



# AMESBURY

CITY HALL  
62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913

## AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2023 at 3:30pm

Present were Maryann Welch (Chair), Abigail Jurist Levy and Lyn Jacques.

Ms. Welch called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

### **Approve minutes from December 20, 2022, meeting.**

*Approved unanimously.*

### **Teaching and Learning Updates**

- “Student in Good Standing” Update: Each student not in “good standing” has a plan which is individualized with goals. Every parent has been called if their child is no longer in “good standing”. The school makes opportunities during the school day to support the “good standing” goal(s) and/or improve scores. Ms. Jacques doesn’t currently have numbers, but she will reach out to AMS leadership to identify how many students are not in “good standing”. If the student does not achieve “good standing” before a field trip, the student will have other activities provided for them.
- Leadership Learning Walks: During the walks, leadership briefly observes teachers and discusses what good teaching looks like to calibrate the district’s teacher evaluation process. The observations are short snapshots that occur about once a month and are not evaluative for the teacher. The leadership team often uses “lenses” to reflect on a key area during the walk and practices creating evaluation write-ups together.
- Literacy Grant: Ms. Jacques did a learning walk for the K-2 grant on Wit and Wisdom, Geodes, Foundations and Specialists, as well as a walk to observe interventions during WIN time. Teachers have the opportunity to be a part of a Kilpatrick book club, receive training, and attend conferences.
- Cross-curricular instruction in the Elementary Schools: Ms. Donais (math coach) and Ms. Dupere (reading specialist) worked with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade science team on a prosthetics lesson to combine Wit and Wisdom and PLTW. In addition, a grade is working on a unit on climate and national disasters with the support of a staff member from NBC News and Bruce McBrien to complete a science and technology cross-content activity.
- Budget considerations: The district staff are meeting with principals and specialists to gather budget needs. They are making projections, gathering information, reviewing grants, and planning to move curriculum expenses from the Department of Teaching and Learning budget lines to the school specific budget lines. There is a concern that once ESSER III is gone (September 30, 2024), the district will not have the funds to support all of the staff paid with ESSER monies.
- ELL: ELL teacher will be retiring this year. ELL needs are increasing, and current needs will be split between two schools next year (Shay and CES). Expect budget increase in this area.
- Math MTSS: Go Math is the district’s standard program now. The district plans to run an Illustrative Mathematics pilot in Fall 2023 for 3-5 grades. They will have a choice of online or paper materials with a pilot cost of \$9000. They hope to use ESSER III funds for the pilot. ST

Math materials will likely be available midyear for a pilot. Eureka (Great Minds) have virtual training online and Pentucket and Newburyport use it. Ms. Jacques will reach out to those districts for their thoughts.

- Title I funds: The funds used to be divided equally between the two elementary schools; however, now current requirements are to divide them using per pupil need. This may change slightly the Title I staff hours per school.
- Elementary report card: There is a mockup for the Kindergarten standards-based report card. During the February professional development, the report card will be shared and training will be provided.

### **Spotlight: Early Literacy Grant and Committee**

*The subcommittee approved unanimously to accept Ms. Jacques nomination of the Early Literacy Grant and Committee for an upcoming spotlight.*

**Other:** The subcommittee discussed the need to talk to our legislators and ask for support. There will be no subcommittee meeting next month since it falls during the vacation week. In March, the subcommittee plans to review the Dibels data.

*Dr. Jurist Levy moved to adjourn at 4:29pm, seconded by Ms. Welch. Approved by unanimous consent.*

Next meeting will be March 21<sup>st</sup>. Following meetings: May 16 and Jun 20