found it helpful to have Dr. Robinson's own assessment – this is a work in progress!

**4. a) MASC Delegate and Alternate – General Assembly**

Mr. McGee stated that he will not be able to attend this year. Ms. LaValley said that she will be their first 2 days.

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mrs. Schultz to have Ms. LaValley represent Amesbury Public School as a Delegate at MASC. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

**b) MASC Resolutions –** Ms. LaValley read the resolutions out loud and then a vote was taken.

1. Out of District Placement costs –

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept resolution one Out of District Placement costs. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

2. Universal PreK in Massachusetts –

***Motion by Ms. Schultz seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept resolution two Universal PreK. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

3. Charter School Reform –

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept resolution three Charter School Reform. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

4. Fingerprinting – Ms. LaValley commented that this was an unfunded mandate.

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept resolution four Fingerprinting. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

5. Re -Institution of Earmarking – After discussion by the committee regarding this resolution and the lack of information, no vote was taken. The representative will get more information to share with the committee.

6. Unfunded Mandate for Testing –

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept resolution six Unfunded Mandate for testing. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

7. Assessment system in Massachusetts -

***Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept resolution seven assessment system in Massachusetts. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

**B. Business**

**1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – ADDA and ADDA-R Background Checks**

Mrs. Schultz explained that the policy manual had different ID letters, she is asking to waive the first reading and go directly to the second reading.

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Ms. LaValley to waive the first reading on Policy ADDA and ADDA-R. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

***Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the second reading on Policy ADDA and ADDA-R. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

Ms. Schultz explained that the agenda should have reflected 1<sup>st</sup> reading for all of these policies NOT 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – JH Student Absences and Excuses
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – JIC Student Discipline
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – JII Student Complaints and Grievances
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – JK Student Conduct (Student Discipline)

Ms. Schultz explained that the blue wording is a shift in words and the red working is added wording. Ms. LaValley asked that all questions/comments be sent to Mrs. Schultz by Thursday for updating.

**C. Warrant**

- 1. \$271,033.22

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the Warrant in the amount of \$271,033.22. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

- 1. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Stanley Schwartz**  
Next meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- 2. **Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**  
Will be meeting October 23 at 10AM

- 3. **Personnel Subcommittee – Thomas McGee**  
Met prior to this meeting. Update on staffing and job description. Changing title for Lyn Griffin from Director of Assessment and Accountability to Director of Teaching and Learning Pre-K – 12.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

- 1. School Calendar 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 (11/14)
- 2. Report of *Go Math* (11/3/14)
- 3. Visit with State Senator (11/14)
- 4. South Hampton Visit (11/14)
- 5. Bill Scott, Dept. Dir. Office of Community Dev. (11/14)
- 6. Student Advisory Council Joint Meeting (12/14)
- 7. Academy MOU (1/15)

Mrs. Schultz asked about inviting John Dubuc for an update on technology, also invite the Golf Team for their success this year.

**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

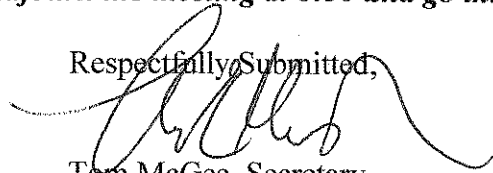
The Chair stated that the committee will meet to discuss:

*Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s.21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, being the Superintendent of Schools.*

***Motion, by the chair, to go into Executive session. Roll Call was taken. Unanimous, Yes.***

***Motion by Mr. Mayor Gray to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 and go into executive session.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary