

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
January 8, 2018

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Amy Sherwood, Tim Kisieleski, Michael Gonthier, SAC Representative and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

Absent was Gretchen Marinopoulos.

Mayor Gray called the Organizational Meeting to order at 7:01 PM and Amy Sherwood 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

II. Election of Vice Chair and Secretary

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood to reelect Ms. LaValley as Vice Chair to the School Committee Board. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to reelect Mrs. Marinopoulos as Secretary to the School Committee Board. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

III. Meeting Days and Times

Dr. Reese stated that, per previous discussion with members, he is recommending that School Committee meetings be changed to one time a month (first Monday of the month) and meet more frequently on the subcommittees. His suggestion was – first Monday have Curriculum Subcommittee (5:00); Finance Subcommittee (6:00); School Committee (7:00). Then on the third Monday of the month have Personnel Subcommittee (5:00); Policy Subcommittee (6:00); and Building and Grounds (7:00). Dr. Reese and members felt that this was a good idea with more meaningful meetings for all of the subcommittee.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to change School Committee Meetings once a month on the 1st Monday of the month (unless there is a holiday on Monday then the meeting will be held the next day, Tuesday) at 7PM. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Dr. Reese stated that he will set the schedule and get it out to all, while also putting it on the website.

IV. Sub-Committee Appointments

a. Budget/Finance Subcommittee

Motion by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Kisieleski to reelect Rob Chamberlain as Chair of the Budget/Finance Subcommittee with Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. LaValley on the committee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

b. Personnel Subcommittee

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to reelect Amy Sherwood as Chair of the Personnel Subcommittee with Ms. LaValley and Mrs. Marinopoulos on the committee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

c. Policy Subcommittee

Motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Ms. LaValley to reelect Peter Hoyt, as Chair of the Policy Subcommittee with Mrs. Marinopoulos and Mr. Kisieleski on the committee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

d. Building and Ground Subcommittee

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood to elect Tim Kisieleski, as Chair of the Building and Ground Subcommittee with Mr. Hoyt on the committee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

e. Joint Education Subcommittee

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood to have Deb LaValley, Rob Chamberlain and Amy Sherwood be on the Joint Education Subcommittee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

d. Curriculum Subcommittee

Motion by Mr. Kisieleski, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to elect Mrs. Marinopoulos, as Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee with Mr. Hoyt on the committee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

V. Other Appointments

- a. Athletic Liaison - *not a need to list or have a liaison*
- b. Legislative Liaison - Amy Sherwood
- c. Parliamentarian Liaison - Rob Chamberlain
- d. High School Handbook Liaison - Tim Kisieleski
- e. SPED PAC Liaison - Gretchen Marinopoulos
- f. Amesbury Elementary School Building Committee - Peter Hoyt

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley, to name the above as the Liaisons of the specific areas. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Gray called the regular meeting to order at 7:13 PM

II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELGATIONS

None

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. School Spotlight – Amesbury High School

Ms. McAndrews, joined by two teachers, Mr. Thibideau, Ms. Sconce and three students shared collaborative project between two courses, Webpage Design and Small Business. The students explained how in the small business course they created a business plan which included development of webpages and business cards. Ms. McAndrews explained how their project tied in with the Strategic Plan – meeting the needs of all learners.

Mr. Hoyt asked the students if this lesson will have an impact on their college choices. The students felt that it would, building team work, communication and listening skills. Mrs. Sherwood thanked them for their presentation and spoke about learning soft skills, working with co-workers and negotiations.

B. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- 2 snow days added to the 2 from October – this leads into the Student Council presentation of Blizzard Bags. Wednesday, PRT day, teachers will be discussing Blizzard Bags and how it can fit into their curriculum.
- CES Principal Position – pleased with the candidate pool – Leadership Team will review applications. Timeline – Next week meet with interview committee (about 10); following week, first round of interviews; narrow down pool of candidates; visit to their district; following week visit CES; with a selection before February vacation.
- Leadership Team – looking at evaluations process – identified 10 elements that are critical to student success – team watched a video with mock samples – moving slowly

C. Report of the Director of Business and Finance - *no report, Joan Liporto was absent.*

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Michael Gonthier

Michael stated that he has nothing to report at this time.

B. Other

- Kick off celebration for Amesbury 350th tomorrow night at 6:30 Starlight Lounge. Senator Connor-Ives and Representative Kelcourse will be in attendance. There will also be an auction and a full house.
 - February will be a play at the High School, *Dear Mr. Woodwell*
 - March 22nd – Amesbury Eats – a 16 people event
 - April 21st – AHS from 9-3 – Massachusetts memories
 - May 27th – Trolley to 18 Treasures of Amesbury
 - Calendars, posters, cookbooks and cutting boards are for sale
- Ms. LaValley stated that AEFI is now accepting nominees for the Amesbury Hall of Honor.
- Dr. Reese stated that on Wednesday at 7PM at the high school, will be a parent evening regarding school safety and police new approach.
- January 23rd AHS library at 6:30PM, information about state mandated testing.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 12/18/17

Motion by Mrs. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, to approve the regular minutes dated December 18, 2017. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

B. Approval of Warrant: 1/4/18 \$196,443.21

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley, to accept the Warrant dated January 4, 2018 in the amount of \$196,443.21. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. Fees Review (building use, South Hampton, preschool)

Mr. Chamberlain spoke about the following regarding the prior Finance Meeting:

- Recommendation to the Mayor and City Council to look into bonding the Technology
- South Hampton tuition– has not changed in at least 6 years – student expenditure – set increase for the following 3 years (5%; 4%; 4%) then overall expenditures with set schedules. Dr. Reese will reach out to South Hampton’s business manager and principal.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley, to accept the proposed increase in the South Hampton tuition as presented. Discussion: Mrs. Sherwood and Ms. LaValley asked for the increase be put in the Dropbox, the need to see the numbers. Mr. Chamberlain asked to date the proposed increase. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

- Preschool – leave the same – a change in cost would not be meaningful
- Facility Rental – change in format with more clarity – now in line with community districts – includes non-profit and profit organizations.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept the facility rental fee structure as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

- Substitute Pay Schedule – proposed will be effective next school year and will be presented with the budget.

D. Gift Donations from Newburyport Five Cents Savings Charitable Foundation:

- a. Check and Connect Program (M. Lashure and A. Henderson) - \$5,000
- b. Windrush Riding Program (C. Mamakos) - \$2,000

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley, to accept both the \$5,000 and \$2,000 gift donation from Newburyport Five Cents Savings for Check and Connect Program and Windrush Riding Program. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**A. Subcommittee Reports****1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain**

Mr. Chamberlain added from his previous report –budget development and working on Technology Plan and Capital needs (communication, security).

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated there is no report – will be meeting January 22nd at 6:00

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated there is no report – will be meeting the first week in February.

4. **Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley**
Ms. LaValley stated they have not set a meeting date – will email members
5. **Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Tim Kisielewski**
Mr. Kisielewski stated that he does not have a report
6. **AES School Building Committee – Peter Hoyt**
Meetings in Boston are February 6th and 22nd – RFP went out in December, will be having a walk through tomorrow – need to set a meeting date in January.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. William Scott, Dir. Of Community & Economic Development – DIF Presentation (TBD) - *Mayor Gray stated he is waiting for inventory of the fields.*
- B. Fees (transportation, athletics, bussing and lunch) (2/5/18) –
Need to take up in Finance Subcommittee first
- C. Review of Technology Plan (1/22/18) – *Move to February*
- D. Superintendent Mid-Cycle Progress Review (1/22/18) – *Move to February*
- E. Budget Meetings (1/18; 1/25; 1/29; 2/1/18)
 - I. January 18: Amesbury Elementary, Cashman Elementary
 - II. January 25: Amesbury Middle, Amesbury High, AIHS, Athletics
 - III. January 29: Central, Maintenance, Curriculum, Technology, SPED
 - IV. February 1: TBD (snow date)
- F. Update of Capital and Equipment Purchase and Replacement Plan (1/22/18) –
Need to take up in Finance Subcommittee
- G. School Spotlight – Amesbury Innovation High School (2/5/18)
- H. School Choice Vote (2/5/18)
- I. Proposed School Year Calendar 2019-2020 (2/5/18)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting at 7:57PM.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary