

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
January 20, 2015**

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

Absent were: Stanley Schwartz, Bonnie Schultz and Tom McGee

The Chair called Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and 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.

II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELGATIONS

None

II. PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Maggie Furlong – Teacher – AHS

Ms. Furlong spoke regarding the Adult Education Program.

- Ms. Furlong began this program 5 years ago and it has been a big success
- Running 10 classes for 6-8 weeks in length – a class can have anywhere from 4 to 20 participants in a class
- Has had 50-55 participants in a session
- Will be offering new classes coming up and some for staff only.
- With the proceeds, have bought new equipment for the dance studio and for other classes. Right now have \$3500.00 in the account.

Mr. Hoyt asked if Ms. Furlong stays on site during the classes. At the beginning of the sessions she is on site to make sure everything is running smoothly and then stops by periodically during the sessions. Mayor Gray asked how the committee could help and how this program is a great resource. Getting the word out to the community would be helpful.

Nora Robertson – AHS student - President of National Honor Society

Nora spoke regarding a service project that she helped coordinate for the students involved in the National Honor Society. They all went to the Food Bank in Boston and helped package and separate 7000 pounds of food. She stated that this was an amazing experience for all of the them. Ms. Furlong thanked the Amesbury Youth Organization for helping to defray the cost of busing.

Ms. Mary Mitchell – Teacher – AMS

Hannah Scotch and Michael Woo – Students – AMS

Ms. Mitchell spoke regarding the Peer Mediation Program at AMS

- Previously funded by a Grant and this year had to find funding. Help from Newburyport Bank and the North Shore Peer Mediation Service.
- Was able to send 16 students from AMS and 14 from AHS to be trained in mediation.
- Kids helping kids work out conflicts
- Both Ms. Furlong and Ms. Mitchell run this program at the 2 schools. They see a big difference when peers are working together to solve problems.
- Both Hannah and Michael were awarded the Derek Shekman Award through North Shore Mediation Service. Great honor.

Hannah spoke about being an 8th grader at the Middle School. She went on to explain that the training was a total of 20 hours (2 days in the fall and 1 in the spring). She was recommended by her Math teacher.

Michael spoke how he is also an 8th grader at the Middle School. He went on to explain how this program echoes the mission statement (*skills necessary for lifelong learning*) and how everyone needs to learn to resolve conflict.

The committee members each thanked them all for their time and how impressed they all were on their articulation. They also noted that this follows the *Be a Buddy Not a Bully* campaign. Both Hannah and Michael are hoping to bring their training and expertise to the high school next year.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following relating to finances:

- MSBS portal is open – moving forward to submission for AES by the April 10th deadline. School committee vote will be March 2nd and March 3rd for the City Council vote.
- Sent letter to Legislation (Ives and Kelcourse) regarding School Task force and Special Education. Also looking for state funding again this year for Early College Program.
- Discussion on residency and what that means. Looking at “last legal” address of incoming student and where the funding is for that student.
- New state administration and what that means – 2% of state budget cut – Governor states will not touch local aide.
- Thursday, Revenue Hearing – will know the FY16 revenue
- Beginning the FY16 budget – working with the leadership team on staffing lists – moving forward.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke about the following:

- February 4th – PRT Day – Staff will be working on School Achievement Plan.
- Budget Developing Process – Will have a public forum Saturday, January 31st at AHS from 12:00 – 3:00.
- Curriculum Development review committee – picking back up – this is an ongoing process.
- Preschool information night was last week – well attended – putting efforts in early learning.
- Check out the master calendar and all the events that are happening in the schools.

Mr. Hoyt asked if the Curcuit Breaker audit had already happened – *Yes*.

V. COMMUNICATION

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

Jill spoke about the public forum happening on the 31st. Students from the high school will be available for babysitting.

B. **Other**

Ms. LaValley spoke regarding the forum and how the agenda will be finalized at the Thursday meeting. MASC will be there to facilitating the forum – this is a way for the community to get involved.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. 1. **January 5, 2015 Minutes**

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the regular minutes dated January 5, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. **NSBA Conference**

Ms. LaValley stated the conference will be the weekend of March 20th in Nashville. Usually 1 person attends from the committee. She stated that she is willing to attend.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to have Deb LaValley attend this year's NSBA Conference representing Amesbury on March 20th. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B. **Warrant**

1. **\$461,218.34 (1/22/15)**

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to accept the Warrant dated January 22, 2015 in the amount of \$461,218.34. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. **\$280,000.00**

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Scorzoni to accept the Warrant in the amount of \$280,000.00. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee –Mr. Schwartz**
2. **Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**
Meeting Thursday at 8:00
3. **Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee**

VIII.. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

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| 1. Technology Update | (2/15) - | <i>John Dubuc</i> |
| 2. Bill Scott, Dept. Dir Office of Community Dev. | (2/15) | |
| 3. Academy MOU | (2/15) - | <i>Moving to March</i> |
| 4. MASC/MASS Conference Update | (2/15) - | <i>Moving to March</i> |
| 5. Visit with State Representative and State Senator | (3/15) | |
| 6. South Hampton Visit | (4/15) | |
| 7. School Committee & Superintendent’s Goals | (2/15) - | |
| <i>Waiting for Strategic Plan – Move to March</i> | | |

Mayor Gray stated that the AHS Robotics Team will be coming to the February meeting.

VIII.. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX.. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to adjourn the meeting at 7:56.
Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary