

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
October 16, 2017**

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

I CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND Mission Statement

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order and Ms. LaValley 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

- Mr. Kelly stepped up to formally introduce an exchange student from Italy, Elisa Rossi. She is a senior and will be at AHS for the entire year. Elisa thanked the committee for letting her attend AHS.
- Ms. Freeman introduced herself and stated that she is a volunteer at AFS. She presented the committee with packets explaining what AFS is. She went on to explain how it was founded (70 years ago) and explained her personal experience with the exchange program. These programs change lives forever. She explained about the different programs that are offered. Ms. Jones' is hoping to raise awareness of this program.
- Mr. Hoyt thanked Ms. Freeman for meeting with the policy subcommittee and suggested having a meeting with Ms. McAndrews and MaryBeth Exner. Mr. Chamberlain asked if Amesbury has had a continuous exchange program in the past. Ms. Jones said not a continuous program.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. School Spotlight: Cashman Elementary – Tier Two Interventions

Ms. Charette, Megan Hoyt and Laurie McAllister spoke about a program named "Camps" regarding Tier II supports for students who have some gaps in their social and emotional learning. This program is helping every teacher grow skills and capacities to have a lot of contributors to this program. The supports are designed to collect data, create support plans and target specific skill deficits to increase student success in the general education classroom. They presented a Power Point explaining the following:

- Connection to the Strategic Plan – meeting the needs of the learner and promote continuous development of high quality educational leaders.
- Whole school practices – yoga for classrooms, mini motor breaks, go noodles (videos), zones of regulations (emotional state), second step (bullying prevention).
- Addressing in Need – Tier II interventions – high level of needs (45%), economically disadvantaged (28%), students with disabilities (24%)

- Collect Data and Make a Plan – Use motivators to promote the use of the replacement behavior and collect data on the progress.
- Developing skills - after identifying the target – where skills are lacking – work with the student
- Progress Monitoring – data which is collected daily – looking for regulated behaviors
- Benefits – skills increase, classroom success and fewer referrals to Special Education

Discussion/Questions: Mr. Chamberlain asked how many kids are they engaged with and on the teacher side how do you train them? Ms. Charette stated that at this time it is approximately 10 kids. Teachers are willing to change and work with this model. As the teacher is planning the lesson and starting the day, they ask the child if they are ready to learn, or do you need to do something first.

Mr. Hoyt stated that this is exciting practice. He asked about substitute teachers, is there something in the sub packet that gives them advise of how to respond. Ms. Charette explained how they are very strategic in placing subs in the correct classroom.

Ms. LaValley thanked them and stated that it feels as we are moving forward. She asked if the breathing techniques was what the students presented last year. Yes it is. Ms. LaValley asked if they see change with the students with all that is happening in the world. Ms. Charette spoke about what kids are worried about these days.

Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about the staff having the ability to handle and adapt these difficult situations. Mrs. Marinopoulos spoke about the new program called, “Trauma Informed Mind and Body”. She spoke about the Therapeutic Program that is needed at the high school, but was unable to be funded. Mr. Chamberlain asked if there is a way to get these skills to the entire community. Megan stated that it is helpful for the families and the follow-through with the language used.

B. Presentation from Tina Los, Regional Project Coordinator: Essex County Asset Builder Network

Dr. Reese spoke about the Grant that APS is participating in with Newburyport and Triton Schools. He stated that through this grant, we will identify assets that our students possess that research indicates can have an impact on whether or not students engage in risky behaviors. We were lucky to receive the grant and Newburyport is the hub of this grant. Ms. Los was hired to oversee this particular grant.

Ms. Los spoke about how getting all the youth in the community working together. This is another way to support this “Camp” program that they just spoke about. Ms. Los went over the Poser Point addressing the following:

- 3 year grant implementing a positive youth development – in 6 communities
- Goal – positive youth development program like CAMP and SEL programs
- Traditional Prevention (youth have problems) vs. Positive prevention (positive approach)
- 40 Development Asset Framework – one framework - External Assets (focus on support around them) vs. Internal Assets (focus on youth themselves)
- Overlap SEL vs. 40 developmental assets – using the same language – 2 models
- Survey with the students – attitudes and behaviors – electronic, demographics, assets, risk behaviors, anonymous and confidential, multiple opt-out options (parent consent letter, youth consent and individual question skip).
- Survey roll-out – October - parent notice; November – conferences, parent night, survey admin.; Early 2018 – data turn around; Spring 2018 – data reported back to community by youth.

- Big Picture – Year 1 – community trainings/discussion; Year 2 – review data/create strategic plan; Year 3 – begin implementation apply for further funding.

Discussion/Questions: Ms. LaValley thanked Ms. Los and asked if there are other regions in Massachusetts that have this foundation grant. Also, will this survey be only for public schools or will it include private schools also. Ms. Los stated that there are other communities that are looking at the Tour Foundation. Grant is becoming more popular. Looking to create focus groups to try and get all the voices involved. Spoke with Kathy in the youth department, working with Pettingill and Our Neighbors Table. Mr. Hoyt likes the fact that it is Grades 6-12 and the power of student voice.

C. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- Curriculum work – SEL – seen as a forefront with the state – Lyn Jacques will update the committee regarding the curriculum work.
- OPM selection – this afternoon Mayor Gray and Ms. Liporto went to MSBA and received the approval of the OPM.
- DESE – will be releasing the data for the public tomorrow from last year's MCAS testing. Will be sending this information to the families. Because it is the next generation testing, DESE has changed a lot of things. Scores are different, new bands, new identifiers, there will be no accountability levels this year because it is our base line year.
- Be a Buddy, Not a Bully Program – October 20th – this year they have restructured it and we continue to work with the group.
- William Scott – will be connecting with Mr. Gearin before coming to School Committee to present.
- Snow Coordination – Last week Ms. Liporto joined Dr. Reese in speaking with Rob Desmarais about snow removal – DPW will be taking control of clearing the school parking lots, then our school maintenance will clean up the rest. Asking that families and community members clean their sidewalks in front of their homes.
- Technology plan – looking at acquiring new equipment – Met with Martine Fabre and Susan Lang to come up with a plan, over the next ten years, for purchasing and maintaining.
- Administrative retirements – there are 2 this year, Dr. Charette, CES Principal and Mr. O'Connor, AMS Assistant Principal will be retiring at the end of this school year. Dr. Reese will be going to the personnel subcommittee to look at strategizing and a long range plan. In the next 3-5 years there will be other administrators retiring.
- Student Leadership Advisory Group – Dr. Reese is very interested in forming an Advisory Group as a superintendent including students, athletics and all the different groups in the schools to look at issues. Dr. Reese is reaching out to other Superintendents who already have these groups to get information about structure.
- SPACES Program - Ms. McAndrews did a survey at the beginning of the year on communication with parents– best ways – types of information – This program was developed through this survey with the help of student council. They will have multiple presentations through-out the year. This Wednesday 7-9 Teen Stress and Anxiety
- MCAS – this upcoming year – needed to make a decision on paper/pencil or computer base testing. All grades 3-8 will be taking a computer base test. High School does not have computer base testing, it is not the next generation testing.

Mr. Chamberlain asked if Dr. Reese knows if they will be having a graduation requirement with the new generation MCAS? Dr. Reese stated that they are still working on that, as of now, the graduation requirement is the same as the past years.

Mrs. Marinopoulos asked if this was the first Dr. Reese had heard about the change in how the MCAS results was going to look like. Dr. Reese knew that it would be different, but heard last week, when they received the data, that it was different.

D. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Ms. Liporto spoke about the following:

- End of year report – smoother than last year – the reporting structure will be changing in FY19 – driving to instructional costs. Report will be filed by the end of October.
- OPM – approved today by the MSBA – will be sending out a letter to be able to contract with them. They will lead us through the designer serves
- Apple Lease – have targeted the funding source – this source was originally budgeted in the teacher salary line at the high school with department heads. The high school is not moving forward with department heads, so we will be using that money (\$13,000) for this year.

E. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning

Lyn Jacques spoke about the following:

- SEL – presentations this evening tying into this program. Making this language systemic.
- Grants – all Grants, for this school year, have been submitted – Gone down in most Grants except for Title 1. Fund Code 262 – Special Education Grant, awarded \$19,081 (less than last year by about \$500) but overall we are OK.
- Curriculum Work – year 2 – more tailored – substitute situation is still a challenge, but the momentum around the work is great. We have a new consultant (Elizabeth Imende-Cooney) – great coach – positive feedback
- Program Reviews – Coordinated Program Review and Title 1 Program Review – AIHS operation for one full year – will have an annual evaluation to DESE. When completed, School Committee will get a copy of the report and will need to approve the continuation of the school by December
- Mentoring Program - smaller than last year – spearheaded by Patty Hoyt and Carol Bartlett
- Special Projects – working with DESE -SEL –Teacher Rubrics - the state has asked Amesbury, as a district, to pilot that new rubrics with a small cohort of teachers and provide our feedback to DESE.
- Online4Good Academy and Media Campaign – 4 students from Amesbury, along with 100+ students statewide participated, in the first Empower Peace Academy to teach students how to develop social media campaigns. Amesbury has come up with the team of anti-bullying. Looking forward to seeing their work.
- MCAS – Lyn has been looking at this information – there will be a learning curve for parents. Ms. LaValley asked if there was a way to come up with a guide for parents, put on website for a resource for parents.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. SAC Report – Michael Gonthier

Michael stated that they have nothing to report today. Mrs. Marinopoulos asked about what his thoughts were on the survey. Michael stated that you need to get the kids to want to fill out the survey not just get it done quickly.

B. Communication from Representative Seth Moulton regarding DACA

Ms. LaValley read the letter from Representative Seth Moulton's letter against DACA. Thanking the School Committee for signing the resolution against DACA.

C. Other

Mr. Hoyt spoke about the 350th Anniversary – November 4th community holiday fairs – cookbooks and calendars will be on sale during the fairs.

Ms. LaValley stated that AEFI Evening of Giving will be Monday, November 6th and held at VASA this year.

Mr. Wheeler spoke about voter registration will close on Wednesday.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**A. Approval of Minutes: 10/2/2017**

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to approve the regular minutes dated October 2, 2017.

Discussion: Mr. Wheeler stated that on the overnight field trip, the vote should state approved as amended.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the regular minutes dated October 2, 2017 as amended by Mr. Wheeler. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

B. Approval of Warrants: \$238,540.41 (10/12/2017)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to accept the Warrant dated October 12, 2017 in the amount of \$238,540.41. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

C. Strategic Plan

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Discussion: Mrs. Marinopoulos read a statement from Mrs. Sherwood that stated: a lot of change has happened in our schools this year. This document is the first opportunity to tackle our challenges and opportunities. Still progress to be made – concerns with budgeting – cuts (Circuit Breaker, Early College) must maintain our schools. Meet needs for 20st century learning. If she was in attendance tonight, she would vote to implement the Plan. Appeal to all for leadership on funding.

Mrs. LaValley stated that they had ask for Dr. Reese to share the plan on social media. Dr. Reese stated that he did share in the news with various types of social media. He had 4 people that did respond regarding the metrics& who is accountable. Request about data on similar district, review the plan, periodic check in. Dr. Reese appreciates all of the feedback.

Mr. Chamberlain stated that the goals are ambitious and will have a positive impact on staff and students. This document needs to be a living documents. Next time will be easier to get the building blocks in.

Mr. Hoyt and Mr. Wheeler thanked Dr. Reese for his leadership and the subcommittee for their hard work. Mr. Wheeler asked if this plan was sent out to the people that had done the previous session. Dr. Reese stated that it did go out. Mr. Wheeler stated that he was disappointed of the lack of people that responded to the Plan.

Ms. LaValley stated that in years past, we had to send out the Plan to the community. She asked if this is something we still have to do, or just putting it in the library, City Hall, Senior Center, website and all schools is sufficient now? Dr. Reese stated that we will work on a brochure and highlight some of the key issues and get them to the community.

Mayor Gray stated that we have been working on this for a long time, he is pleased that this Plan reflects what the initiative is that administration is driving toward. Thanks to everyone.

Dr. Reese added that he has asked the principals' presentation, to connect with the Plan, when they do their Spotlight.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

D. Superintendent Goals

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley, to accept the Superintendent's goals as presented.

Discussion: Ms. LaValley stated that there were very few changes that were made in the personnel subcommittee meeting (Goal #1). Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

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| E. First Reading of Policies: | EEAA: | School Bus Transportation |
| | GBCBC/JFCB: | Civil Rights/Harassment |
| | GBCBD/JFCD: | Sexual Harassment |

Mr. Hoyt stated that the Bus Transportation Policy (EEAA) was restricted, so at the last Policy Subcommittee meeting they added a paragraph at the end of the policy that Mr. Hoyt read aloud. Mr. Hoyt asked the committee to approve the next two policies, Civil Rights/Harassment (GBCBC/JFCB) and Sexual Harassment (GBCBD/JFCD). On both policies, the liaison was updated from Elizabeth McAndrews to Lyn Jacques and the phone number was changed.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to waive the second reading of Policy GBCBC/JFCB Civil Rights/Harassment. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to approved Policy GBCBC/JFCB Civil Rights/Harassment as presented. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to waive the second reading of Policy GBCBD/JFCD Sexual Harassment. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve Policy GBCBD/JFCD Sexual Harassment as presented. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

F. Appointment for MASC Delegate for MASC Conference (November 1-4, 2017)

Ms. LaValley stated that Mrs. Sherwood and herself will be attending. She asked if there were other members that will be able to attend. Ms. LaValley stated that she could be the delegate, but if she doesn't attend, Mrs. Sherwood could be the alternate delegate.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to appoint Ms. LaValley as APS delegate for the MASC Conference with Mrs. Sherwood as an alternate delegate. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to suspend the rules and continue the meeting beyond 9:00 Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Revote because first vote was after 9:00PM

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to appoint Ms. LaValley as APS delegate for the MASC Conference with Mrs. Sherwood as an alternate delegate. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

G. MASC Resolutions

Ms. LaValley asked if MASC Resolutions can be tabled till next meeting on October 30th when Amy Sherwood will be in attendance.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to table agenda item G. MASC Resolution to the October 30, 2017 School Committee meeting. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

H. 3-Yr. Lease of Apple Computers \$13,187.45 annually with \$1.00 purchase option at conclusion of lease

Dr. Reese spoke about the replacement of 25 iMac computers at the high school. Doing it as a 3 year lease (\$13,187.45 annually) with a \$1.00 purchase option at the completion of the 3 years. Did negotiate the price with Apple, which they did go down by \$2,500. Dr. Reese is recommending this purchase.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to approve the 3-year lease of 25 Apple computers for the high school as recommended by our Finance Director, Joan Liporto. Discussion: Ms. LaValley asked if this was put into the Technology budget or put in after. Dr. Reese stated it was put in after. Mrs. Marinopoulos asked when we will be able to get these computers. Dr. Reese stated that after the approval of the School Committee, they will move forward. The price agreement was only good till the end of October. Mr. Wheeler questioned having this agreement expire in two weeks, timely. Mr. Wheeler stated that he did research today and found similar product through Best Buy and only \$1,000. Are these specific to the lab to replicate? If you can use less gigabytes, there is a huge savings. Could use the extra money toward the Early College program. Dr. Reese stated that based on the type of programing these particular ones are the ones they need to run the programs. Ms. LaValley is hoping that these particular items are identified when we are going through the budget, we do have a technology plan. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

I. Acceptance of Gift: Richard A. Eaton Charitable Foundation, \$4,000 for athletic user fees funds offset.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the charitable donation of \$4,000 from Richard A. Eaton. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler asked how long we have been getting this donation? Ms. LaValley stated that it has been years that Mr. Eaton has done this. Mr. Wheeler stated that this was awesome, since we do have fees for athletics. He asked that a thank you be sent to Mr. Eaton, which Ms. LaValley stated that we do have that policy. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain stated they have not met, maybe October 30th.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated they met on October 5, 2017, discussed the policy updates stated this evening. Also discussed were the outstanding school lunch balances, neighboring districts are experiencing the same thing. Welcomed exchange student and Jen Freeman. Will be revisiting our Restraint Policy at our next meeting, Nov. 9th.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Ms. LaValley stated they met last Thursday and discussed Strategic Plan and Goal Alignment. They did ask when School Committee will be getting together to do their goals. Hopefully get scheduled within the next month. Let Dr. Reese know dates.

4. Strategic Plan Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mayor Gray dissolved this subcommittee.

5. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated they met October 7th discussing:

- Budget
- Needs of the district – AES building project
- Need of a Facilities Director – lack of personnel, draining on others
- HR component – look at joint adventures
- Landry Stadium
- Next meeting has not been set – Mayor would like to attend

6. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated have not met – will coordinate with Joint Education meeting

7. AES School Building Committee – Nick Wheeler

Mayor Gray stated that the OPM was approved today. Will be setting up the next meeting with the firm.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**A. School Spotlight – Amesbury Elementary (10/30/17)****B. William Scott, Dir. Of Community & Economic Development – DIF Presentation (TBD)**

Mayor Gray stated that Mr. Scott is inventorying the fields and will make recommendations. Ms. LaValley added that at the Joint Education meeting they were asking about the repairing of the tennis courts. She stated that at the time they were going to be repaired the following week. Ms. Liporto stated that they will be working on it this weekend. Mr. Wheeler asked about the water heater replacement. M. Liporto will check into that.

C. Tom Barrasso, Dir. Of Energy & Environmental Affairs – Energy Conservation (11/20/17)**D. Fees (transportation, athletics, building use, South Hampton, preschool, lunch) (11/20/17)****E. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning: State Mandated Test Results (11/20/17)****F. Report of the Director of Student Services: Special Education Program Update (12/4/17)****G. Principal's/Superintendent's Awards Presentation (12/4/17)****H. School Spotlight – Amesbury Middle School (12/18/17)****I. Report of the Assistant Principal of Student Activities: Fall Sports Recap (12/18/17)****J. Landry Stadium (TBD)**


Addition – * MASC Resolution (10/30/17)

* Student Advisory Council (12/4/17) ??

* Vote on continuation of the AIHS (Dec. meeting)

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary