

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

Present at 6:00 p.m. were Debra LaValley, Bonnie Schultz, Tom McGee, Peter Hoyt, and Michele S. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools.

Absent Mayor Ken Gray, Chair and Jill Hadwen, SAC Representative. Christian Scorzoni arrived at 6:25.

The Ms. LaValley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Bonnie Schultz led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the 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. PRESENTATIONS

The PAX Game - AES Showcase –

Walter Helliesen – Principal; Christine Zappala, Building Coordinator; Cristen Chabot, AES Teacher; Dillon Metcalf, Ethan Lowell, Eli Blouin, and Julia Silva, AES 4th grade students.

Mr. Helliesen presented the committee with a Power Point on the new program that is being used in some of the classrooms at Amesbury Elementary School. The program PAX, named after the Latin word meaning peace, increases the learning time in classroom and decreases the bullying amongst students. It is working on peace, productivity, health and happiness within a classroom with the teacher and students. Mr. Helliesen went on to say that Mrs. Chabot's class is the first classroom at AES to use the program but will increase with 10 additional training opportunities coming up.

Mrs. Chabot went on to say that she has seen a big difference in her classroom by using the PAX program. The students and she are happier, kinder, less stressed and more time in learning is happening. She spoke about "Spleems" which is a made up word describing blurting out, bullying and not appropriate behaviors in a classroom. Those "Spleems" have decreased considerably (87 "Spleems" before with only 10 "Spleems" now).

The students then demonstrated the different ways PAX is utilized during the course of the day.

- Dillon – PAX Quiet
- Ethan – PAX Sticks and beat the timer
- Eli – PAX – Spleems
- Julia – PAX Game

The committee was then able to join in on a PAX Game.

Mr. Hoyt asked if the parents notice a difference at home and commented on the happier teachers. Ms. LaValley asked Mr. Helliesen if he has seen a difference at school? Yes, everyone is on board with common language when addressing behaviors.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Director of Student Services –

Mr. Pierce spoke about the following:

- High School Special Education Schedule – Changed this year from 80 minute blocks to 45 minute blocks – not really working out for students and the teachers. Will be going back to 80 minute blocks with the first 45 minutes working on core and the following minutes working as support. Mr. Pierce also noted that they brought back the Learning Center. He stated that this is a work in progress and will keep the committee updated as it unfolds.
- Just completed a Special Education Improvement Grant. These funds, if awarded, will be on collecting data, analyzing and will be a contractor duty. Also will give additional help to the new BCBA. Mr. Schwartz asked Mr. Pierce if they had documentation of benchmarks for future record and How that was being done? Mr. Pierce stated that this documentation was informal but will look into that. Mrs. Schultz asked about the mainstreaming for extra support. Mr. Pierce stated that the 90 minute Learning Center block with help with that. Mr. Hoyt asked about the new position of the BCBA, Erin Aiello. Is this being effective and it is enough? Mr. Pierce stated that she was very busy, very effective to have that person in the system, but could use some assistance with the day to day work. Ms. LaValley requested the numbers on the ratio – Mr. Pierce will get them to the committee.
- New Special Education Facilitator was hired at the Cashman School, Melissa Lashure.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke about the following:

- Need a committee to look at behaviors, interventions and support – there are a lot of partners to provide interventions
- Crest Collaborative – meet every other month. Dr. Robinson is a board member
- Events – AES' kindergarten will be going to sing at the Senior Center. She encouraged everyone to look at the master calendar to events taking place. AES will be walking to the Millyard on the 23rd at 2:00 for caroling.
- Winter Break – Tuesday, December 23rd is the last day of school and will return on January 5th.

IV. COMMUNICATION

Ms. LaValley stated that MASC the dates are good. Looking to form a parent group in January before the budget.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. 1. December 1, 2014 Minutes

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the regular minutes dated December 1, 2014. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B. Warrant

1. \$209,927.71 (12/11/14)

Motion by Mrs. Schultz seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the Warrant in the amount of \$209,927.71. Vote: Yes, Unanimous

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

- 1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Stanley Schwartz**
Will meet in January.
- 2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**
Will be meeting Thursday, December 18th at 8AM
- 3. Personnel Subcommittee – Thomas McGee**
Will be meeting the 2nd meeting in January

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gray read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. Technology Update (1/15)
2. Bill Scott, Dept. Dir. Office of Community Dev. (1/15)
3. MACS/MASS Conference Update (1/15)
4. School Calendars 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 (1/5/15)
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)

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

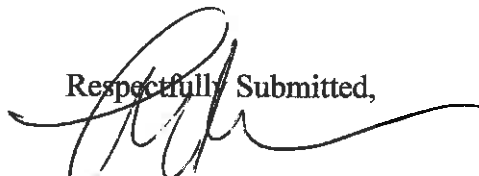
IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 6:52.
Vote: Unanimous, Yes*

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary