

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
November 17, 2014**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Debra LaValley, Stan Schwartz, Bonnie Schultz, Tom McGee, Peter Hoyt, Christian Scorzoni and Michele S. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools

Absent were Mayor Ken Gray, Chair, and , Jill Hadwen, SAC Representative.

Ms. LaValley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Peter Hoyt 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 - Math on the Merrimack**

**Jess Regis – Math Teacher – Amesbury High School  
Brianna Wickard – Senior – Amesbury High School**

Ms. Regis began the presentation with introducing Brianna Wickard, a senior at AHS. She thanked AEFI for the money that she was awarded for the grant that she wrote on “Math on the Merrimack” and thanked Lowell’s Boat Shop for helping to make her vision come to life. Ms. Regis was excited to show the committee and the public what she was able to do with her vision in a power point presentation. She spoke about using all aspects of math, (trigonometry, pre-calculus and using sextants, to name a few). The students are not only using their math skills, they are learning teamwork, trust, friendships and communication. Recently, Mr. Regis was able to show off her “vision” on a Professional Development workshop in Arlington. She has made a book, to reflect on what the students learn and do in a given day, which she passed around to the committee. Ms. Regis is hoping to obtain more funding to continue this program and to further expose her program to different communities.

Brianna spoke about how involved she is in the class. She stated that she now likes math and is excited about learning math. She has worked on teambuilding and communication with her peers.

Mr. Hoyt applauded Ms. Regis for seizing the opportunity to use the town and all that it offers. Ms. LaValley asked Ms. Regis to elaborate on how and why she thought of this idea. Ms. Regis told the committee about her vision and when she spoke to Mr. Graham at the boat shop she came up with this idea. Ms. Regis stated that it is an exciting way for the students to get involve, learn and have fun at the same time.

Ms. LaValley asked to take agenda item V, A 2 (Naming of Athletic Fields) out of order. *Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to take agenda item Naming of Athletic Fields out of order. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

### **Naming of Athletic Fields**

Dr. Robinson introduced Mr. Dupere who had turned in the paperwork in October to name the Girls Softball Field and Girls Field Hockey Field.

Mr. Dupere thanked the committee and spoke about the two coaches and their accomplishments.

- The Girls Softball Field would be named after long time softball coach Chris Perry. Mr. Perry started his career in Amesbury as a Baseball Coach and then the Girls Softball Coach. He has been a coach in Amesbury for 30 years. Mr. Dupere spoke about Mr. Perry's stats, how he is in the Hall Of Fame, and all of his accomplishments. Mr. Perry will be retiring this year.
- The Girls Field Hockey Field would be named after Gail Kelleher, for her 39 years of service as the coach in Amesbury. Mr. Dupere spoke about Mrs. Kelleher's stats, coach of the year awards and her long standing accomplishments.

Mr. Dupere felt that this would be a tribute to these outstanding coaches and also for the girls that played for them. He went on to say that, if approved, he would work on obtaining the funding through the boosters, himself and look into getting funding from the Provident Bank.

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to name the Girls Field Hockey Field and the Girls Softball Field after both coaches; Gail A. Kelleher and Chris L. Perry. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

## **III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **A. Director of Student Services**

Mr. Pierce updated the committee on the following

- Guidance has been busy – At the high school level, 24% of seniors have applied for early college admission. There will be a Financial Aide evening.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night will be Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>
- January 25<sup>th</sup> is FASA Day
- Class of 2015 – College Naviance Tool
- Class of 2016- Integrated into the college Naviance Tool
- ELL – 39 student in APS with 12 languages – only 2 teachers in APS that teach these students
- 20 teachers and administrators will be trained in SEI endorsement for ELL students that will be in their classrooms.
- Special Education Transportation – 81 students – drivers have met with the school nurses.

### **B. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Robinson spoke regarding the following items:

- Last week Newburyport 5 Cent Savings Bank awarded \$2000.00 toward the Windrush Farm program that is used for students at the high school and the middle school. Thank you
- Winter is upon us – Reminder of the process of cancellation – not something taken lightly – a lot of people are involved with the decision through the night. Parents always have the final decision whether or not to send their child to school.
- District Review is this coming week – All participated today to meet the needs of our students. The report will be available in early spring.
- Deirdre and Mayor Gray are at a budget review public hearing on Chapter 70 funding tonight in Danvers. There will be 5 more meetings through March. The dates will be posted on the website.
- Lyn Griffin applied for the Innovation Grant and has got through the Panel Review. This grant is very competitive and there are only 3 grants that will be awarded. She will be starting immediately to apply for it.
- Thursday is the Rotary Auction which supports the schools by funding dictionaries for third graders, teacher excellence awards and does the Readers are Leaders. This is a big fundraiser with great prizes. There is a hair challenge that will be done on stage, the night of the auction for the winner of this challenge.

Ms. LaValley noted that the Foundation Budget Commission will be hosting 2 meeting in January on Saturday. Dates and times will be posted on the website.

#### **IV. COMMUNICATION**

Jill Hadwen – Student Advisory Council – Was not in attendance.

Mr. Hoyt stated that the Amesbury Chamber Dinner was November 13<sup>th</sup> where they acknowledged the AHS Golf Team with jackets and Coach Dodier spoke.

Ms. LaValley noted that the cheerleaders will be having a fundraiser at Flatbread tomorrow night.

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

##### **A. 1. November 3, 2014 Minutes**

*Motion by Mr. Scorzoni, seconded by Mr. McGee to approve the regular minutes dated November 3, 2014. Ms. LaValley noted that Mayor Gray's name was spelt wrong. Vote: 5 yes with 1 abstaining (Mrs. Schultz)*

##### **B. Warrant**

##### **1. \$470,319.80 (11/13/14)**

*Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Schultz to accept the Warrant in the amount of \$470,319.80. Vote: 5 yes with 1 abstaining (Mr. Hoyt).*

#### **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **A. Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Stanley Schwartz**  
Will be meeting next week.
2. **Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**  
Need to set a meeting date.
3. **Personnel Subcommittee – Thomas McGee**  
Will be meeting in January.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. LaValley read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. Student Advisory Council Joint Meeting (12/1/14)
2. AHS Golf Team (12/1/14)
3. Technology Update (12/15/14)
4. Bill Scott, Dept. Dir. Office of Community Dev. (12/15/14)
5. South Hampton Visit (12/14) *Possibly in Jan*
6. Visit with State Senator (1/15)
7. Academy MOU (1/15)

Mr. McGee spoke about setting dates to review Committee Goals and Dr. Robinson's goals.

**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

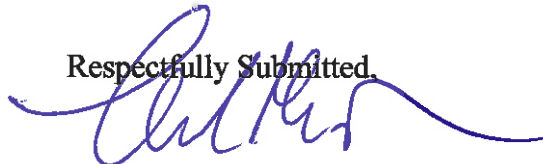
None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to adjourn the meeting at 8:07.***

***Vote: Unanimous, Yes***

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary