

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
July 17, 2017**

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

Absent were Rob Chamberlain & Mayor Gray (arriving at 6:50 and taking over as Chair)

I CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND Mission Statement

Ms. LaValley, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM and

Mrs. Marinopoulos 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

Mr. James Thivierge spoke about his decision to run for Mayor this coming election. He spoke about: the newspaper article on July 6, 2017 that amended the school budget, having the highest tax rate in the area and his involvement with the city.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Reese spoke about the following:

- School website – new website - will be having 3 – 2 hour webinar for training purposes for the staff
- Superintendent Conferences – will be attending tomorrow – APS has been asked to co-present SEL while integrating with the state – covering strategies and local prospect. Lyn Jacques & Elizabeth McAndrews will also be presenting at the booked auditorium.

B. Report of the Director of Finance and Operations

Joan Liporto spoke about the following:

- Closed out FY17 last week – thank you Jim Lynch and staff – feeling positive. Concern with SPED tuition – Mary Houde is optimistic because of the Circuit Breaker is higher and the Governor approved the budget today.
- FY18 budget – had some glitches – but all-in-all is fine

Discussion:

Mrs. Sherwood asked why there was not enough money to pre-pay tuition. Mrs. Liporto stated that there was not enough money appropriated at the time, but will be in good shape to begin the year.

Mr. Hoyt thanked Mrs. Liporto for her hard work and working with all the staff. Will be in a better place next year.

Mr. Wheeler asked about the Governor's budget and what that looked like with Early College. Mrs. Liporto stated that she is not sure at this time, but will keep everyone posted.

IV. COMMUNICATION

A. SAC Report – Michael Gonthier

Michael has no report at this time. Ms. LaValley stated that in December there will be a joint meeting.

B. Other - none

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of Minutes: 6/19/2017

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to approve the regular minutes dated June 19, 2017.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

B. Approval of Warrants: \$302,233.68 (6/22/2017)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the Warrant dated June 22, 2017 in the amount of \$302,233.68. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

\$210,652.96 (6/30/2017)

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Wheeler to accept the Warrant dated June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$210,652.96. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

\$54,952.21 (6/30/2017)

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood to accept the Warrant dated June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$54,952.21. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Mrs. Sherwood asked about the warrants and not everyone has to approve them. Ms. LaValley stated that there will be a discussion on warrants at the August workshop.

A. Superintendent Evaluation

Mrs. Sherwood spoke about the Evaluation process and thanked committee members for their quick responses. Dr. Reese's overall evaluation on his three goals is Proficient. Mrs. Sherwood stated that she was happy with the process, excellent job and pleased with the year. She went over some of the comments from the members that were shared with Dr. Reese:

- Leadership; challenges were handled gracefully; amazing work with finances; student services; schools are on a good path; working outside of schools, gone above and beyond; focus on individual buildings, website, SEL process; development of the curriculum, watched and measured; moving forward – work on capital planning.

Discussion:

Mr. Hoyt thanked Mrs. Sherwood on her new role and the huge effort.

Mrs. Marinopoulos commented that this was her second year, great process, stating that each person is unique.

Dr. Reese thanked the committee for the process and stated that the feedback is very helpful. Moving forward into next year, will be meeting individually with the members.

B. 2017-2018 School Committee Calendar

Ms. LaValley spoke about the School Committee calendar as presented. She suggested that the January 2nd date be moved to January 8th because of the inauguration. This would also move the second January meeting date to January 22nd. All members agreed. No need to vote on.

C. 2017-2018 School Calendar Adjustment

Dr. Reese spoke about the community event happening the weekend of September 22nd at Landry Stadium (Country Music Festival). For safety reasons, he is recommended that the October 4th PRT day be moved to September 22nd. Ms. LaValley was concerned with the sports calendar. Dr. Reese stated that Mr. Gearin is looking into that.

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the 2017-2018 School Calendar adjustment as presented. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

D. AIHS Lease – Results of RFP

Joan Liporto stated that the RFP was developed and received 1 proposal from 77 Elm which met the requirements. She spoke about the build-out costs and the conversations of who is responsible for what (landlord versus tenant).

Mrs. Sherwood spoke about moving forward – get clarity on who is responsible for the build-outs and the need to have a discussion with the present owners and come up with plan B. Mrs. Sherwood asked who was responsible for handling negotiations. Dr. Reese stated that Eryn, Joan and himself will be handling the money piece.

No action was taken at this time on the RFP.

E. Capital Projects Funding

Mrs. Sherwood spoke about moving forward on capital projects and being pro-active versus re-active. She reviewed what the city has for the schools, 5-year plan – CES roof, irrigation, security cameras. Need to discuss, monitor and inventory what is on the plan and keep up with it. There is a need for a facility person moving forward.

Mrs. Marinopoulos stated that the figures that we have for the CES roof is outdated. The capital projects need to drive it not monitor it. She stated the need to bring this to our workshop for further discussion.

Ms. LaValley stated the need for a facilitator moving forward. Capital projects will need to be discussed at the workshop and see how to move forward. Dr. Reese will put out some dates for the workshop in August to members.

Mr. Wheeler asked about the approved money and has the work been started. Mrs. Liporto stated that technology is all set; has a quote on the water heater, need to move forward; will need to put the roof out to bid; working on quotes for security cameras.

F. Supplemental Funding Request

Mrs. Sherwood stated that this discussion is not necessary at this time.

At this time the Mayor arrived (getting the times mixed up), Mrs. Sherwood asked the Mayor to comment on Capital projects for the schools and the shortage of \$50,000. Mayor Gray stated that there was a misunderstanding with City Council on the allocation of monies. Will need to go back to City Council at the September meeting for the additional \$50,000. At this time, he has a verbal from Councilor Scorzoni for the additional money.

Mrs. Sherwood stated that there were things to figure out, vans to replace; roof repairs, security. There is a need to prioritize projects, moving forward. She went on to state that the SPED vans situation is a perfect example.

Ms. LaValley stated that this will be an agenda item at the summer workshop in August, need to be proactive not reactive.

Mayor Gray stated that this is the third year of funded program.

Mrs. Sherwood stated that the Capital Projects have been pushed into the regular budget, need a line item to pay.

Mayor Gray took over as Chair.

G. Charitable Donation Acceptance: Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation for Windrush Farms Therapeutic Riding Program - \$2,500

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the donation from the Institution for Savings in the amount of \$2,500 for the Windrush Farms Therapeutic Riding Program. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Newburyport Five Cents Savings Charitable Foundation for Windrush Farms Therapeutic Riding Program - \$2,000

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept the donation from the Newburyport Five Cents Savings in the amount of \$2,000 for the Windrush Farms Therapeutic Riding Program.

Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance/Budget Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Ms. LaValley stated that they met prior reviewing the following with Joan Liporto

- FY17 close out and opening FY18
- AIHS lease
- SPED vans – look at lease options for 1 van, repairs are not feasible
- AHS advisors
- Landry Stadium – ticket price, management not meeting with us. Met with Joint Ed committee discussion on 25% of gate fees going toward maintenance, recommending that the \$1.00 per ticket be suspended at this time.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to suspend the \$1.00 per ticket at Landry Stadium at this time. Discussion: Mr. Wheeler asked if we can do that. Ms. LaValley stated that there is no Management at this time. Mayor Gray stated that Landry is still an enterprise and that this would be premature to take money away. Mr. Hoyt suggested putting this on the agenda for the next Joint Ed meeting. Mrs. Sherwood was concerned with adding this to the schools. Mr. LaValley withdrew her motion.

2. Policy Subcommittee – Peter Hoyt

Meeting tomorrow

3. Personnel Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

Meeting July 20th at 2:45 – closed door – discussion on the schedule

4. Strategic Plan Subcommittee – Amy Sherwood

No updates

5. Joint Education Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Reaching out to meet in August

6. Building and Grounds Subcommittee – Deb LaValley

Met last week – discussion on RFP and Capital Projects

7. AES School Building Committee – Nick Wheeler
Meeting August 14th

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Snow Day Alternative – Blizzard Bags (August 14)**
- B. Special Education funding Workshop (TBD)**
- C. Fees (transportation, athletics, building use, South Hampton, preschool, lunch) (TBD)**
- D. Landry Stadium (TBD)**

Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM. Vote: Unanimous, Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary