

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
September 5, 2017**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Deb LaValley; Acting Chair, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Nick Wheeler, Amy Sherwood, Delany Hooper, SAC Representative and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.
Absent was Mayor Gray.

I CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND Mission Statement

Ms. LaValley called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM and Amy Sherwood led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the 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

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- Monday teachers returned attending professional development (building and district), Tuesday safety protocols. Students began Wednesday, reviewing supply lists, housekeeping, activities and schedules. Students attended Thursday and then had 4 days off.
- New Website – had 170 responses from the survey monkey. Now reviewing data on what the needs are of all community members, staff and students. Target date for going live is November during Thanksgiving break.
- Reviewed new staff - CES (Music Teacher & SPED Facilitator); AES (Speech Assistant, Intensive Needs Teacher, additional Counselor); AMS (Math Teacher, SPED Facilitator); AHS (Nurse). Administrators did a nice job hiring.
- AIHS – continue to negotiate with the landlord at 77 Elm Street – need to move forward

B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Joan Liporto spoke about the following:

- Special Education van – tonight's finance meeting approved a 3-year lease for a new van. Currently have 10 vans ranging from a 2006 – 2010.
- Transfers of 41 line items covering new hires, column moves and contracted raises (\$179,000)
- FY18 – reviewed and have concerned with funding of Early College
- Revolving Accounts – 2 concerns – Athletics which is a balancing act and Choice, need to look at this closely. Good note, receiving more funding from Circuit Breaker.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. SAC Report – Delaney Hooper

Delaney stated that they have not met yet this year and has no report. When asked by Ms. LaValley when Freshman elections were taking place, she was not sure of the date.

B. Other –

Mr. Hoyt spoke about the following dates that are upcoming regarding the 350th Anniversary of Amesbury:

- April 21, 2018 – MA Memory Road Show – all day event at the High School
- May 27, 2018 – Trolley rides from 12-5
- Old Fashion Picnic with softball games and fire apparatus

Ms. LaValley stated, in conjunction with MA Colleges and Boston Public Schools, read a joint statement in support of DACA and is recommending a vote to support it.

Discussion: Mr. Hoyt stated it is timely regarding all that is happening. Mrs. Sherwood is in support of this idea. Mr. Wheeler asked where the signed statement will be sent to. Ms. LaValley stated that it will go to the Legislature and DOE.

Motion by, Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by, Mrs. Marinopoulos, to accept the Joint Statement in Support of DACA as presented. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 8/14/2017

Motion by, Mr. Hoyt, seconded by, Mr. Wheeler, to approve the regular minutes dated August 14, 2017.

Discussion: Mr. Wheeler corrected the game is called "Amesburyopoly". Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

B. Approval of Warrants: \$286,135.45 (8/31/2017)

Motion by, Mr. Wheeler, seconded by, Mr. Hoyt, to accept the Warrant dated August 31, 2017 in the amount of \$286,135.45. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

C. AIHS Space - Update *Provided in the Superintendent Report*

D. Disposal of Surplus Property – Outdated Textbooks AHS

Dr. Reese stated, as per the School Committee Policy regarding surplus property, will need a vote from the committee to dispose of these outdated textbooks at AHS. Dr. Reese reviewed what is needed to be disposed of; 1988 – 2002 textbooks that are deemed of no value.

Motion by, Mr. Hoyt, seconded by, Mr. Wheeler, to approve the disposal of the surplus textbook stated in Dr. Reese's memo dated August 30, 2017. Discussion; Ms. LaValley asked if they would be of value at the Public Library. Joan will put out a memo to them. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

E. Proposal Annual SC Meeting Agenda Topics

Dr. Reese spoke about the purposed Annual Agenda Topics that he has put together for School Committee meetings.

Discussion:

- Mr. Hoyt stated that this was in line with what was discussed earlier, great idea
- Mrs. Sherwood loved the idea and added that it ties in with their goals, need to build as a committee.
- Ms. LaValley asked that Whittier Vo Tech and retirees be added to June

- Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about School Committee meeting only one time a month and sub-committees meeting more. Mrs. Sherwood agreed and added working on the seating arrangement that was discussed previously.
- Mr. Chamberlain loved the idea and echoed both Mrs. Sherwood and Marinopoulos. He added that he felt there was too much time spent on spotlight and not enough time spent on business.
- Ms. LaValley agreed about the subcommittee meetings – referring to tonight’s Finance meeting being rushed and not covering all topics. Will be checking with MASC for guidance and how other districts are proceeding.
- Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that all subcommittee meetings are public – need to promote this and make it accessible to the public.
- Mr. Wheeler asked Joan Liporto if she needed a vote for the lease of the van. Ms. LaValley stated that it will be voted on at the report of the Finance Committee.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain stated that they met tonight discussing the following:

- 2 items to approve (leasing van and transfer of funds)
- Future items = handle of fees and calendar, Joan will be working of standard items and other topics to discuss
- Outline for FY18 budget – what to improve

Motion by, Mr. Hoyt, seconded by, Mr. Wheeler, to accept the purposed 3-year lease agreement for a yellow van (\$30,131.34 with 3 annual installments of \$110,043.78) as presented by Joan Liporto. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler questioned if this proposal was lease to purchase. Joan stated that it is. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by, Mr. Hoyt, seconded by, Mrs. Sherwood, to accept the transfer of \$179,613.00 line items 1 through 41 as presented by Joan Liporto. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated they have not scheduled a meeting date yet.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated that they met earlier today discussion high school schedule

4. Strategic Plan Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated that they met earlier this evening and is closer to having a plan in place. Will be meeting again later this month to discuss a few changes.

5. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated that they met the end of August discussing:

- Budget short fall
- Capital improvements
- Landry Stadium – management
- AIHS
- Next meeting will be the second week of October

6. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated that they have not met – will need to schedule a meeting date

7. AES School Building Committee – Nick Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler stated that they met discussing:

- OPM – second meeting reviewing packets – comes down to three firms left in the running. All packets from each of the firms are posted on the website. Mr. Wheeler has resigned from the OPM selection stating that his wife’s firm is one of the final ones.
- Next meeting will be September 11th with interviews of the firms and will vote shortly after that on the firm selected.

Mrs. Marinopoulos asked if there was need to replace Mr. Wheeler from the OPM selection. Mr. Wheeler stated that there was not the need, he will be staying on the board, but excusing himself from the selection of the OPM only.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. Special Education Funding Workshop (TBD)

B. Fees (transportation, athletics, building use, South Hampton, preschool, lunch) (TBD) Will be going to Finance Committee first.

C. Landry Stadium (TBD)

Additions: Mr. Wheeler asked to add Goals to next meeting. Mrs. Sherwood spoke about the goals tying in with Dr. Reese’s goals and Strategic Plan.

Ms. LaValley spoke about setting a date for a School Committee workshop after the Strategic Plan is approved (questioning the week of Sept. 25th, send dates available to Dr. Reese). Mrs. Sherwood asked to set up an agenda for the workshop.

Mr. Hoyt asked to invite Tom Bourassa to the next meeting to discuss his expectation of energy in the schools.

Motion by, Mr. Wheeler, seconded by, Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 7:53PM. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary