

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
December 1, 2014**

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

Absent was Stan Schwartz.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Tom McGee 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**

**Principals Award** - AHS Principal Roy Hamond awarded the Principals' Award to Christopher O'Keefe. As he introduced Christopher, he spoke about all of his accomplishments and leadership skills at the high school and also outside of the high school. Christopher would like to go into engineering. As a recipient of this award, he will receive a book about engineering and a second book will be donated to the AHS library with name plate in it acknowledging Christopher. Ms. LaValley congratulated Christopher and asked him what colleges he is looking into and wished him luck

**Superintendent Award** – Dr. Robinson awarded this award to Charlotte Hyde. Dr. Robinson spoke about her acknowledgements, activities and leadership skills while at the high school and outside of the high school. She plans to pursue Neuro- Science. She too will receive a copy of a book in her field and a second book will be in AHS Library with a name plate in it to acknowledge Charlotte. Ms. LaValley congratulated Charlotte and asked her what colleges she is looking into and wished her luck.

**Acknowledgement - Gail Kelleher and Chris Perry** - Coach Leo Dupere recognized Coach Kelleher and Coach Perry and there long years of coaching services in Amesbury. They will both have playing fields dedicated in their honor. He thanked the school committee and the Superintendent for agreeing to do this dedication and moving forward so quickly.

Coach Kelleher came up to the microphone, asked Mr. Perry to come forward for a hug. Coach Kelleher spoke about her field of dreams and how humble she is to

have this field named in her honor. She spoke about the game of field hockey and how it is a girl only sport. This was a game of passion and love for her and also the girls playing. The field of dreams is her past, present and also her future.

Coach Perry came to the microphone and thanked Mr. Dupere. He went on to say that he felt the field was home to him. Nice honor that was unexpected and appreciated. He thanked so many people that have helped him along the way including, Buddy Knox and Brad Ford – to name a few. He thanked the players and stated that it is their field also.

**AHS Golf Team – Coach Dodier** – Coach Dodier thanked the committee for inviting the team to the meeting. He congratulated the team for their accomplishments. Mr. Dodier acknowledged the well deserved honor for both Coaches Kelleher and Perry. The captains of the Golf Team were asked to introduce the team and themselves to the committee.

**Student Advisory Council** – Jill Hadwen was asked to introduce the student council. Jill thanked the committee for having everyone at the meeting. They all introduced themselves. They thanked the committee and spoke about their goals and accomplishments.

Mr. Hoyt thanked the council members and went on to recognized a few of the members as former students of the Cashman School.

Ms. LaValley asked how students know they are the voice for the students at AHS. Jill explained. She spoke about the mascot and how that was an issue recently. Ms. LaValley asked if Freshman participation was better. Yes.

### **III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **A. Director of Teaching and Learning**

Lyn Griffin spoke on the following:

- Innovation School Grant – was submitted and invited by the state for a panel review. Dr. Robinson, Deb Smith, Eryn Maguire and Ms. Griffin went into Boston to talk about changing the Academy to a District School. The decision will be made before the December break. It will be a yes or no to go forward with a plan. (\$75,000.00 Grant)
- State was in for their review at the same time. Did get some early feedback with positive and negative. Looking at ways to improve and feeling good about it. Going forward, looking at committees to put together.
- Mental issues/ Substance Abuse – Applied for a 3 year Grant to get an additional counselor. (\$281,000.00) This is a competitive grant also like the Innovation Grant.
- District Determine Measured Grant will be submitted before the break.

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

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following:

- Finance subcommittee meeting – FY15 budget monitoring – no issues - 9 C cuts – not specific to Chapter 11 – Looking to the Circuit Breaking and lowering that. Watching the cuts with the Patrick administration and the new administration. Will keep you informed.

- Foundation review met in Danvers – not equitable – well attended – will continue their work in the north shore.
- Donations that will need to be voted on – Richie Eaton Foundation (\$5000.00); Newburyport 5 Charitable Foundation (\$2000.00) for the Windrush Farm program; AEFI Grants awards to the district.
- Website transition project – change look and feel – 3 choices to vote on. Met with tech staff will go with option #2 – This will be rolled out in next few months.
- Finalizing the end of year report – statistics.
- Number of audits still remaining. Will be upcoming
- Parents from the little league – batting cage – Norm Fredette and Ms. Farrell did a walk through and approved where they will be placed. Time was an issue with weather; neglected to bring to the committee.

Mr. Hoyt asked about the audits – What is the purpose of the Circuit Breaker Audit? Ms. Farrell stated that Circuit Breaker is funding that every school district in Massachusetts for educating students with disability. This reimbursement is 75% on the cost of students being educated with Special Needs. Statutory at 75% but may be funded at a lower rate. The districts will submit claims and the audit looks at these claims.

Mayor Gray asked Ms. Farrell for a number on the Circuit Breaker cuts. Ms. Farrell responded 1.5% - \$11 - \$12 Thousand @ 75% reimbursement.

Mrs. Schultz stated that the Circuit Breaker is for last year. So we could be losing money from last year? Correct?

#### C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke about the following:

- Overwhelming to see the quality of students and adults here in Amesbury
- Department of Education – District Review – looked at all possible scenarios – met with everyone and very extensive. Doing a lot of great work. Highlighted some areas that need to be looked at. Have some ideas – will talk about as a leadership team.
- Snow Days – aware of the weather – reminder to parents' that they have the last say on whether or not their child attends school on a questionable day. Please contact school if your child will be out.
- Website transition – a lot of work – be patient – very excited. – Just the beginning.
- Dec. 1 – very busy season – great performances in classrooms and evenings – Dec. 24 first day of winter break.

#### IV. COMMUNICATION

Jill Hadwen – Color Day awarded Student Council a plaque – they do a lot of hard work.

Ms. LaValley- fundraiser for cheerleaders in this Tuesday at Flatbread. AHS will be selling photo calendars for \$15.00 contact Leary. Also, acknowledgement of the Rotary Club and congrats to Cathy Toomey for winning the Hair dare.

Mr. Hoyt spoke about the Immigrant Day at Grade 4 at the Cashman School – Incredible. When reflecting this is what they will remember.

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

**A. 1. November 17, 2014 Minutes**

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt approve the regular minutes dated November 17, 2014. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**B. Warrant**

**1. \$424,138.82 (11/26/14)**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Ms. Schultz to accept the Warrant in the amount of \$424,138.82. Vote: Yes, Unanimous*

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Deb LaValley**

Discussed budget monitoring for this school year and also working on the website transition. If general public would let us know of any issues on the new website so that we can address them.

Ms. LaValley made a recommendation to accept the donation of \$5000.00 from the Richie Eaton Foundation.

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept the \$5000.00 donation from the Richie Eaton Foundation . Discussion, Ms. LaValley stated that this donation is for off-setting fees for the athletic. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

Ms. LaValley made a recommendation to accept the donation of \$2000.00 from the Newburyport Five for the Windrush Farms Program.

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept the \$2000.00 donation for the Windrush Farms Program. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

Ms. LaValley made a recommendation to accept the donations from the AEFI Foundation in the amounts of: \$13098.00 for AES & CES Libraries.

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept the AEFI donation of \$13098.00 for the Elementary libraries. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

Ms. LaValley made a recommendation to accept the donations from the AEFI Foundation in the amounts of: \$9239.00 *Music Makes Us Smarter* for AES & CES Music programs

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the AEFI donation of \$9239.00 for the Elementary music programs . Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

Ms. LaValley made a recommendation to accept the donations from the AEFI Foundation in the amounts of: \$4616.00 *Hey It's My Turn* for AMS.

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the AEFI donation of \$4616.00 for the Amesbury Middle School. Vote: Yes, Unanimous*

Will be looking at the capital improvements. Will meet again in January

**2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**

Have not met.

**3. Personnel Subcommittee – Thomas McGee**

No report.

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Gray read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. Technology Update (12/15/14)
2. Bill Scott, Dept. Dir. Office of Community Dev. (12/15/14)
3. MACS/MASS Conference Update (12/15/14)
4. School Calendars 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 (12/15/14)
5. South Hampton Visit (1/15)
6. Visit with State Senator (1/15)
7. Academy MOU (1/15)
8. School Committee and Superintendent's Goal (1/15)

Mr. Hoyt asked if tonight's presentation from the students count as the Showcase for the month – Yes.

Ms. LaValley stated that they have been meeting on the Strategic Plan, meeting tomorrow night at 6:00, also next meeting will be December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

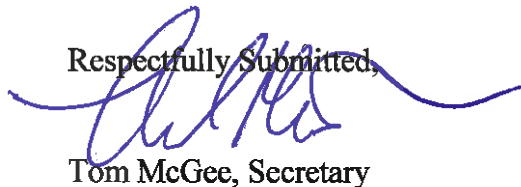
None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 8:15.*

*Vote: Unanimous, Yes*

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary