

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
October 2, 2017**

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

Absent was Mayor Gray and Rob Chamberlain arriving at 7:18PM.

I CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND Mission Statement

Deb LaValley called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and Michael Gonthier 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

Mrs. Bates, parent of a high school student, spoke about her concerns with block scheduling. With only 4 blocks, this gives the students limited opportunity in many courses, particularly in music and world language. She would like this concern to be put on the table and to begin to rebuild.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Mrs. Bates for coming out with her concerns and added as budget season comes up (FY19), he would like to see more community members come to meetings and share their concerns.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- **Early College Program** – Letter of intent for partnership with NECC signed with six other communities. There may be still an opportunity for funding from the State. Currently 41 students are in the program (grades 10 through 12) at AHS. Mrs. Sherwood asked what the out of pocket expense is. Dr. Reese stated approximately \$30,000. Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that currently Amesbury is alone with NECC, she was concerned with the possibility of not hosting here at AHS. Dr. Reese stated that he is open to ideas.
- **Strategic Plan** – Dr. Reese highlighted a review of the Strategic Plan with the intention of taking action at the next meeting.
 - **Mission** – no update
 - **Vision** – integrated SEL and academic excellence
 - **Student Demographics** – changes within 20 years, more diverse in race/ethnicity, ELL, students with disabilities and low income, increased. Partnership with Pettengill House and 47 students experiencing homelessness
 - **Student Performance** – doing well

- **5 year plan with 3 objectives** – Dr. Reese went over the objectives and reviewed them, along with the strategic initiatives.
- **Metric review** - Metric 1 – increase percentage of children attending APS; Metric 2 – increase tier two intervention - decreasing the percentage of students with disabilities, decrease of students on IEP's; Metric 3 – increase the percentage of students (by 5%) that complete a four-year college degree program.
- **SEL** – imbed SEL into all academics

Discussion: Mrs. Marinopoulos asked if a collection of APS data for Metric 3 could be taken? Dr. Reese stated that he could do that. Mrs. Sherwood stated that data collection is not necessary, we just need to see a change. Mrs. Marinopoulos would like real time data, felt it would be valuable to have. Dr. Reese will send out a survey.

Mrs. Sherwood spoke about the time it took to put this Plan together. She went on to speak about funding, not adding programs, the major slide and not keeping up.

- **Superintendent Proposed Goals** – Dr. Reese spoke about the 2 Student Learning and Professional Practice Goals and how they are connected to the Strategic Plan. Per request of the committee the goals will be moved to the Personnel Subcommittee meeting.
 - **Student Learning Goal #1** – by May 2018, 80% of students will be able to define and discuss the 5 competencies of SEL
 - **Professional Practice Goal #1** – by June 2018 – build a professional capacity in the integration of social, emotional and academic learning throughout the curriculum
 - **Student Learning Goal #2** – by June 2018 – percentage of students that have access to tier two support will increase by 10%
 - **Professional Practice Goal #2** – June 2018 – develop an increased understanding of how to support principals and educators with an inclusive practices model (thanks to Mary Houde).
- **Overnight Field Trip** – Dr. Reese turned it over to Ms. Meyer and Mr. Fijalkowski, AHS Music Teachers. The trip is planned for April 27 – 29 to New York City to play at a Music Festival. Mr. Fijalkowski went over the itinerary (perform at a music festival, see a Broadway Show, sightsee and Six Flags); he spoke about chaperone/student ratio (1:10); proposed fundraisers (bingo night, game night, gift basket raffle, bake sale); and the cost (approx. \$550 per person). The first deposit is due November 1, 2017. Mrs. Marinopoulos and Mr. Hoyt spoke about what a valuable trip this is, level of detail that was presented, the ratio of chaperones versus student, keeping with the overnight policy, no reason to not support this trip. They did ask about financial aid opportunities. Mr. Fijalkowski stated that they will not deny anyone from attending, they do have some left over money and will be working with MaryBeth Exner to help up. Mr. Wheeler also thought it would be a great trip, but stated that the policy for chaperones is 1 per 8 students. Ms. LaValley echoed all her colleagues and suggested looking into some funding from AEFI, Cultural Council and the MA School Board of Music.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept the New York City trip in April 2018 as presented. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

- Dr. Reese stated that the November 6th School Committee Meeting is the same night AEFI's Evening of Giving is and will need to be changed. After much discussion, that meeting will now be October 30th.

B. Report of the Director of Student Services

Mary Houde spoke about the following:

- SEPAC – met 2 weeks ago
 - planning a Halloween Dance on October 20th
 - Workshop at NECC on October 11th on Ice Program
 - Basic Rights in January (requirement by the state)
 - December 8th craft
 - Flatbread in the fall
- Reading – currently have one teacher in the program at the high school – state is not posting Grants at this time
- Professional Development today – opportunity at the high school – 3 hour presentation on co-teaching. Presenter will be coming back on October 30th
- School year start-up – 39 children are out-of-district – normal flow
- New program at middle school – 4 students with strong behavioral needs -going well – new teacher with one paraprofessional, one additional student will be moving in.
- Transportation – this summer updated the transportation procedure manual

IV. COMMUNICATION**A. SAC Report – Michael Gonthier**

Michael stated that their first meeting was Wednesday and have voted in 3 Freshman.

B. Other – Mr. Hoyt gave an update on the 350th Anniversary

- Meeting Wednesday at the Chamber at 6:00
- Cookbooks will be on sale soon, and will be on sale online
- Calendar put together by Nick Wheeler is coming soon
- AEFI – Pub Crawl - October 12, 2018 featuring 11 different locations

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**A. Approval of Minutes: 9/5/2017**

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to approve the regular minutes dated September 5, 2017.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

B. Approval of Warrants: \$146,925.36 (9/14/2017)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood, to accept the Warrant dated September 14, 2017 in the amount of \$146,925.36. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

\$457,498.34 (9/28/2017)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood, to accept the Warrant dated September 28, 2017 in the amount of \$457,498.34. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

C. Strategic Plan

Mrs. Sherwood asked that the members take time to read the Plan and then will have a discussion at the next meeting. Ms. LaValley asked for the Strategic Plan to go on social media, families, do a connect-ed, city council and website to also get feedback from all.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain stated that they have not met – still looking at AIHS.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated they will be meeting Thursday at 6:15.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated they have not met.

4. Strategic Plan Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated that they will be voting at the October 16th meeting, after everyone have reviewed it.

5. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated that they met this evening discussing the following:

- Capital improvements – tennis courts cracks repaired and painted; water heater- have a contract and will be repaired this weekend; roof at AMS – still looking for leads Joan will be asking the OPM firm to help with local leads.
- AIHS
- Landry Stadium – looking for direction, a Bill was filed by Mayor Gray to the City Council
- Technology – capital plan – John Dubuc will be back in December and will be meeting with him within the month

6. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated that they have not met. Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about not having a Facility Director, who is responsible for the upkeep of the grounds. Mrs. Sherwood spoke about the city DIFF Program, this could affect the schools. Suggested asking Mayor Gray and Bill Scott to attend the October 30th meeting to speak about funding the fields.

7. AES School Building Committee – Nick Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler stated that they met discussing:

- OPM firm was selected at the September 11th meeting – NV5, Inc.
- Going to MSBA on October 16th

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning (10/16/17)

B. School Spotlight – Cashman Elementary: Tier II Interventions (10/16/17)

C. Fees (transportation, Athletics, Building use, South Hampton preschool, lunch) (11/6/17) *Put off till November 20th meeting*

D. School Spotlight – Amesbury Elementary (11/6/17) *Dr. Reese will speak with Wally of changing the date.*

E. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning: State Mandated Test Results (11/20/17)

F. Landry Stadium (TBD)

- *Mr. Hoyt added inviting Mr. Bourassa to a meeting to speak about the energy consumption in our schools.*
- *Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about dates for the retreat. Mrs. Sherwood suggested meeting before December. Ms. LaValley and Dr. Reese will send out some dates.*
- *Ms. LaValley added the need to vote a on delegate to attend the MSBA meeting the first week of November.*

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 8:34PM. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Marinopoulos".

Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary