

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
June 15, 2015**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Bonnie Schultz, Tom McGee, Acting Chair; Peter Hoyt, and Michele S. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools.

Absent - Mayor Gray (Arrived at 7:10), Debra LaValley, Christian Scorzoni (Arrived at 7:34)

Mr. McGee called the meeting to order at 7:00 and Bonnie Schultz 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**

None

**II. PRESENTATIONS:**

**Mr. Bill Derosa, Superintendent Whittier Vocational High School**

Mr. LaBella represented Whittier Vocational School as a board member. He thanked the committee for the invitation and went over some stats and updates of the school.

- 63 Amesbury residents attend the school (16 graduated and 28 Freshman)
- Out of the graduates 97% will be attending 2 or 4 year colleges and some will be going into the military
- Drop-out rate is less than 1%
- 75 Amesbury residents will be attending for FY16
- Amesbury is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest contributor with 11 districts coming in
- iPad for all incoming Freshman
- No Choice students
- Building study plan – 40+ year old building – looking at upgrading
- Nursing Assistance program growing with the trades (masonry/carpentry) coming back
- Welcome to visit anytime

Maureen Lynch will be taking over as Superintendent - Now looking at hiring a principal.

Jill Hadwen, SAC Representative, introduced the new representative – Katie Besbly who will be taking over the position for FY16. Katie thanked the committee for giving her this opportunity. She then joined the members for her first meeting.

Mayor Gray arrived (7:10) and took over as the Chair of the meeting.

**AHS Track Team – Sarah Centric, AHS Teacher**

Sarah Centric introduced the AHS Track Team in attendance and congratulated the team for winner CAL Champs. The team introduced themselves.

**AHS Math Team – Barbara Leary, AHS Teacher**

Ms. Leary congratulated the Math Team and stated that they have won 10 straight years in a row – the team introduced themselves.

**AHS Science Team – Mark Casto, AHS Teacher**

Mr. Casto stated that this has been a busy year in Science with the Robotics Team; High Altitude Balloon Launch and the Science Team. The team introduced themselves.

Mayor Gray and Dr. Robinson presented Stan Schwartz with his citations (state, city and state senate) for his 15+ years of service with the School Committee. Mr. Schwartz was unable to attend the retirement social last meeting. Mr. Schwartz was also presented with a rocking chair with a plaque from the School Committee.

Mr. Schwartz thanked his wife and friends for their support. He went on to say that it has been an honor and privilege to be part of the committee.

**Summer Reading:**

**Maureen Hardin – AMS Librarian**

**Stacey Fijalkowski – AMS Teacher**

**Glynis Cooney – AMS Teacher**

- Spoke about summer reading and working with the Public Library making it fun, engaging and serious.
- All lists are on the web site and home in the poly's
- Promoting summer reading – theme heroes – review and games
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade – read 1 book on list or by an author that is suggested
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – read 1 book on list – description with notes – writing assignment in the fall
- Lots of choices – books can be found at the library no need to purchase them.

Mrs. Schultz asked if there would be an assignment the first or second week of school. *There will be comparison of movie verses book for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.*

Mr. Hoyt thanked the teachers for their hard work and leadership. He asked if there is a conversation for students that are entering the middle school from the elementary school. *No.*

**Roy Hammond – AHS Principal**

- Spoke first about “When your doing it right; they are doing it right” referring to the three teams (Track, Math and Science Teams) all champs and the growth that all of these teams have accomplished. Students are leading us and we are here to advise.
- 100 AHS students attended the state house as guest of Representative Kelcourse and met Governor Baker – valuable learning
- Summer reading lists made up by faculty favorites – 25 staff taking part.
- Meet with students first week of school and discuss the book that they chose to read.

- Goes toward the students' first quarter English grade.
- Mrs. Schultz asked if AP and Honors classes have additional reading? *Yes.*

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

#### A. Director of Teaching and Learning

Lyn Griffin spoke about the following:

- Phase 1 of Curriculum Process
- Go Math – committee meeting into year 3 – Gap measures in grades K-8 – looking into continuing with Go Math or look at other programs. Will be meeting with the committee this summer to look at 3 or 4 other Math programs. No time to meet during the school year. Meeting after school every month and offering PDP's to those on the committee.
- Transition committee for grades 4 into 5. Create framework ID children that need the help – more informed.
- Looking at different writing programs
- Title 1 Summer Camp will be held at Cashman School – July 27-30 and August 3 – 6. Grade levels are 1,2,3. Total of 50 students with a 10-1 ratio.
- Assessments – MCAS done – June 15<sup>th</sup> MAP ended.
- No formal word on the State testing
- Looking at expiring license for teachers – checking and mandates
- Professional Development – ongoing conversation for next year. Tufts Institute will be at AES – media program = digital
- CPI training continues
- Kindergarten Early Assessments – done
- Evaluations – have not received template from the state yet
- Teacher Induction Program – Patty Hoyt and Carol Bartlett – over sees the program. Received feedback from the mentors and mentees – need to do a customize approach on the individual person that is being mentored. Now they meet four times a year – thoughts of meeting monthly and offering PDP's. Consider indentifying the mentors before the end of the year.
- End of year – close out one year and opening the other – final reports – roll-over – ordering curriculum work –
- Innovation School – Phase 2 - lots of planning – analysis of student growth.

#### B. Assistant Superintendent

Deirdre Farrell spoke about the following:

- Year end memo to central office staff - “sweeping” – new term will end – All year end obligations for FY15 must end by June 30<sup>th</sup>, including Special Revenue/Revolving and Grants. (this has not been done previously).
- Munis to Softright Conversion – changing chart of accounts – Softright will start July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Training schedule for Softright – June 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 for school and 1-4 for city – all at the high school
- Summary of recently passed budget – Number one items for all principals was funded. The supplemental request was \$29,501.00 – will be moving

forward.

- Contacted MSBA regarding the SOI for AES – 97 applicants were submitted – reviewing now – will hear late fall early winter.
- FY16 – Technology funding will come from the city (\$106,000.) – Work with city for the purchase orders – need to place orders soon.

### C. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson spoke about the following:

- Summer Reading – important – great activities for families to get involved – kids are ready to start and excited – able to get books at the library.
- Reception that happened before the meeting – honoring students and retiree Mr. Schwartz – congratulations. Thank you to Jeannie Sheehan for setting up the reception and all of the work she does.
- Innovation School – Charter School in conversion – will end June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Graduation for the Academy was last Friday – incredible – 13 seniors graduated.
- Principals will get their top priorities with the budget that was voted on:
  - AES – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
  - CES – Special Education Teacher
  - AMS – TBD – Special Education Teacher possibly
  - AHS – Math Teacher

These may change – have posted anticipated openings.

- Summer Reading – Specialist at the elementary level – transition times from elementary to middle school.
- Preparing for next year – 10 weeks away – not much time and a lot of work to be done.
- Head Coach – Ernie Bassillion – Coach of the year
- Girls Softball – North Region Champs – playing in Taunton tomorrow for the South Region

Mrs. Schultz asked about the open positions regarding coaching – and where are they posted. *They are posted and going through the association.*

Mr. Hoyt spoke about several things that need to be considered by the School Committee this summer (only 10 weeks). Ms. LaValley has put out a request to find out dates that the School Committee Members along with City Council Members are available to replace Mr. Schwartz.

Joe McMillian has also asked for dates to meet between June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>. This is critically important with everything going on with the Amesbury Public Schools. Secondly, looking for a replacement for Dr. Robinson. June 22<sup>nd</sup> has been designated to meet on goal setting – not necessary at this time until we have a full committee. Need to meet with MASC member to move forward and see what our options are seeking a new Superintendent. Meet with Attorney McNulty also. Ms. LaValley suggested meeting from 6-6:30 in an open session and then go into executive session with Attorney McNulty for the purpose of identifying the process of replacing Dr. Robinson. Mayor Gray is not available that evening (June 22<sup>nd</sup>) but feel that time is slipping away.

Mr. Scorzoni recommend that we move forward, meet on a date that the Mayor and all members can meet in the next week or two. Mrs. Schultz stated that she does not want it to go into July.

Mayor Gray suggested sending out a spreadsheet and ask for everyone's availability.

Mrs. Schultz stated that members have tried previously to find a date for goals and June 22<sup>nd</sup> was the date that members could attend.

***Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to solicit School Committee Member on dates available to meet between June 18<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, contacting MASC and Attorney McNulty to coordinate their availability to attend. Discussion: Mr. Scorzoni asked about meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>. After a brief discussion, Mayor Gray stated that he will put the range of dates out and see what happened. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.***

#### **IV. COMMUNICATION**

##### **A. Student Advisory Council – Katie Besbly**

Katie stated that she is happy to be the new Advisory Representative. She asked the committee if there were any plans to meet with the Landry Stadium Committee? Have a lot of questions (Where does the money go to?; Is it a private organization that pay for everything?)

Mayor Gray stated that he could answer those questions – not a lot of money \$9000.00 a year for everything – sharing responsibility. He stated that the Finance Committee has invited the Landry Committee to their next meeting.

##### **B. Other**

#### **VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

##### **A. 1. June 1, 2015 Minutes**

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. McGee to approve the regular minutes dated June 1, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

##### **2. Acceptance of Superintendent's resignation**

*Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the Superintendent's resignation dated June 8, 2015 –*

*Discussion: Mrs. Schultz stated that Dr. Robinson had consistent leadership and is sad for these students. Accepts the resignation with sincere regrets.*

*Mr. Hoyt stated that this was a sad day. Dr. Robinson has been a true educational leader from day one. She has been model to students staff and families. Has server for the past four years and will be missed – thank you.*

*Mr. Scorzoni stated that it was a pleasure working with Dr. Robinson – did amazing things and wish her nothing but the best.*

*Mr. McGee echoed his colleagues – had a close working relationship – always a team player and exceeded his expectations.*

*Mayor Gray stated that it has been a pleasure working with Dr. Robinson and thanked her. He wished her the best.*

*Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

##### **3. Superintendent Vacancy – Process**

Mrs. Schultz spoke with Mike Gilbert about the process. He stated that he is confident that there would be some candidates that would be interested as serving as an interim Superintendent at this time. Mr. Gilbert felt that, that was not the case 6 weeks ago. Mr. McGee stated that they have worked with Mr. Gilbert in the past and has been very useful. Would like to look at an interim – not to rush.

##### **B. Warrant**

##### **1. \$296,239.29 (6/11/15)**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. McGee to accept the Warrant dated June 11, 2015 in the amount of \$296,239.29. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.*

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee**
2. **Policy Subcommittee – Bonnie Schultz**  
Next meeting Thursday at 8AM.
3. **Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. McGee**  
Mr. McGee reported that they are working on the new staffing report – positions funded - retirees

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chair read the future meeting and agenda items aloud.

1. Report of district Review (7/15) *Mr. Scorzoni asked if this will be happening.*
2. Visit with State Representative and State Senator (8/15)
3. South Hampton Visit (9/15)

Mrs. Schultz would like to see a summer work schedule on the building and grounds for July and August.

**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

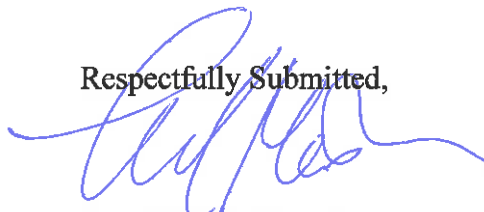
**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, s. 21 (a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to *conduct collective bargaining sessions* or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. AFT Amesbury local 1033 Teachers/Nurses; Para-professionals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

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

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

***Meeting adjourned at 8:48 into Executive Session.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary