

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - BUDGET  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
March 28, 2018**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Tim Kisieleski, Joan Liporto, and Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Schools.

Absent was Peter Hoyt and Amy Sherwood.

**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 7:00 PM and Mrs. Marinopoulos led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

**II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BUDGET**

- Mr. James Thieverage, resident, spoke about how very disappointed he is in the administration of this city. Stated that Amesbury has the highest tax rate around – the need to make a change.
- George White, parent, spoke about the need to fund the Lacrosse Team at the high school. The program is growing, and the kids are looking at having a team at the high school level. Mr. White explained that the parents will help with fundraising and getting extra funds to start the team this year, but moving forward, this sport will need to be funded.
- Mary Testa, parent, wrote a letter to the committee regarding how dishearten she is about letting a teacher go at CES. Class size will increase with a typical class size that should be 18. She went on to state that CES has the ELL students and many behavior student that will be difficult with the loss of a teacher. Ms. Testa went over the MCAS results at CES (47% did not meet ELA & 67% did not meet in Math). Ms. Testa also spoke about the essential need to build on the Early College program.
- Libby Arsenault, parent, spoke about the need to fund the Early College program. She spoke about how her son, found his niche with this program and excelled.
- Andre Bailin, student, read a letter from a friend supporting the need to fund Lacrosse in high school. Andre also agreed with his friend.
- Katherine Richard, parent, spoke about the need to fund Lacrosse. She also asked about the resource officers and their contracts ending this year. Her concern was the safety of the school and the renewal of the officers at the school level.
- Noah White, high school sophomore, spoke about the Lacrosse Team, being in a co-op with Triton, no practice time, no equipment, the need to make it a sport in Amesbury High like all the other sports.

- Tara Hilt, parent, spoke about her support for Early College. She went on to speak about, if need be, increase the taxes to bring the services up for the students. She stated that she was worried about cuts at the elementary level. She thanked the committee for their hard work.
- Nick Wheeler, City Councilor, spoke on behalf of the Early College program, stating that this was a big priority when he was on the committee. Mr. Wheeler spoke about a safety meeting the City Councilors are having April 18<sup>th</sup> at city hall at 7:00 PM which is open to the public. He stated that safety is a priority and that he did not see phones and cameras on the budget. Mr. Wheeler concluded with speaking about Chapter 70 funding – not fully funded and tax payers picking up the rest. Ms. LaValley stated that the Safety meeting is during vacation week, concerned that people will not be around to attend.

With no more public comments, Mayor Gray concluded the public meeting and stated that there will be a Finance meeting of the whole next, that is open to the public.

Mr. Chamberlain thanked everyone for their participations and stated that they do listen and it is meaningful for them to come out.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting at 7:28. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary