

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE 1C – LONG-RANGE PLANNING
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: March 26, 2024

Time: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Location: Amesbury High School, Superintendent's office

Present: Mayor Gove; Elizabeth McAndrews; Greg Noyes; Kurt Mansperger; Abigail Jurist Levy; David King, Abrahams Group (joining remotely)

Call to order: 9:03

A. Review Abrahams Group report

The final report was not available, but David King presented detailed cost/savings calculations associated with closing Cashman, moving Cashman students to the middle school, and moving the 7th and 8th grades from the middle school to the high school. Moving AIHS to the high school and moving the administration to other potential locations was also discussed.

Key takeaways:

1. Roughly, just under \$1M would be saved by the moves described above, excluding any moves for AIHS and administration.
2. No savings if only the 8th grade is moved to the high school
3. Only significant savings to moving AIHS is the lease
4. Once the 7th and 8th grades moved to the high school, there would not be sufficient space in the high school for AIHS
5. Putting AIHS in the middle school would require major renovations to one of the gyms for classroom space. This would eliminate 2 gyms (CES and AMS) from use by students and the public.

Key considerations:

1. Closing Cashman removes a gym that the public uses
2. Scheduling challenges, safety risks, and potential opportunities related to integrating middle and high school students, e.g., there is limited physical capacity for non-core academic subjects such as phys ed, music, art, etc., so scheduling classes to accommodate various grades will be a challenge. Some classes may benefit from combining high school and middle school students, e.g., chorus; while other classes will not be appropriate, e.g., health.
3. Teachers will have to learn to share classrooms rather than have one classroom as their "own," as they do now. The significance of the cultural changes for teachers shouldn't be overlooked.
4. Many of these changes require impact bargaining
5. We may consider a staggered start

6. Would it be possible to negotiate a 1-year lease for AIHS to buy more time?
7. Districts/charter schools grades 7-12: Boston Latin, Georgetown¹ - what can we learn from them?
8. Can the AIHS approach be revised so it is less costly while maintaining its purpose and impact?
9. Will DESE approval be needed for these grade moves?
10. Dave King reports that Holbrook built a K-12 school, DESE was skeptical but the school was built.

10:02 – Elizabeth departs

A possible phased in approach was discussed

10:13 – Kurt departs

A phased in approach was sketched out:

Phase 1 – move CES to AMS; move 7th and 8th grades to AHS. Move central office to AIHS (AIHS appears to have sufficient space, this will have to be confirmed) or other swing space, and negotiate one-year lease for AIHS

Phase 2 – Locate and build out new space for central office, implement new AIHS ed plan within AHS (?)

Next steps:

1. Kurt will meet with former fundraiser colleague
2. Elizabeth and Mayor will talk with Gardner superintendent re 7-12 high school
3. Elizabeth will investigate the nature/extent of DESE involvement in proposed changes

Motion to approve minutes of 2/27/24 meeting: Greg Noyes

Second: Abigail Jurist Levy

Unanimous

Next meeting: April 11, 3:30

Motion to adjourn: Greg Noyes

Second: Abigail Jurist Levy

¹ Other schools/districts that have high schools with grades beyond 9-12: Harvard, Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School, Mt Greylock, Burlington, Lenox, Francis Parker Charter Essential School, Berlin-Boylston, Salem Academy Charter, Worcester, South Deerfield, Monomoy Regional, Barnstable, Hopedale, West Boylston, Billerica, Hadley, Dennis-Yarmouth, Hatfield, Lee, Westhampton, Southern Berkshire, Wareham, West Bridgewater, Hudson, Taunton, Fitchburg, Weymouth, Avon, Westport, Greenfield, Uxbridge, Holbrook, Springfield, Palmer, Ware, Mohawk Trail Public Schools, Narragansett, Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, Millbury, Pioneer Valley, East Bridgewater, Ralph C Mahar Regional School, Bellingham, Granby, New Bedford, North Brookfield, Gardner, Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District, Carver Public, Oxford Public, North Adams, Hoosac Valley Regional School District, Monson Public Schools, Lynn Public Schools, Chicopee Public Schools, Bellingham Public Schools

Unanimous

10:45 – Meeting adjourned