

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
October 7, 2019**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Tim Kisieleski, Robert Lavoie, Joseph Mroszczyk, Alice Dragnea (SAC), Joan Liporto, and Jared Fulgoni, Superintendent of Schools.

Amesbury Public Schools 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.

This meeting will be broadcast live on ACTV and will also be recorded.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Ms. LaValley led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

II. Comments by Visitors and Delegations

One community member and retired teacher advocated for a fair contract for the teachers and administrators of the district. Another community member requested that the results of the recent investigation be released. Another community member shared concerns about financial literacy education, summer student services, capital repairs, and goals for the superintendent.

Comments were closed at 7:17 pm.

III. Presentations and Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fulgoni introduced the new Director of Facilities, Matthew Bennett. Matt will help us get a plan in place for our facilities – the district has been without this position for a number of years. The Superintendent also acknowledged Norm Fredette and thank him for his work. Ms. LaValley recommend that committee draft a letter in recognition of his extra work and enter it into his personnel file.

B. Amesbury Middle School Turnaround Update

Michael Curry, Principal of Amesbury Middle School will share an update on the progress of the AMS turnaround. The team spent approximately 40-60 hours to get plan set up and in place. The Turnaround plan is posted on the AMS site.

Mr. Hoyt offered congratulations to Mr. Curry, the team, staff, faculty and students for the difference so far and their efforts. All materials will be made accessible for faculty

and staff. They plan to have the first school culture survey in the spring. Mr. Curry is having conversations with AES and CES principals and sharing the information with all of the schools. The Superintendent shared that Dr. Catarius has been coordinating professional development with common themes throughout the district – instruction, rigor, best practices, etc.

C. MCAS 2019 Results

Lyn Jacques, Director of Teaching and Learning, shared results of our 2019 MCAS testing. She shared an overview of the MCAS terminology and testing process and that Amesbury exceeded the state average in almost all of the achievement areas. Mr. Hoyt asked if, in anticipation of budget season, there is need for a program at AMS for non-traditional learners. Dr. Catarius shared that the high needs is a very diverse group, with very different needs (state now groups high needs together), inclusive practices, co-teaching, technology. Mr. Curry shared that the addition of a social worker at AMS has helped tremendously.

D. SAC Report

Alice Dragnea, a senior at AHS, is the president of Student Advisory Council. SAC is still recruiting new members. They are looking for one junior and three freshmen. They have a meeting with Mrs. McAndrews to discuss their plans for this year.

IV. Communications

A. Other

Ms. LaValley read a statement from former Mayor Thatcher Keezer supporting the AES building project – “we need to support their future, not hold on to our past.”

The second annual AEFI Pub Crawl was held on September 28 and was another successful event.

Invitation from Jenn Donais for STEM Week event on October 23. AMS students presenting at the STEM Week event.

IV. Items for Approval or Early Consideration

A. Approval of Minutes: 09/09/2019

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Mroszczyk to approve the minutes dated September 9, 2019. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrants:

09/12/2019	\$303,636.28
09/26/2019	\$382,321.78
10/10/2019	\$274,259.50 – BL RC un

Motion by Mr. Lavoie, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the warrant in the amount of \$303,636.28 dated September 12, 2019. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to approve the warrant in the amount of \$382,321.78 dated September 26, 2019. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Lavoie, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to approve the warrant in the amount of \$274,259.50 dated October 10, 2019. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

C. Acceptance of Gift:

The Committee is asked to accept a gift of a baby grand piano from Mr. Greg Jardis for the Amesbury Middle School. Estimated value: \$6,000. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt will be incurring the cost of moving the piano. An acknowledgement will be sent on behalf of the School Committee.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to accept this gift of a baby grand piano for the AMS music program. Vote: Yes, unanimous

The Committee is asked to accept a donation of \$ 2,500 from the Newburyport Bank Charitable Foundation for the AHS therapeutic riding program at Windrush Farm. An acknowledgement will be sent on behalf of the School Committee.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Mroszczyk to accept the gift of \$2,500 to support the AHS therapeutic riding program at Windrush Farm. Vote: Yes, unanimous

D. MASC Delegate and alternate for Delegate Assembly

Ms. LaValley stated that she will be in attendance for a portion of the meeting and will put the resolutions from the Assembly on the agenda for the November School Committee meeting. Other committee members will check availability to attend.

E. Second Reading – Bullying Prevention Policy (Updated August 2019)

Mr. Hoyt brought this policy and shared the changes to this document at the September 9 meeting. These changes bring it in line with DESE policies and requirements. Updated policy will be posted on district and school websites as soon as possible.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept this policy as a second reading. Vote: Yes – unanimous.

F. First Reading of Proposed Policies:

Social Media Policy

Mr. Hoyt shared that the Policy Subcommittee has been discussing it for some time. The policy presented is a compilation of policies used by other districts. Mr. Mroszczyk has reviewed and had questions on items d and e. He suggested we strike d and e.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, to suspend the rules to continue the meeting past 9:00 pm. Vote: Yes – unanimous

Based on the feedback received, members of SAC will attend Policy committee meeting on October 15. It was suggested that the policy should include that coaches/teachers should not be using social media to communicate at all.

Technology Usage Policy

Mr. Mroszczyk asked for clarification on some items including section b, items #1 and #2 and Section c item #5. He suggested that we be sure that everything is very clearly written.

V. Informational Items

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance Subcommittee:

The Subcommittee has had two meetings since last School Committee meeting. Mr. Chamberlain shared the following updates:

- FY19 closed even
- Did get extraordinary relief from circuitbreaker and got additional funds (\$220k)
- School Choice numbers are positive
- Revolving accounts wiped out
- FY20 budget – good so far, not in a freeze, in a good financial position;
- Enrollment/enrollment changes – enrollment has dropped again; need to ask the question of those leaving
- SPED – doing okay right now
- Capital priorities – Buildings and Grounds are updating master list and will add technology updates to that
- Discussed late bus – received information that it is about \$75/day. The Superintendent will get feedback from Mr. Curry

Motion made by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Ms. LaValley for budget transfers in the amount of \$301,038 (mostly salary lines). Vote: Yes, unanimous

2. Personnel Subcommittee:

Contract negotiations continue. The subcommittee will meet again on October 15 at 5 pm.

3. Buildings/Grounds Subcommittee:

Mr. Kisielecki shared that the subcommittee had met. They met the new Director of Facilities. Mr. Bennett will come up with a prioritized capital list to present by early November.

4. Policy Subcommittee:

The subcommittee met on August 26 and will meet again on October 15 at 4 pm to review the Social Media and Technology Usage policies. A Fundraising policy will also be reviewed.

5. Curriculum Subcommittee:

The subcommittee will meet after the new year when new School Committee members are elected.

6. Joint Ed Subcommittee:

The subcommittee will meet on December 9.

B. School Building Committee Report:

Mr. Hoyt shared the final community forum on September was well attended. The goal was to provide the citizens with detailed and accurate information so that they can make an informed decision at the poll on October 8. He was pleased with DiNisco and their communications.

VII. Future Meetings/Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on November 4, 2019. Subcommittees and other meetings will be held on the following dates:

1. AES School Building Committee – October 10, 2019 at 4:00 pm
2. Policy Subcommittee – October 15, 2019 at 4:00 pm
3. Personnel Subcommittee Executive Session/contract negotiations – October 15, 2019 @ 5 pm
4. Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee – November 13, 2019 at 8 am
5. Joint Ed Subcommittee – December 9, 2019 at 6 pm in Bank Room
6. Finance Subcommittee – November 4, 2019 at 6 pm.

VIII. Executive Session

Mayor Gray motioned to go into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21 (a) (3) to conduct strategy session in preparation for collective bargaining with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 93, AFL-CIO, Local 939 representing Cafeteria Employees as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee, as declared by the chair.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mayor Gray – yes
 Ms. LaValley – yes
 Mr. Hoyt – yes
 Mr. Chamberlain – yes
 Mr. Kisielecki – yes
 Mr. Lavoie – yes
 Mr. Mroszczyk – yes

Executive Session entered at 9:24 pm.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting will adjourn from Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Kenneth C. Gray, Chair