

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
January 5, 2015**

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

The Chair called the Organizational Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Tom McGee led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Amesbury Public Schools Mission Statement**

*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.*

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**1. Election of Vice Chair and Secretary**

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to reelect Ms. LaValley as Vice Chair to the School Committee Board. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to reelect Mr. McGee as Secretary to the School Committee Board. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

**2. Adopt Rules and Regulations of Conduct (Policies)**

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to Adopt Rules and Regulations of Conduct (Policies). Discussion: Mr. Scorzoni asked if "Press Release" could be taken off the School Committee Agenda since the press does not come to the meetings. Ms. LaValley stated that the Press chooses not to attend most of the time, but does come once in awhile.*

*Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

**3. Meeting Days and Times**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to continue with the School Committee Meetings the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7PM, as voted on previously. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

Mrs. Schultz asked if the change from Tuesdays to Mondays worked the administration.

Ms. LaValley gave the reason for the change, and that it was working.

**4. Sub-Committee Appointments**

**a. Budget/Finance Subcommittee – Stanley Schwartz, Chair**

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Ms. LaValley to reelect Stan Schwartz as Chair of the Budget/Finance Subcommittee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

**b. Personnel Subcommittee – Tom McGee, Chair**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to reelect Tom McGee as Chair of the Personnel Subcommittee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

**c. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz, Chair**

*Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. LaValley to reelect Bonnie Schultz as Chair of the Policy Subcommittee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

- d. SPED PAC Liaison – Bonnie Schultz  
Athletic Liaison – Deb LaValley  
Legislative Liaison – Christian Scorzoni  
Parliamentarian Liaison – Tom McGee  
Schools' Handbook Liaison – Peter Hoyt**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to name the above as the Liaisons of the specific areas. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

**REGULAR MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

**II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELGATIONS**

Cori Riley, from the Amesbury School Coalition, spoke regarding setting up a community forum before the budget season. This Coalition is a group of concerned citizens looking to host this forum so that the community will have the basics of the budget and also provide opportunity for dialog regarding the budget either with small groups; questions and answers sessions; and concerns. Ms. Riley suggested a date (Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>) that the group discussed. She went on to say that they are willing to meet whenever it is convenient with the committee.

Ms. LaValley thanked them for coordinating this forum. She suggested working with MA School Committee Association to help facilitate the forum. Ms. LaValley commented that Sunday's were difficult day and would cost to have the building open. Mr. Hoyt echoed his appreciation and stated that they will look to set a date and time that this forum can work with everyone.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

None

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**A. Director of Teaching and Learning**

Lyn Griffin spoke about the following:

- Map Testing – second round will begin in January
- District Determine Measures Plan was submitted to the state.
- Looking to re-implement protocol on Professional Development feedback from teachers.

- Just received word that the Innovation School Partnership Planning Grant was awarded to Amesbury. 1 of 3 in the state that was awarded the grant. What it means for Amesbury: Academy will go from the Horace Mann Academy to a District School; will allow for out of district placement; extended school year; internships; expand serves and allowing for therapeutic supports. This is a \$75, 000. planning grant. Very exciting for the APS.  
Mr. Hoyt thanked Ms. Griffin for all her work along with Dr. Robinson, Deb Smith and Eryn McGuire. Ms. Griffin said that there was input from many people and efforts paid off. Ms. LaValley and Mr. Schwartz congratulated Ms. Griffin and thanked her also.

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

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following relating to finances:

- Revolving Accounts
- Health Insurance
- During Christmas vacation week had a few unexpected finances: Hot water heater failed at the high school and the steamer in the kitchen at the high school will need to be replace.
- Moving forward with the transition of the website. Meeting on Thursday.
- End of year pupil report submitted – will be audited at the end of January for the per pupil cost
- Two additional audits will be this Friday – Circuit Breaker reimbursement and Special Education.
- Another audit with the food service
- Looking at outstanding electric bills for the high school during the renovations
- Speaking to the MA School Building authority regarding building projects for Amesbury Elementary School. A statement of interest will have to be submitted by April 10<sup>th</sup> for consideration.

Mr. Scorzoni asked if the submission would be for a new school, renovations or an accelerated repair project and what is the reimbursement rate? Ms. Farrell stated that, in the past, a core application was submitted to the MSBA. The reimbursement rate is set on a economic formula of the community. Points can be earned toward the reimbursement depending on if the proposal is Going Green; preventative plan, to name a few. Mrs. Schultz asked if the process to get selected is extensive. Yes; lots of steps (accepted in the pipeline; increase in construction; study of Amesbury; funding plan)

#### **C. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Robinson spoke about the following:

- Wished every a Happy New Year
- Innovation Grant – huge for APS and the Academy. This will provide intervention for these students. A lot of work, will keep the committee posted
- School Calendars – agenda item. Last year voted to move the start date prior to Labor Day.
- Forum – communication regarding the budget – looking forward to working together and mapping out a plan
- Working as a Team on the District Achievement Plan
- Quiet holiday – Crest Collaboration – negotiations with Para-professionals
- Reminder to look at the Master Calendar for what is happening in all the schools.

Mr. Hoyt asked about the budget finances for 2015-16 and the staffing needs? Dr. Robinson stated that it was too early to project. Working on the challenges, then setting an action plan.

## V. COMMUNICATION

### A. **Student Advisory Council – Jill Hadwen**

Regarding the December meeting - working on a program for college bound students to speak with alumni. Mr. Dodier, Guidance Counselor will be helping to coordinate.

### B. **Other**

- Ms. LaValley noted a few fundraisers that will be happening at the high school: Pasta night tomorrow night for the senior class and January 15 will be soup night for the freshman class.
- Mayor Gray spoke regarding the open forum for the budget – need to move forward, set a date, goals and a vision for the forum. The committee agreed to move forward. A discussion was held with the following as a plan:
  - Forum will be held on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 12:00 to 3:00 at AHS
  - Will ask peer leaders and SAC to help with child care
  - Dr. Robinson will be the point person with Ms. LaValley. Will set goals, agenda and format.
  - Get the word out with School Councils, PTO, PAC, Boosters, City Council.
  - Looking at MASC to facilitate

## VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

### A. 1. **December 15, 2014 Minutes**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the regular minutes dated December 15, 2014. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

### 2. **Superintendent's Contract** Moving forward – move to January 20<sup>th</sup>

### 3. **School Calendars 2015/2016 and 2016/2017**

Dr. Robinson stated that last year the committee voted to do a 2 year calendar with the start date prior to Labor Day. The committee reviewed both calendars and then voted on them. Mrs. Schultz noted an error in the 2016/2017 calendar (November 23<sup>rd</sup> should be ER)

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 school calendars with one change as stated above.. Vote: 6 Yes and 1 opposed (Mr. Scorzoni).*

### B. **Warrant**

#### 1. **\$349,301.58 (12/24/14)**

*Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Warrant dated December 24, 2014 in the amount of \$349,301.58. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

#### 2. **\$152,953.19 (1/8/15)**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to accept the Warrant dated January 8, 2015 in the amount of \$152,953.19. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Mr. Schwartz**

Met before this meeting with Deirdre – Continue to improve reporting.

#### **2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**

Met a few weeks ago - spoke about Homeschooling Policy, Domestic Violence. Next meeting is on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 8AM

#### **3. Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee**

Will be meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chair 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. Academy MOU (1/15)
4. MASC/MASS Conference Update (1/15)
5. Visit with State Representative and State Senator (2/15)
6. South Hampton Visit (2/15)
7. School Committee & Superintendent's Goals (2/15)

Mr. Hoyt asked about next month's school spot light – Dr. Robinson stated that there were a couple that she will need to check into.

Mayor Gray spoke regarding the AHS Robotics Team. They will be entering a Worldwide Competition, #5556. He would like this Team to do a presentation for the committee. Mr. Casto has 15 students involved. Very exciting times.

## **VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 9:03.***

***Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary