

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
August 14, 2017**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND Mission Statement

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and Mr. Wheeler led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the 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.

II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELGATIONS

None

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- Two Day Leadership Retreat, a lot accomplished, reviewing:
 - Strategic Plan
 - The new web-site, looking at the 150 responses from the survey, feedback from each individual school, goal is to have a draft of the web-site up by end of October.
 - Professional Development for the school year, activities, curriculum development and strategies (working with Lyn, Elizabeth and Eryn)

B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Joan Liporto was absent.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. SAC Report – Michael Gonthier

Michael has no report at this time.

B. Other –

- Mr. Hoyt spoke about the upcoming (2018) 350th Anniversary of Amesbury. He and Mr. Wheeler are part of the steering committee. Mr. Hoyt pointed out some upcoming fundraiser activities:
 - Selling coasters with Amesbury logo
 - Amesbury cookbooks
 - Calendar
 - Amesburyopoly (like monopoly)

- August 29th – Flatbread from 5:00 – 9:00
- September 12th – Miniature golf at Newton Greenhouse from 5:00 – 8:00
- School Events for the 350th Anniversary headed by Paul Jancewicz
 - Timeline of memorable moments
 - Second weekend in February, *Dear Mr. Woodwell* – Mr. Woodwell was the English Department Head at AHS.
- Community Events headed by the Senior Center (Doreen Brothers); Carriage Museum and the Chamber
 - Saturday, May 5th at AHS – Establishment of Amesbury (1668) – May 23, 1668 Amesbury was *Salisbury New Town* then May 27, 1668 Amesbury was established – leadership role in this event is the Senior Center.

Ms. LaValley asked if they are still accepting recipes for the book. Mr. Hoyt and Wheeler stated that the deadline was extended till August 31st, as was the Art work.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 7/17/2017

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the regular minutes dated July 17, 2017.

Vote: 6 yes, 1 abstained (Chamberlain)

B. Approval of Warrants: \$120,433.17 (7/20/2017)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to accept the Warrant dated July 20, 2017 in the amount of \$120,433.17. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

\$103,196.09 (8/3/2017)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Warrant dated August 3, 2017 in the amount of \$103,196.09. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

\$333,074.24 (8/17/2017)

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the Warrant dated August 17, 2017 in the amount of \$333,074.24. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

C. 2017-2018 School Calendar Adjustment

Dr. Reese spoke about the need to move the June 6th PRT day because that day was scheduled on an MCAS day for the high school. After discussing optional days with the leadership team, they agreed that it should be moved to December 6, 2017.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to amend the 2017-2018 school calendar as presented by Dr. Reese. Discussion: Mr. Chamberlain was questioning that date being too close to Thanksgiving break. Ms. LaValley questioned all PRT days being held on Wednesday's. Dr. Reese stated that the 2018-2019 does not reflect that. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

D. AIHS Space - Update

Dr. Reese presented the members with a blueprint of 77 Elm. He stated that they are currently negotiating a contract and will be bringing that back to the committee.

E. Early College Program Resolution

Mayor Gray stated that he supports the Early College Resolution that was prepared by Mr. Wheeler for submission to our state representatives.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the proposed resolution as drafted for submission to our state representatives. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Mr. Wheeler for drafting the proposal.

F. Snow Day ‘Blizzard Bags’

Mrs. Marinopoulos presented the committee with fact finding information about the ‘Blizzard Bags’. She went over the following about her findings:

- What are they: academic activities, previously learned, to be completed at home to be used in place of a snow day
- Districts that are currently using them: Burlington School and four schools in western Massachusetts.
- DESE requirements: None
- Went over implementation of three school Districts (Burlington, Orange and Pinkerton School Districts) – 3 different ways of implementation
- Supportive research: less school cancelations; learn to do online/E-Learning classes; blended learning supports; maintain continuity in curriculum; more instruction prior to state assessments; promotes independence; avoids cancelation for all schools within a district when only one school needs it.

Discussion: Mr. Hoyt thanked Mrs. Marinopoulos for her presentation and asked Dr. Reese to bring this to leadership for their input and also the input of the community. He also stated that it is very unusual that there are no DESE requirements. Ms. LaValley also thanked Mrs. Marinopoulos and suggested adding the DOE link for families to view to our website. She also asked Michael Gonthier to share this with his peers for their input. Mr. Chamberlain asked about the disadvantages versus the advantages. Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that the end of the year is less productive then having the students do work during the middle of the school year.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Rob Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain stated that he was not present for the last meeting and deferred to Ms. LaValley who stated she is waiting for a report from Joan.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Nothing to report at this time

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated that they met July 20th reviewing the MOU

4. Strategic Plan Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Mrs. Sherwood stated that they are setting a date to meet soon.

5. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated that they will be meeting Monday night at 6:30 to discuss Capital Improvements; Landry Stadium and AIHS.

6. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated that they will be meeting after the Joint Education meeting

7. AES School Building Committee – Nick Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler stated that they met prior to this meeting discussing:

OPM – 9 proposals submitted; working on grading them – have some last minute questions which Joan will be reaching out to the MSBA. Will be meeting on Monday the 21st at 5:30 to make a recommendation

Mrs. Marinopoulos added to the Policy subcommittee report that they met with Elizabeth and Glen about athletic rosters and made some recommendations regarding safe athletes and increasing the participation.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. Special Education funding Workshop (TBD)

B. Fees (transportation, athletics, building use, South Hampton, preschool, lunch) (TBD) – Ms. LaValley stated that Joan is working on this. It then should go to Finance Subcommittee before coming the School Committee

C. Landry Stadium (TBD) – Mayor Gray suggested scheduling this for after the Country Festival in September

Additions: Mrs. Sherwood would like to set dates for a retreat on goals.

Motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary