

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

September 3, 2020

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This meeting was conducted under the 'Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20', signed on March 12, 2020.

The public was able to dial into the meeting using their phones by calling  
(872) 240-3412 Access Code: 410-322-117

Present at 5:00 p.m. were Maryann Welch (Chair), Peter Hoyt, Abigail Jurist Levy and the Director of Teaching and Learning, Lyn Jacques.

Ms. Welch called the meeting to order at 5:02pm and the meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.

- **Approve minutes from July 20, 2020 meeting:** *Minutes were approved by Ms. Welch and Mr. Hoyt. Dr. Jurist Levy abstained since she was new to the subcommittee.*
- **New Teacher Induction Program**
  - Nine new teachers participated. Instead of a three-day training it was cut to one day. Usually they have an additional day of technology training and a day in their building with their mentors. Due to CoVid, the building time was cut and the technology training took place during the first 10 days of Professional Development. The teachers did learn about Google Classroom, TeachPoint, AEFI, and meet their mentors. However, the personal touches like the tour of the city was cancelled. The majority of the new teachers are Tier 2 (teachers from other districts that require less mentor time). Tier I teachers must have monthly meetings and met with their mentor 50+ hrs.
- **Professional Development During the First Ten Days**
  - Lyn Jacques said some of the online trainings were “a disaster with just teachers”. Amesbury Schools technology infrastructure is poor and was unable to support the number of teachers online in the buildings. The district had been told that the city was looking into doubling their broadband but they haven’t heard any update. Tim Costello said the district may only have the capacity to have 50 teachers stream at a time. The Superintendent plans to look into the “capacity” and talk to John Dubuc. AHS has a better infrastructure compared to the elementary schools because it is a new building. The secondary schools have already completed the School Brains training. The elementary schools will have their School Brains training on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. The Wit & Wisdom training was a success because most elementary staff worked from home and connectivity was better. The teachers have expressed concern that poor connectivity may look poorly on them when school resumes. After last Friday, AMS staff were able to choose to work remote or come in-person due to a staff member testing positive for CoVid. Teachers have been provided trainings on Newsela and Google Classroom. The improved Google Classroom now has the ability to create breakout groups. Mr. Mather, from the AFD, was supposed to provide a safety training but the presentation was delayed due to the presentation needing to be approved by the Board of Health.

Common planning times have been occurring since remote lessons take a long time to create. Ms. Jacques said professional development has been a heavy schedule, the content has been good, and the teachers will be ready. Questions not answered: Can we assess the capacity before students come in? Do we need to relook at the MOU to reduce staff working from within the school during remote to improve connectivity?

- **Improvements in Remote Learning**

- All teachers will be using the same platform, Google Classroom, except for students at AES in grades PreK-2. Only teacher announcements will be in the Google Classroom stream. Weekly schedules will be provided to parents. There are Google experts at each school for tech support. The district is making common expectations for teacher use on Google Classroom and communication expectations. There has been professional development and all apps have been vetted. Teachers will be available online all day. Ms. Jacques didn't know if the number of clicks for assignments was streamlined. Ms. Jacques is on a listserv with Asst. Superintendents and she has collected good ideas from that community.
- Parent concerns for delayed class lists was discussed. Ms. Jacques stated it was due to the transition to School Brains, and the constant reorganization of class lists due to parents requesting their students to stay in remote learning all year, parents unenrolling students (14), the district homeschool numbers doubling (60), and teachers requesting leave. At this time, Ms. Jacques said that there are enough students who will be remaining remote to create an "all remote classroom" at each grade level.

- **Fall Assessments**

- The district will perform MAP assessments three times this year. The State has discouraged districts from assessing students until October but MAP assessments can be done remotely. The district is looking into adding the MAP Reading Fluency assessment. Dibels will be used in the lower grades but must be in-person. Title I will be using last winter's data and "at risk" designated students considered non-participants to determine who qualifies for Title I services. Dr. Jurist Levy stated she received a document stating that DeVos said MCAS will be administered this year and will forward the document. AMS will be using end-of-year math assessments and a writing rubric. AHS will be using pre-assessments in all classes.

- **Spotlight Policy Update/Revision**

- Ms. Welch stated the Policy Subcommittee sent back the Spotlight policy because they want it to be separate from the form. Ms. Welch will delete the form, make no changes to the proposed policy, and send back to Policy.
- Ms. Welch ask Ms. Jacques if any other policies or funds should be advocated for by the subcommittee. Ms. Jacques said to advocate for continued professional development for remote learning, focusing on how to deliver good instruction and to build remote learning tools. Dr. Jurist Levy asked how the Meet and Greets and hands-on learning will take place. Ms. Jacques said those topics are still being worked on.

Next Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting planned for Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

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**Amesbury Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Goal**

To serve as a conduit between the School Committee, School Personnel, and Community and ensure that student achievement is the schools' utmost priority. The subcommittee will...

- Regularly review the progress and products of the Teaching and Learning Department
  - Recommend spotlight presentations to share academic successes
  - Advocate for specific policy and budgetary needs that support curriculum, instruction, and accountability
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