

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
April 2, 2018**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Amy Sherwood, Joan Liporto, 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 7:03 PM and Mr. Chamberlain led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELGATIONS

None

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Presentation by William Scott – DIF Program

Moved to the May 7th School Committee meeting

B. Winter Sports Recap

Glen Gearin spoke about winter sports, highlighting the following:

- Difficult scheduling all games with all the snow days
- 2 new coaches (cheering and hockey)
- Boys and Girls track – All State Awards
- Boys Basketball – All League
- About 175 students participating in winter sports
- Lots of Freshman and Sophomores coming up
- Low enrollment, effecting sports participation
- 2 students participated in a co-op team in Masconomet
- Very proud of the athletes and their commitment to sports

C. School Spotlight – Amesbury Middle School

Mr. Curry, AMS Principal, presented a Power Point on Teaching Learning Alliance (TLA), connecting with the Strategic Plan and meeting the needs of all learners. He highlighted the following in his presentation that has received attention both locally and nationally.

- Guided Observation Visit of educators from Texas
 - March 22, 2018 – 9 visitors – third time here
 - Visited lab classrooms models
 - Amazed at how students are learning
 - Professional Development for our teachers
 - TLA consultant (Cynthia Smith) provides PD for classes
 - Visitors spent 25 minutes in each class and came back and debriefed
 - Visitors had time to ask questions to our teachers
 - Sharing on information – what can be done and what is being done
- Guided Observation Program – literacy across all areas of the curriculum
- Lab classes – 13-15 teachers committed to working on the best strategies of reading – Development of Curriculum – Coach helps out to provide best direction to move forward.

Mr. Curry concluded his presentation by thanking the School Committee and Dr. Reese for their support in the program.

Discussion/Questions:

- Mrs. Marinopoulos asked what they could do to help this program continue being a success. Mr. Curry stated that the biggest help would be coverage for the teachers. He went on to say that he applied for a grant which gave them 2 more days at no cost.
- Mr. Chamberlain asked if the elementary level uses this program. Mr. Curry stated that they use to in the 90's when the Literacy Grant was available. He stated that it is unusual for this program to begin at the middle school level but has had great impact on student engagement. He spoke about the Destination Imagination (DI) groups that have done a great job demonstrating their abilities to think outside the box. They will be going to Global competition in Tennessee.
- Mrs. Sherwood asked how kids get into DI. Mr. Curry stated that it begins at the elementary level and carried over to middle school. Tia Costello, who does an amazing job, is the advisor and parents assist.
- Mr. Hoyt spoke about the TLS model and the high-quality of teachers that are involved. Mr. Curry agreed with Mr. Hoyt and added that the new teachers want to be a part of the group. He stated that he is proud of the kids and what is happening – saying that success is not always measured by a test.
- Ms. LaValley asked about fundraising for the DI team that is going on. Mr. Curry stated that he will be speaking to Dr. Reese about that soon. He stated that last year the team came in 30th out of 60 at the Global's.
- Mrs. Marinopoulos suggested collaboration with the AIHS Project Days. Mr. Curry stated that they do a similar project with the elementary 4th graders (AES & CES), but that would be a great idea.

D. Report of the Director of Teaching and Learning

Moved to next School Committee meeting

E. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese thanked Mr. Curry and his staff for embracing this program (TLA). He stated that this is a very powerful program that does not leave any child out of a conversation. Dr. Reese highlighted the following:

- Safety Meeting with City Councilors – April 18th at the City Hall. Dr. Reese spoke to Councilor McMilleon about his concern on the date, falling on vacation week. The date has been set, but will be the start of a conversation regarding direction to take, needs of the city/school. This will only be the first meeting.
- School Choice – 18 applications – will be sending out notifications this week of acceptance – will continue to accept application.
- Budget – moving target – have had couple of meetings – leadership have been meeting every-other day to work on it.

Ms. LaValley asked for a break down of School Choice to be placed in the drop box.

F. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Joan Liporto highlighted the following:

- Continue to work on FY19 budget – there is now a budget freeze – concern with utility costs, which Tom Bourassa is working with Joan on, and SPED costs.
- SPED van leases - \$10,000 for a 3 years lease for a regular van; \$15,000 for a 3 year lease on a Handicap van.
- Roof evaluation – AMS roof needs to be replaced – will be putting in the paper work for the MSBA program. Joan is hoping to get the report this week
- FY17 audits – completed on Lunch and SPED – few things in question – need policy to back up this information

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Michael Gonthier

Michael stated that the Student Advisory Council met today discussing the Blizzard Bags – meaningful conversation – the need for a time line and to plan ahead for the bags. Dr. Reese asked Michael to set a time to meet with him and other student advisories.

Mayor Gray asked how many snow days were used. Dr. Reese stated that there were 8 days which, without the Blizzard Bags, the last day of school would have been June 28th, but we only have 4 days to make up – last day of school will be June 21st.

Ms. LaValley asked to put the last day of school on the agenda for a vote.

Mrs. Marinopoulos asked Dr. Reese if he was contacted by other districts regarding the use of Blizzard Bags. Dr. Reese stated that he had been contacted. The Bags worked out great, need to work out minor kinks. Will also be putting together a survey to parents for feedback.

B. Other

- Ms. LaValley gave a reminder regarding the AEFI Hall of Fame – April 27th at NECC – Mr. Hoyt was asked to name this year’s recipients – John Meeks, Laurie Knapp and Patricia Hoyt
- Mr. Hoyt’s 350th update:
 - Cookbooks still available
 - April 21st – AHS – MA Memory Road Show
 - May 27th – Kick-off celebration at City Hall (11-11:45) with trolley rides to the 18 treasures of Amesbury (12 – 5)

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

- A. **FY19 School Budget**
 Moved to Monday, April 9th at 6:00

B **Approval of Minutes: 3/05/18**
Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept the School Committee minutes dated March 5, 2018. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C **Approval of Warrant: 3/15/18 \$341,733.04**
Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood, to accept the Warrant dated March 15, 2018 in the amount of \$341,733.04. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

3/29/18 \$269,114.27
Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood, to accept the Warrant dated March 29, 2018 in the amount of \$269,114.27. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

- D. **Policy Review:**
 a. **Second Reading: EFDA – Charge and Collection of Payment for School Meals**

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to accept policy EFDA – Charge and Collection of Payment for School Meals as presented as a second reading. Discussion: Mr. Chamberlain asked if this involved free/reduced lunches. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

- b. **First Readings:**
 i. **GBEBD – Online Fundraising and Solicitations – Crowdfunding**
 ii. **ILD – Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research**

Mr. Hoyt read both Policies (GBEBD & ILD) aloud as a first reading. He will be looking for a vote at the second reading on May 7, 2018. Mrs. Sherwood spoke about school employee groups like PTO, having no guidelines on fundraisers. Dr. Reese stated that he will be getting MASC policies and look into it. Mr. Chamberlain asked if there were rules and regulations on fundraising – Yes.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

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

Mr. Chamberlain stated that they have had a number of meetings, of the whole, discussing the FY19 budget reviewing the following

- Level service
- New ways around transportation
- Concerns with risks – using reserved accounts - pros and cons
- Unexpected SPED expenses
- Adding back into the budget
- Class size at CES
- Para-professionals in the district
- Vote on budget – Monday, April 9th at 6:00PM

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated they will be meeting April 23rd at 6:00

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated they met and discussed the following:

- Job Descriptions – Dr. Reese provided the subcommittee with job titles and priority (low, medium, high) of when the description would need to be updated or done.
- Director of Facilities – required position for the building project at AES
- Oversight on school committee goals – annual goals for each subcommittee

4. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated they met last Thursday discussing:

- Budget – still working on
- Capital projects
- Technology – bonding – John Dubuc putting together
- School security meeting

5. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Tim Kisieleski

Mr. Kisieleski was absent – no report

6. AES School Building Committee – Peter Hoyt

Mr. Hoyt stated they met on March 22nd, discussing:

- DiNisco Designs – architect – wonderful firm
- MSBA expectations
- 3 different options presented
- Looking at 2022 as a completion date
- Grade level configuration and site location
- Next meeting of the whole – April 26th
- Subcommittee meeting April 5th – 9-11

7. Curriculum Subcommittee – Gretchen Marinopoulos

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated they were meeting this evening but needed to cancel. Will be discussing Early College, Curriculum and setting goals at our next meeting.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting – April 23, 2018 @ 5:00 PM
- B. Policy Subcommittee Meeting – April 23, 2018 @ 6:00 PM
- C. Building and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting – April 23, 2018 @ 7:00 PM
- D. AEFI Hall Of Honor – April 27, 2018
- E. Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – May 7, 2018 @ 5:00 PM
- F. Finance Subcommittee Meeting – May 7, 2018 @ 6:00 PM
- G. Regular School Committee Meeting – May 7, 2018 @ 7:00 pm
 - i. Amesbury High School Spotlight
 - ii. Superintendent Presentation of Goals/Evaluation Elements

Additional Items:


- William Scott, Dir. of Community & Economic Development – DIF Presentation
- Honoring Retirees @ first meeting in June

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary