

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
February 5, 2018**

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

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.

I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and Amy Sherwood led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELGATIONS

Delores Batts, parent, community member, spoke about the continued cuts on the budget in the passed 13 years. She stated that she was disappointed in the Mayor for not attending the budget metings and that the Mayor should step up to the plate and fund the school budget. She pointed out the following regarding the budget:

- All technology should be bonded
- Look at creative ways to fund capital improvements
- AMS - 7th grade has no art; no French options; increase EAST teacher; paraprofessional increase.
- AHS – add staffing; class sizes too high (30 students in a Science class)
- District needs more than basic needs – need to invest in yourself
- Sometimes need to spend money to make money – run like a business

Mayor Gray spoke about the following regarding Mrs. Batts' presentation:

- Last 3 years there were no cuts – added more money
- Level service with increase in just costs
- Technology costs that were asked for would be 1.1 million
- There is a process to go thru for funding – objective is to continue to invest in the schools as the city has done.
- It can not be run like a business – objective is to provide to the children
- Need to balance needs of tax payers and teaching students
- Last two years – money set aside for capital improvements – energy improvement grant put into schools
- Not only my decision - School Committee will present to City Council in May

Mayor Gray stated that he hopes that Mrs. Batts will continue to work with all of them.

Mrs. Batts stated that she recognizes the challenges but is also concerned as a new resident in Amesbury.

Mrs. Sherwood thanked Mrs. Batts for attending the meetings and her presentation. She stated that the requests are needs not wants and the need to come up with a balance. She hopes that Mrs. Batts will keep participating and learning more of the process.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. School Spotlight – Amesbury Innovation High School

Eryn Maguire, Principal, accompanied by four students from the Innovation School, presented the following:

- History of School – 2001 established an alternative High School; 2015 went from a Charter School to an Innovation School which was the first step in a positive direction.
- Rumors – school is a good school unlike what people, community think. It is not about bullying and drugs. It's about learning respect, being positive, learning, teaching and being a family. Teachers work hard at their jobs.
- Project day – put into groups, given a task (public relations), find a way to give people a different outlook about our school (billboards, videos, documentary, PowerPoints) – need to change the way people see the school.

All four of the students read why they have succeeded at their school.

Mr. Hoyt stated these 4 students represent AIHS, great job. He asked if they will be doing a road show with this presentation.

Ms. LaValley stated that the school has changed in leaps and bounds since the Academy. She thanked the students for their presentation.

Mrs. Marinopoulos said that this was her favorite Spotlight and that they have made a difference. This school is a safe place for these students and has been accepted in the Amesbury Public Schools. She thanked them for their presentation.

B. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- CES Principal search – began in December; posted job opening, brochure; 30 resumes – pleased with quality of people. Identified 8 to interview with school committee member, parents, teachers, secretary, Lyn Jacques, principal. Down to two candidates – will be doing site visits in Boxboro and Newburyport where they are both Assistant Principals. Karen is strong in Literacy and Karina strong in ELL. February 15th both will be touring CES with an evening meeting forum, parent/community partnership. Hoping to have a candidate by February vacation.
- Coordinated Program review – looking at ELL, Civil Rights and Special Education. Will be visiting schools and speaking to staff. This is a routine review, they will come up with finding; compliances with laws and regulations. We will have one year to fix any issues that they come up with. They will help us fix the action plan. May have opportunity for Grants.
- Intruder – ALICE – Wednesday, all staff will be training with police and staff members. Will implement program at the beginning of next school year.
- Deb Smith – Pettingill House – Tower Grant – Mental Health First Aide Training Intense training then will be going into school to train. Have invited school to participate in the one day training (administration, counselor, nurse).

Mr. Chamberlain asked why not sent teachers instead of administrators?
 Dr. Reese stated the need to train administrators first then work with teachers.
 Possibility of sending a couple of teachers for the one-day training also.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. **Student Advisory Council – Michael Gonthier**

Michael stated they will be having the *Frost Festival* the week of February 26th, including games, videos and lots of fun.

B. **Other**

Mr. Hoyt's 350th update – *Dear Mr. Woodwell* play – student written and acted, this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. AHS Library was named after Mr. Woodwell,, a former AHS English Teacher.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. **Gift Donations – Class of 1978**

Kathi Pelletier- Gannett read a letter regarding the Class of 1978 donating the appropriate funds (\$5,730) to replace the broken scoreboard at the Amesbury High School Varsity fields. She has reached out to companies for quotes and specs on the replacement of the board (which were attached with the hand out). Ozzie Morrill has agreed to replace the board at no cost, once it has been funded. Her plan is for AHS All-Sports Boosters to collect donations, keeping this monies in a sub account in QuickBooks. They will keep a record of all donors and amounts they've donated. Mrs. Gannett is hoping to have an unveiling ceremony before the first home game this spring.

Mr. Hoyt stated that this is the power of grass roots. This is a model for other alumni classes to emulate – AMS scoreboard does not work. Mr. Chamberlain asked about Title 9 concerns – the fields are used for girls and boys.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept the donation of \$5,730 from the Class of 1978 for the replacement of the High School Scoreboard as presented. Discussion: Mr. Chamberlain questioned accepting the proposal before the money is in hand. Mrs. Gannett reassured that the money will be there to pay for the scoreboard. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B **Approval of Minutes: 12/18/17**

Approval of minutes were tabled due to not having the minutes in the drop box to review.

C **Approval of Warrant: 1/18/18 \$400,305.82**

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept the Warrant dated January 18, 2018 in the amount of \$400,305.82. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

2/1/18 \$303,517.33

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept the Warrant dated February 1, 2018 in the amount of \$303,517.33. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

D. Fees Review (transportation, athletics, and cafeteria)

Mr. Chamberlain stated that they did not meet this evening – tabled till next meeting.

E. Superintendent Mid-Cycle Progress Report

Dr. Reese stated this is a formative review of his goals. Dr. Reese provided the committee with a summary of progress towards both his professional practice and student learning goals. In reviewing Student Learning Goal #2 with personnel subcommittee in January, he is looking at restructuring this goal based on initial data reports from each school. Dr. Reese stated that his goal is to meet all needs of students.

Mrs. Sherwood stated that in Student Learning Goal #1, Dr. Reese is looking to concentrate on this area and observing and get into the classrooms more often at each school. As stated by Dr. Reese regarding Student Learning Goal #2, this goal will be revisited. In regards to Professional Practice Goals #1&2, Mrs. Sherwood stated that the committee felt Dr. Reese is on track and making progress.

F. School Committee Goals

Mrs. Sherwood stated that she is going back to articulate next steps – the need to revisit these steps with each meeting. Mrs. Marinopoulos stated the need to look at the overall goals and where we are at with them. Mayor Gray asked what committee is responsible for them. Mrs. Sherwood stated that it will be added to the Personnel Subcommittee agenda and kept alive, moving things along - Mandates are clear – need to define goals.

G. School Choice Vote

Dr. Reese stated a vote is taken each year on opening School Choice. He stated that once any students is in APS, as school choice, they automatically have a slot for each of the following years. Dr. Reese have spoken to all principals regarding opening up slots, especially in lower grades, but also mindful of small class size. Dr. Reese's feels comfortable with the following recommendation:

CES	=	Kindergarten	-	5 slots
		First & Second Grade	-	3 slots each grade
		Third & Fourth Grade	-	5 slots each grade
AES	=	Kindergarten	-	5 slots
		Second Grade	-	8 slots
AMS	=	Fifth Grade	-	5 slots
		Sixth Grade	-	10 slots
		Seventh Grade	-	10 slots
		Eighth Grade	-	10 slots
AHS	=	Ninth & Tenth Grade	-	10 slots each grade
		Eleventh Grade	-	5 slots

Dr. Reese stated that all slots might not fill up but has the potential to. \$5,000 per student and with students on IEP's, an addition fee will be calculated. Dr. Reese will advertise on social media and the newspaper.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. LaValley, to accept the Superintendents' recommendation for School Choice for the 2018-2019 School Year as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

H. Proposed School Year Calendar 2019-2020

Dr. Reese stated the need to look at Professional Development days and work with the teacher negotiations on this. Would like to table this item till early fall. Ms. LaValley asked for a template on the start date. Dr. Reese stated the start day might look different.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain stated they have finished the budget presentations – will be scheduling one additional meeting, of the whole, on numbers on level services. Meeting date is yet to be determined

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated they met January 22nd at 6:00 discussing policy JCA Student Assignment and JCA-R parent form – will bring this policy up to School Committee in the near future to waive first reading and then a vote. Next meeting in February 26th discussing Wellness Policy.

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated they met January 22nd discussing the following:

- staffing in preparation for the budget
- Director of Facilities – imperative to fund – will oversee building and grounds and the AES building project
- Additional support – Human Resource and IT curriculum support
- Annual salary benchmark
- Superintendent's goals and where they are at

Ms. LaValley stated that a Director of Facilities is a MSBA requirement for the AES project.

4. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated they will be meeting March 14th discussing budget and capital improvements.

5. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Tim Kisieleski

Mr. Kisieleski was not in attendance – no report

6. AES School Building Committee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated that tomorrow at 8:30 AM Mayor Gray, Dr. Reese and himself will be meeting with MSBA in Boston regarding the three Architect's proposals. Mrs. Sherwood asked how we can accept an architect when we don't know what we are building. Dr. Reese stated that configuration will happen in the Feasibility Study.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. William Scott, Dir. of Community & Economic Development – DIF Presentation
- B. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting – February 26, 2018 @ 5:00 PM
- C. Policy Subcommittee Meeting – February 26, 2018 @ 6:00 PM
- D. Building and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting – February 26, 2018 @ 7:00 PM
- E. Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – March 5, 2018 @ 5:00 PM
- F. Finance Subcommittee Meeting – March 5, 2018 @ 6:00 PM
- G. School Spotlight – Cashman Elementary and Amesbury Elementary
- H. Special Education Program Update – (3/5/18)
- I. Whittier Tech School Committee Rep Vote – (3/5/18)
- J. Superintendent's proposed Budget – (3/5/18)
- K. Winter Sports Recap – (3/5/18)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary