

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
November 20, 2017**

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

**I CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND Mission Statement**

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:05 and Mr. Hoyt 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. Noyes stated that he has been involved with the Strategic Plan since the beginning. He thanked everyone for their help and respectfulness. He went on to stated that he could not have accepted this Plan at this time. Mr. Noyes stated that the Plan focuses more on the upper grades than the elementary level and middle grades. Mr. Noyes stated that the tone of the document is not aspirational and does not speak of community or citizenship. It speaks more on people being part of the economy. It is fact that people retain more by writing things down on paper than reading on a computer screen.

Mr. Chamberlain thanked Mr. Noyes for his involvement and stated that the Plan is evolving and growing with the economy.

Mr. Noyes concluded with asking why the Student Rep. email address is not on the website.

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. School Spotlight: Amesbury Elementary – Voice of Looping**

Mr. Helliesen, AES Principal, spoke about the outstanding faculty and students. He went on to introduce his team of Grade 1 and 2 teachers that have been looping for the past 3 years, that were in attendance. His Power Point presentation spoke of the advantages of looping covering consistency; relationships; decrease in anxiety; self-awareness and social relationships.

Mr. Helliesen stated that the data points out only one full loop – these facts cannot measure curriculum and instructional assessment.

Mrs. Sherwood thanked Mr. Helliesen for his presentation and asking how it is handled if the loop is not a fit for the student and/or the teacher. Mr. Helliesen stated that at the end of the year parents are able to give their opinion, in writing.

Mrs. Nash stated that the looping builds relationships; self-confidence; co-operative learning and the kids are comfortable with their environment.

Mrs. Kimball spoke about curriculum centered versus student centered – this way we have more time with the students.

Mr. Helliesen stated that looping is difficult for the teachers and added pressure – they have 2 curriculums to learning.

Mr. Hoyt asked about the advantages of looping versus multi-age teaching.

Mrs. Morris, who has experienced both, spoke about her involvement and stated that looping is a big responsibility and is always checking in with grade three teachers.

Ms. LaValley asked if looping is only in grades 1 & 2 and is there a thought on expanding to other grades. Mr. Helliesen stated that they have explored the possibilities of expanding but feel the demand on grades 3 & 4 are too demanding.

#### **B. Presentation by Tom Barrasso, Director of Energy & Environmental Affairs**

Mr. Barrasso began his presentation by stating that he is not happy that it is 100 degrees in the library this evening. He presented the committee with a Power Point identifying the various upgrades that have occurred in recent years as part of energy savings grant. The following are the points that he went over:

- Mission/Goals
- Work closely with schools and city
- Dates – activity
  - 2013 – Green Community
  - 2014 – outdoor lighting - level 2 audit
  - 2015 – 2016 – energy managements AHS & AMS - \$87,000 a year in savings
  - 2017 – EMS System AHS & CES – weatherization and transformer upgrades
- National Grid – get rebates – boiler reset control AMS & AES
- Goal – 20% efficiency done only 5%
- Biggest use is natural gas and electricity

#### Questions:

Mrs. Sherwood asked if a 20% Green Community is realistic; what the time frame is; and culture of conservation. Mr. Barrasso stated that when the project began in 2013, there was no baseline. Looking at hitting the 20% mark in 5 years. He went on to state that districts that have hit the 20% have done major renovations. His aim is at least close to 20%, have many resources.

Mayor Gray added that LED street lights will help. Mr. Barrasso agreed but added they will have to buy back from National Grid – do not own them.

Mr. Wheeler asked about student and staff monitoring energy use in real time. Mr. Barrasso stated that there is a lot of data, cloud base, LED monitor, Titcomb landfill. Could tap National Grid to help with data collection for teachers/students, as a lesson

#### **C. Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- November 6<sup>th</sup> – AEFI Evening of Giving – at VASA in Salisbury. Presented were 1 Jordan Shay Grant and 2 AEFI Grants. Also honored were Ralph Noon, and Jennifer Munro Logan, both receiving the Peter Gray Friend of Education Award.
- MSBA – Evaluation of our schools, ranking from 1-4 (1 being good and 4 poor)– reports on the conditions of CES, AMS and AHS – 3 criteria's:(1- condition of building; 2- capacity; 3 – general environment - conducive to learning)
 

Results =	{	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1<sup>st</sup> area - CES and AMS received a 2 and AHS received a rank of 1</li> <li>○ 2<sup>nd</sup> area – CES average; AMS and AHS under capacity</li> <li>○ 3<sup>rd</sup> area all 3 schools received a rank of 1</li> </ul>
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- Designing PD for Inclusive Practices – October 17<sup>th</sup> Ms. Houde, Mrs. McAndrews, Mrs. Randall and Dr. Reese attended a workshop on designing powerful professional developments. Will be looking at doing teacher surveys.
- SBIRT – screening tool to students annually in grades 7 & 10 – this screening will be funded by the state and Mrs. Houde will be giving more details at the next School Committee presentation.

#### IV. COMMUNICATION

- A. **SAC Report – Michael Gonthier – *moved up after Comments by Visitors***  
 Michael stated that at their next meeting (Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> block) they will be discussing Blizzard Bags with an anticipation of presenting to School Committee at the second meeting in Dec.
- B. **Other**
- Mr. Hoyt reminded the public that cookbooks; cutting boards; and coasters are on sale now benefitting Amesbury's 350th Anniversary.
  - Ms. LaValley congratulated the Girls Soccer Team and Cross Country for winnings this season. They will be honored during our December Meeting.

#### V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

- A. **Approval of Minutes: 10/16/2017**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to approve the regular minutes dated October 16, 2017. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

- B. **Approval of Warrants: \$365,259.14 (10/26/2017)**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to accept the Warrant dated October 26, 2017 in the amount of \$365,259.14. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

**\$309.97 (11/02/17)**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to accept the Warrant dated November 2, 2017 in the amount of \$309.97. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

**\$306,779.49 (11/09/17)**

*Motion by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to accept the Warrant dated November 9, 2017 in the amount of \$306,779.49. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

**\$523,022.71 (11/22/17)**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood, to accept the Warrant dated November 22, 2017 in the amount of \$523,022.71. Vote: 6 – Yes, 1 abstained (LaValley).*

- C. **Second Reading of Policy: EEAA: School Bus Transportation**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos, to accept Policy - EEAA: School Bus Transportation. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

- D. **Gift Acceptance: Donation to the AHS Gift and Donation Account \$1,000 received from the Class of 1952.**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos, to accept the donation from the Class of 1952 in the amount of \$1,000. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

- E. **Gift Acceptance: Amesbury Educational Foundation, Inc. \$23,367.00**

- a. **\$13,367 Champions for Children (Jordan Shay Grant)**

*Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley, to accept the Jordan Shay Grant of \$13,367 (Champions for Children). Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

- b. **\$5,000 How Do We Solve Vexing Problems (AEFI Grant)**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept the AEFI Grant of \$5,000 (How Do We Solve Vexing Problems). Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

c. **\$5,000 Re-Imaging the Arts (AEFI Grant)**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to accept the AEFI Grant of \$5,000 (Re-Imaging the Arts). Vote: Unanimous, Yes.*

Ms. LaValley read all the descriptions of the Grants.

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain**

Mr. Chamberlain stated they met prior discussing the following:

- 2018 budget – planning tentative dates (December 7<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> public feedback and priorities from the principals). Also set up 4 other dates of January 18, 25, 29 and February 1 for administration presentations.
- Early College enrollment
- Summary of SPED vans
- Future meeting agendas
- South Hampton tuition – looked at the formula – tuition has not increase in over 2 years
- Fees for facility use
- Revolving account balance – a concern of Joan Liporto

**2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt**

Mr. Hoyt stated they will be meeting tomorrow

**3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood**

Mrs. Sherwood stated she does not have a report at this time.

**4. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley**

Ms. LaValley stated they have not met.

**5. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Deb LaValley**

Ms. LaValley stated they met last Thursday discussion:

- Little League fields
- Tennis Courts – some of the work has been completed
- Capital repairs – looked at the list and discussed adding a column for date and cost of repair for future

**7. AES School Building Committee – Nick Wheeler**

Mayor Gray stated they met this evening with Tom Murphy and Rob Juusola from NV5 discussing:

- MSBA moving forward with design
- Need to appoint 3 DSP members (Dr. Reese; Mayor Gray and 1 from School Committee members)
- Will be meeting again in January

**VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. William Scott, Dir. Of Community & Economic Development – DIF Presentation (TBD)**  
*Meeting with Glen Gearin prior to presenting to School Committee*
- B. Fees (transportation, athletics, building use, South Hampton, preschool, lunch) (12/4/17)**  
*Moved to the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting*
- C. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning: State Mandated Test Results (12/4/17)**  
*Push up presentation – Mrs. Sherwood asked if parents have received results and understand them. Dr. Reese stated that letters went home and that the state has provided videos.*
- D. Report of the Director of Student Services: Special Education Program Update (12/4/17)**
- E. Principal's/Superintendent's Awards Presentation (12/4/17)**
- F. Continuation of Amesbury Innovation High School Vote (12/4/17)**
- G. School Spotlight – Amesbury Middle School (12/18/17)**
- H. Student Advisory council Presentation (12/18/17)**
- I. Report of the Assistant Principal of Student Activities: Fall Sports Recap (12/18/17)**
- J. Landry Stadium (TBD) – Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting – Mayor Gray spoke about DIF and issues of the Athletic Fields – Hired a consultant to look at all fields and give a short-term plan.**

**Reminder of School Committee retreat November 30<sup>th</sup> at the Bank Room – 6:00PM.**

***Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to adjourn the meeting at 8:33PM. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary