

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
June 4, 2018**

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

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

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM and Mr. Hoyt led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

Elizabeth, a freshman student of AHS, spoke about her positive experience last year at the eighth field trip to Disney. She stated that she learned about Science, Math into engineering and how she felt safe.

Mayor Gray asked to take items V-J - Overnight Field Trips Approval (18-19 school year) out of order.

Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Hoyt to move Item J - Overnight Field Trips Approval out of order. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

V\J - Overnight Field Trip Approval (18-19 school year)

Ms. LaValley stated that the Policy states that an annual review of overnight field trip be reviewed by School Committee.

Mr. Hoyt stated that he is a supporter of the Disney trip - there is an educational merit for families and students. He did disclose that he has 2 seventh grade grandchildren that will be attending next year. He is also a supporter of the Camp Bournedale trip.

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that she is not a supporter of the Disney trip but does support the Camp Bournedale trip. She quoted the overnight policy IJOA. She went on to state that there are 64 students not attending the Disney trip this year. She wondered why, expense?

Mr. Chamberlain and Mrs. Sherwood also commented on the amount of students that stayed behind (40%). Asking what the alternative trip is for those not attending Disney.

Mrs. Sherwood also stated that although she ~~does not support~~ ^{concerns with} the trip, she feels that a transition plan is needed before the Disney trip end.

Mr. Hoyt stated that the students that did not attend Disney is having a local history tour of Amesbury by Mrs. Hoyt.

a. Camp Bournedale (Grade 5) - October 22-24,2018

Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to approve the Camp Bournedale trip for 5th graders on October 22-24, 2018 as presented. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

b. Florida Youth Education Services Trip - June 3-7, 2019

Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to approve the Florida Youth Education Service Trip on June 3-7, 2019 as presented. Vote: 4 Yes; 3 Opposed (Chamberlain, Marinopoulos and Kisieleski). Motion carries.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Retiree Recognition

Mayor Gray stated that this was a bittersweet moment. He read the names of the retirees, years of service and Representative Kelcourse presented the retirees with Citations and Ms. LaValley presented them with a gift from the School Committee.

Lewis Berry	-	20 years	<i>not in attendance</i>
Ernest Bissaillon	-	31 years	
Patricia Caillouette	-	17 years	
M. Louise Charette	-	9 years	
Philip Green	-	31 years	
Steven O'Connor	-	25 years	
Gale Regis	-	42 years	
Mia Rowlands	-	25 years	

All recipients thanked the committee. Ms. LaValley thanked Whittier Regional for making the cake for the reception, adding that all years put together represents 200 years of service. She ended by stated that they have all left a mark at Amesbury Public School - thank you.

Mr. Hoyt stated that he has had the pleasure of working closely with many of these retirees and thanked them for their years of service.

B. Spring Sports Recap – Mr. Glen Gearin

Mr. Gearin provided sports highlights at AHS - Reviewing the following:

- Cape Ann League - Baker Division Championships in Boys & Girls outdoor track and softball. Girls made Division 4 - first time
- State Championship - girls D4 outdoor track
- State Qualifying teams - girls tennis, softball and girls and boys outdoor track
- Naming All League selections in Boys & Girls Outdoor track. Softball; Boys Tennis and Baseball
- Ernie Bissaillon - Cape Ann League - Baker Division Boys & Girls Outdoor Coach of the Year
- Read notable sportsmanship awards of students
- 239 students participated on a spring team and proudly represented the Amesbury Community

C. School Spotlight – Amesbury Innovation High School

Eryn Maguire, Principal, introduced some, soon to be, graduates of AIHS. These students spoke about their positive experiences, family connections, smaller class sizes, connection with teachers while attending the Innovation School and their

future endeavors. The following students spoke: Kylee, Alex, Tyler, Elijah, Noah. The committee members thanked them for their presentation and noted the students transformation and the exemplary program that AIHS is. Dr. Reese complimented the students for their dedication and thanked the students and staff. He stated that there will be an annual report that will need to be voted on later on in this agenda. This report can be voted on for an extension of 5 years.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Ms. LaValley to take Item 5-G (Amesbury Innovation High School Annual Report), out of order and to be voted on now. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the Amesbury Innovation High School Annual Report and extend it for two years. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Ms. Maguire thanked the committee and stated that the graduation will be this Friday at 5:00 at AIHS. She hopes to see the members there.

D. Special Education Program Update – Ms. Mary Houde

Mary Houde spoke about the following from her handout:

- Child Study Teams - CES - 21 students; AES - 10 students; AMS - 4 students; AHS 9 students
- Coordinated Program Review - Corrective Action Plan developed on findings-thanked everyone for their hard work
- SEPAC - Co-chairs will present this evening - glad this is up and running - very important
- Reviewed what has been done in the past two year - update manuals, policies and procedures for restraints; training; technology programs at AMS; transportation DCAP development; unified Child Study paperwork; 504 manual; SBIRT; Wellness Committee; 5 Team Facilitators; budget line items; improvement of translation services; improve data collection; 36 out of district students; improve transition between schools.
- 120 students evaluated - that is a jump - need to look at those numbers

Mary concluded by thanking everyone for her past 2 years here at APS.

Mrs. Sherwood thanked Mary for her past 2 years here in Amesbury and asked if she had any suggestions for her predecessor. Ms. Houde stated that teachers and teams work hard here in Amesbury. Hard work needs to continue, with only one finding in the report, that is impressive. Mr. Hoyt thanked Mary for her two years and wished her the best.

Motion by Mrs. Marinopoulos seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, to move item IV-A (SAC Report Michael Gonthier) out of order. Vote: Yes unanimous.

Michael thanked the committee for the “great time, well as much of a great time as I could have had” and introduced Kyra Tripp, Vice Chair of the SAC. He stated that Ellie Costello is the Chair, but was unable to attend tonight's meeting. *Michael and Kyra then exited.*

E. SEPAC Presentation

Mary Jepson thanked Mary Houde for her guidance in re-establishing this committee. She went over the following:

- Hosted four workshops (transition boot camp; basic rights I.C.E. and effective communication)
- Hosted one fundraiser (flatbread) raising \$589.00
- Hosted two social events (Halloween Dance and holiday crafts and cookie decorations)
- Added social media, Facebook
- Best Buddies Program (June 11, 2018 at 3:30)
- Developed and disseminated survey to gain insight for increasing membership

Maryann Welch spoke about needing strong network of parents - goal is to work on a pamphlet.

The committee members thanked them for volunteering and are grateful that SEPAC is brought back, impressive start. They offered to help with getting the word out and suggested working with PTO and PAG.

F. Report of the Superintendent – Dr. Gary Reese

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- AHS graduation last Friday night - wonderful evening
- June 21st is the last day of school - half day
- This Friday at 5:30 AIHS graduation

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. Student Advisory Council – Michael Gonthier

B. Other

- Ms. LaValley commented on the impressive speeches at the high school graduation. She spoke about Mr. Manoloff's speech and how parents have molded him into who he is today. She added that the graduation will be aired on cable TV.
- Ms. LaValley spoke how Mr. Gearin stated, at the budget workshops, that AED will be mandatory at all sporting event for 2018-2019. Ms. LaValley reached out to the Hospital Charitable Trust to fund the purchase of 8 AED devices. The trust has graciously donated \$16,680. to purchase 8 AED devices.

Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the donation of \$16,680 from the Hospital Charitable Trust for the purchase of 8 AED devices. Discussion: Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that she appreciated Ms. LaValley efforts to look into that. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

- Ms. LaValley stated that School Committee use to meet twice a month. She stated that the next time they meet will be June 18th with subcommittee meetings. She asked the committee to defer the subcommittee meetings and hold a School Committee meeting with a reception for spring sports athletes at 6:30. Committee members agreed to hold a Finance meeting at 5:00 followed by Policy meeting at 6:00, reception at 6:30 with School Committee meeting at 7:00PM
- Mr. Hoyt spoke about the 350th Anniversary of Amesbury and thanked the community for attending the May 27th Celebration. He applauded the AEFI Grant that was awarded to Stacey Fijalkowski embracing Amesbury History with her sixth grade students.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 5/07/18

Motion by Mr. Kisielecki seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos, to accept the School Committee minutes dated May 07, 2018. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

05/22/18

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mr. Kisielecki, to accept the School Committee minutes dated May 22, 2018. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrant: 05/24/18 \$534,999.25

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, to accept the Warrant dated May 24, 2018 in the amount of \$534,999.25. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

06/07/18 \$128,352.54

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, to accept the Warrant dated June 7, 2018 in the amount of \$128,352.54. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. 2018-2019 School Year Calendar (Update)

Dr. Reese stated that after reviewing the upcoming 2018-2019 School Calendar, one month the days were counted wrong. The last day of school for next year with make-up days will be June 21st.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Ms. LaValley, to approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar as stated. Vote: Yes; unanimous.

D. Identification of Summer School committee Meeting Schedule

After a brief discussion School Committee agreed on meeting July 9th and August 6th at 6:00pm

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos, to meet on July 9, 2018 and August 6th at 6:00PM as agreed on by members. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

E. Director of Student Services Appointment

Dr. Reese stated that there were 25 applicants; 5 interviews and 2 that attended the public forum. After listening to feedback and checking references, Dr. Reese's recommendation for the Director off Student Services position is Dr. Lynn Catarius.

Dr. Catarius thanked Dr. Reese and stated that after meeting Mary Houde, she has big shoes to fill. She is excited to begin her work here in Amesbury, and glad that she was able to meet the two parents of SEPAC this evening. She went on to say that Amesbury feels like home to her, coming from a small town in Oregon. She is looking forward to working with everyone.

Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, to go with Dr. Reese's recommendation of appointing Dr. Lynn Catarius as Director of Student Services, pending negotiations. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

F. Superintendent Search Update

Mayor Gray stated that they met on May 22 to talk about the process. Decided to go with an interim Superintendent and work with Mike Gilbert from MASC. Met prior with Mr. Gilbert who gave us a list of possible candidates. Will be picking 3-5 finalist to interview next Wednesday at 5:00PM

G. Amesbury Innovation High School Annual Report**H. Coordinated Program Review/Walker Report Update**

Dr. Reese spoke about the Coordinated Program Review highlighting the following:

- Review of Civil Rights; Title 1; Title 2A
- 150 indicators
- District in compliance
- They tell us who they will interview
- SPED - 1 finding - training for paraprofessionals
- Civil Rights 4 findings
- Title 2A - no report yet
- Title 1 - 2 findings

Dr. Reese stated that there is nothing that surprised us and no major overhaul needed. Now there will be a corrective action plan and we have 1 calendar year to correct the areas.

Walker Report - agreed to move to Joint Ed Subcommittee and pass along to Mr. Scorzoni (not on Joint Ed) for review and then report back to School Committee.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Ms. LaValley, to pass on the Walker Report to the Joint-Ed Subcommittee for review and then report back to School Committee. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

I. Handbook Approval (2018-2019 School Year)

Mr. Hoyt stated that both the high school and middle schools handbooks are in the drop box for review. The only changes are the school calendar, dates and the vaping protocol.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Ms. LaValley, to accept the Amesbury Middle School handbook as presented for the 2018-2019 school year. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the Amesbury High School handbook as presented for the 2018-2019 school year. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that because of the policy change for foreign students, Alisha and her family was able to experience being a member of her graduating class this year.

- J. Overnight Field Trip Approval (18-19 School Year)**
- a. **Camp Bournedale (grade five) – October 22-24, 2018**
 - b. **Florida youth Education Services Trip – June 3-7, 2019**

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. **Curriculum Subcommittee – Gretchen Marinopoulos**
Mrs. Marinopoulos stated they have not met recently.
2. **Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain**
Mr. Chamberlain stated they have not met, but once City Council finalizes the budget, will be meeting to talk about distribution of the funds. Dr. Reese stated that there will be a meeting on June 18th.
2. **Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt**
Mr. Hoyt stated they will be meeting on June 18th
3. **Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood**
Mrs. Sherwood stated they have not met
4. **Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley**
Ms. LaValley stated they have not met
5. **Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Tim Kisieleski**
Mr. Kisieleski stated that they have not met.
6. **AES School Building Committee – Peter Hoyt**
Mr. Hoyt stated they will be meeting June 28th at 3:30. He stated that there will be a public forum on June 11th at 3:30 at AHS auditorium.
Mrs. Sherwood asked about the grade level configuration and site options.
Dr. Reese stated that they have additional information and narrowing down the options.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Whittier Technical High School Report (June 18)
- B. Spring Sports Teams Recognitions (June 18)
- C. Presentation by AES Building Project Architect/OPM (June 18)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mrs. Sherwood, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary