

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
June 1, 2015**

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

Absent - Mayor Gray

Ms. LaValley, called the meeting to order at 7:00 and Jill Hadwen led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

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 AND DELEGATIONS

- Rose Werner spoke about the Art Exhibit at the City Hall on June 27th and 28th - This art exhibit will have on display 1855 Currier and Ives pictures – She is asking for the student, of APS to share their art work and see their talent at this exhibit.

II. PRESENTATIONS:

Student Athletes

- AHS Softball Team – Cape Ann Champs – Autumn Kligerman and Megan Aponas thanked the committee for the recognition and introduced their team. First play-off game will be Saturday @ 4:00 at the middle school. They also recognized their coach, Chris Perry, who will be retiring this year after 31 years of coaching in Amesbury. They spoke about the dedication of the softball field to Coach Perry and what an honor it was to be his last team.

Retirees: Louise Crammer (13 yrs.), Carol Eaton (50 yrs.), Dawn Field (16 yrs.), Linda Hirbour (19 yrs.), Beth Jones (26 yrs.), Regina Leahy (18 yrs.), Barbara Mackenzie (23 yrs.), Suzanne Morin (26 yrs.), Cynthia Reppucci (9 yrs.), Stan Swartz (15 yrs.)

- All retirees were introduced and handed citations from Representative James Kelcourse, Senator Connor-Ives office and a token of appreciation from the School Committee for their years of service. Prior to this meeting, a reception was held in their honor. Ms. LaValley thanked Whittier Regional for making their cake and food service for the set up and the favors. She stated that all of these retirees have touched the lives of all children and wished them happiness in their retirement. Mr. Hoyt commented that it was bittersweet – but that retirement in wonderful.

Summer Reader: Lori Byman, AES Library Media Specialist

Mary Ann McGrath, CES Library Media Specialist

- Lori Byman spoke regarding the summer reading list for the elementary schools. It is in conjunction with the city library and will be beginning June 15 and go through August 11. Students and parents will be able to go on-line and log in their hours. She stated that there are a wide variety of authors and is very excited about the list.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Director of Student Services

Kevin Pierce spoke about the following:

- Audit on April 13th - Quality Assurance –
 - ELL every 6 years - was a full program review
 - Special Education every 3years – did very well - looked at IEP – time lines with 45 days – looked at all records. Last year the summer program did not have speech (could not find a teacher) needed to let parent know.
- Struggle to develop and maintain a Parent Advisory Team in Amesbury – This is a big commitment with many by-laws. Will attempt to rekindle – please call the Special Education office if interested. Looking into a workshop to satisfy the state and as an alternative.

Ms. LaValley suggested reaching out to the PTO and PAG and likes the idea of a workshop.

B. Assistant Superintendent

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following:

- Regarding the finance meeting earlier this evening – Civil Right Data Collection – This is the 16th year for the APS – Equal Education for students and staff – With Aspen this report is more efficient and is due in a few weeks – Thank you to Susan Lang and Rhonda Hodge for all of their hard work.
- Munis to Softright conversion – July 1st – will be aligned with DESE – conference calls every 2 weeks and will be having training time for the staff soon.
- Fiscal year end – starting the process for final forecasts – calculation for grants and revenue accounts – need to expend all funds in grants by June 30th - there will be no roll-overs – Will be reporting on the July 20th meeting
- Excel Boot Camp – happening with the staff at Central Office – Taught by Wally – thank you – learned a lot – asked for a report on Excel and received by 1:00 from the business office
- MASBO – The visit was May 27 & 28 for the school and City Hall – They met with administration, athletic secretary – Special Education – lunch program – They received a lot of information from central office and went over all of the documents – They are looking for additional information which they will receive by Friday. Looking for the report in 5 to 6 weeks.
- FY16 Budget – Mayor’s appropriation budget (\$28,957,498)– Had a lot of discussion – Spoke with Councilor Lavoie – missing \$29,501 for all of the principals to get their first choice.

- State Budget – Early College looks good and very exciting to have that back – Full Day Kindergarten is a concern – House budget cut – not looking good.

Mr. Hoyt stated that he is hopeful that the City Council will be adding the \$29,501 needed to fund the principal's requests.

Ms. LaValley commented on her concerns with the status of the Full Day Kindergarten Program and not budgeted in. All towns are feeling the 9C Cuts – Need to call the Legislature for help and build on the foundations.

Ms. Farrell stated that all kindergarten classes will be running as usual in 2015-16 year.

C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke about the following:

- Priorities – adding a teacher in each school – principals decide what is needed at their school – based on enrollment. (AES – 4th grade teacher; CES Special Education Teacher; AMS TBD; AHS Math Teacher)
- 2015-16 Calendar – Would need a revote for a change because of the Presidential Primary Election – added a PD day on March 1st – moved the PRT date from March 2nd to December 9th – making 180 days.
- Busy week for seniors – today sing-out and handing out of year books – Year book dedicated to Peter Hoyt – recognized to make learning fun and known for his kindness – thank you Peter
- Graduation will be June 5th at Landry Stadium (weather permitted)
Mr. Hammond stated they will be looking at the extended forecast and making a decision between noon and 2:00 of that day.
- Academy Graduation will be June 12th in the gym.
- CREST Collaboration – Need to vote on Triton and Dracut joining the collaboration
- Rotary Teacher of the Year – Awarded to Bethany Noseworthy – Counselor at the Academy. Example of quality professional.
- Art Exhibit Currier and Ives – at the City Hall.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Jill Hadwen

Jill spoke about the middle school visit and how well it went – the students seem to be interested and looking forward to attending activities at the high school. She will be introducing the new student representative next meeting.

Jill thanked the committee for the opportunity of serving on the board and stated that she will be attending the Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey next year.

B. Other

- Ms. LaValley spoke regarding the AEFI – “Stroke of Genius”, Dr. Gerber Award (26 yrs. of service at APS) new this year. This award will be honoring an individual or group who demonstrates “grass roots educational leadership”. The winner of this award will have a replica of the weathervane from the Town Hall Annex at their school. The original weathervane will be displayed at the high school.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. 1. May 19, 2015 Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the regular minutes dated May 19, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2. CREST Collaborative Amended Agreement

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept Triton and Dracut Schools into the CREST Collaborative. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Ms. LaValley asked if there was any impact to Amesbury with their joining—
Dr. Robinson stated there was not.

3. Innovation School Plan

Dr. Robinson stated that a vote is needed by the committee for the conversion from the Charter School to an Innovation School.

Discussion: Ms. LaValley asked Eryn McGuire, Principal, if the report cards will be changing. Ms. McGuire stated that they will be adding a narrative and will be using Aspen. Mrs. Schultz asked if the incoming students will be viewing the questionnaires that will be given to parents/students for enrollment into the school? Ms. McGuire stated that the questionnaires will be sent in by the parents. Mr. Hoyt commented on the strong component that the Pettingill House has with the school. He asked if they will be having a different name? Ms. McGuire stated that they have had a discussion on the name and everyone knows of the school as the Academy. The name of the school will be the “Amesbury Innovation Academy”.

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the conversion of the Charter School to the Innovation School.. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Ms. McGuire thanked the committee for their support.

4. Calendar

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the changes (added PD day on March 1st, move the March 2nd PRT day to December 9th) to the 2015-16 calendar because of the Presidential Primary Elections. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B. Warrant

1. \$335,313.13 (5/28/15)

Motion by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the Warrant dated May 28, 2015 in the amount of \$335,313.13. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee –Mr. Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated that Ms. Farrell covered what was discussed – Asked for a copy of the signed MASBO review.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz

Next meeting June 18th 8AM.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee

Mr. McGee reported that they continue to meet with the union.

VIII.. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Acting Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. AHS and AMS Summer Reading (6/15/15)
2. Visit with State Representative and State Senator (6/15)
3. Whittier Regional Vocational Technical Update (6/15/15)
4. Report of District Review (6/15)
5. South Hampton Visit (9/15)

VIII.. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

IX.. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pursuant of M.G.L. c.30A, s. 21 (a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to *conduct collective bargaining sessions* or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. AFT Amesbury local 1033 Teachers/Nurses; Para-professionals and Maintenance and Facilities Technicians.

Motion by the Acting Chair to go into Executive session. Roll Call was taken.

Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 into Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary