

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
November 4, 2019**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Deb LaValley, *Vice Chair*, Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Tim Kisieleski, Robert Lavoie, Joseph Mroszczyk, Evi Ratner (VP of SAC), Joan Liporto, and Jared Fulgoni, Superintendent of Schools. Absent with notice: Mayor Gray

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

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

II. Comments by Visitors and Delegations

One community member shared her desire to the new elementary school building to be names after Sergeant Shay and requested to be informed of the process for making a request. Another community member, Ms. Marinopoulos, requested that the district release the report from the recent investigation about a public records release. She presented a check to Ms. Liporto for the cost.

Comments were closed at 7:06 pm.

III. Presentations and Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fulgoni introduced Jenn Donais, the Math Coach at AMS who gave a presentation on the work she is doing in the district on STEM initiatives, Digital Literacy and Project Lead the Way. The middle school held its first STEM fair and the top four projects went to the STEM Showcase in Boston. A group of 6th and 8th grade students from AMS participated in the STEM week challenge. She is working to integrate project-based learning into our curriculum through lessons that are very engaging and hands on. Project Lead the Way has been around for about 20 years. The cost to districts is minimal and it can provide great learning opportunities for the students. The School Committee asked that some of the students that Jenn has been working with present at an upcoming meeting.

B. Finance Update

Joan Liporto, Director of Finance and Operations, shared an update on the status of the district budget. The District budget is on target as planned. We have 44 Special

Education out placements and a growing PreK population. We may need to add PreK services. Our new facilities director is doing great and has been working hard to get updated information on facilities priorities. Overall our revenues are up – approximately \$500,000. We received more Circuit Breaker funding than we had in the budget; Choice In is up to 70; South Hampton tuition is up 30 students; transportation participation and collections are up. We are looking at adding a late bus at AMS – the principal is doing a survey to see if there is interest. We won't have updated food services revenue numbers until early December.

C. Special Education Update

Dr. Lynn Catarius, Director of Special Education, shared enrollment, achievement and program updates related to Special Education in Amesbury. Dr. Catarius shared a focus statement for the Special Education department. There have been 22 new move-in students with special education needs (some through School Choice), 6 of these require placements. We have an increase in PreK special education and will be adding a PreK classroom which will be housed in CES. Dr. Catarius shared that our students with disabilities are passing in three of four MCAS categories but there is still a large gap in the average scaled score between all students and students with disabilities.

It was asked how school choice works for students with disabilities. If we have openings in that grade, we must accept the student. If the student has disabilities, we do receive additional funding from the sending district. The committee requested that Dr. Catarius send to them an additional breakdown of the MCAS results and that she put presentation up on the District's Special Education webpage.

D. SAC Report

Evi Ratner, current Vice President of Student Advisory Council, filled in for Alice Dragnea. SAC is working with Principal McAndrews on class scheduling, especially as it relates to Flex days. They will be sending a survey to students and teachers for input by the end of November. Flex was originally introduced as a time for students to get extra help and still is but now is also used for other things such as homework or relaxing.

IV. Communications

A. Other

Mr. Hoyt shared information about the building Naming Policy. He read the policy and noted that the Policy Subcommittee would review it and talk about a process for accepting proposals. The Superintendent shared that typically a number of proposals are entertained and it is not as much about how soon we do this but the process that we use to choose a name for the new school building. We would establish a period of open time for nomination submissions and then the policy subcommittee will review all submissions. The Superintendent suggested that the committee be very thoughtful and purposeful in this process and not rush it.

The Superintendent shared that the city was awarded a grant for the Amesbury Public Schools for funding to help support cybersecurity training assessment and tools.

IV. Items for Approval or Early Consideration

A. Approval of Minutes: 10/07/2019

Motion by Mr. Lavoie, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to approve the minutes dated October 7, 2019. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. Approval of Warrants: 10/24/2019 \$407,675.96

Motion by Mr. Kisielecki, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to approve the warrant in the amount of \$407,675.96 dated October 24, 2019. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

C. Acceptance of Gift:

The Committee is asked to accept a gift from the Richard A. Eaton Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Amesbury High School Athletics User Fees Fund to provide financial assistance for the current academic year to students whose families are experiencing financial hardship. An acknowledgement will be sent on behalf of the School Committee.

Motion by Mr. Mroszczyk, seconded by Mr. Lavoie to accept the gift of \$5,000 to support the AHS Athletics User Fees Fund by providing financial assistance to students whose families are experiencing financial hardship. Vote: Yes, unanimous

D. 2019-2020 School Year Calendar Amendment

The Committee is asked to amend the 2019-2020 school year calendar by changing the date of the March 13, 2020 professional development day to March 5, 2020 to accommodate the Presidential Primary election.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to amend the 2019-2020 school year calendar by changing the date of the March 13, 2020 professional development day to March 5, 2020 to accommodate the Presidential Primary election. Vote: Yes – unanimous.

E. Second Reading of Proposed Policies:

Social Media Policy and Acceptable Use Policy (formerly Technology Usage)

Mr. Hoyt thanked Mr. Mroszczyk for his research on the policies.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Kisielecki to accept both policies as second reading.

Further discussion:

It was suggested that some of the language be changed (resources, assets, etc). The question was raised about how School Committee members are part of the policies. Mr. Chamberlain shared that he still had a number of concerns about the policy and was not prepared to move forward with it.

Mr. Hoyt withdrew his motion to accept both policies as second reading. He requested all feedback from committee members prior to the next Policy Subcommittee meeting on November 18, 2019, stating that he would like both added to the agenda for the December 2, 2019 meeting.

V. Informational Items

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance Subcommittee:

The subcommittee has not met; the next meeting will be held on December 2 at 6 pm.

2. Personnel Subcommittee:

Contract negotiations continue. The subcommittee will meet again on November 12 at 12:30 pm.

3. Buildings/Grounds Subcommittee:

Mr. Kisieleski shared that the subcommittee had met on November 4. The new Director of Facilities, Matt Bennett, has presented a prioritized list of capital needs to the subcommittee. It is anticipated that the approximate cost of the priority items is \$10M. The subcommittee will meet again on November 18 at 4:30 pm. Mr. Kisieleski invited any new members elected on November 5 to attend the next meeting.

4. Policy Subcommittee:

The subcommittee will next review the language about fundraising/field trips as well as online fundraising in addition to the Social Media and Acceptable Use policies.

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 that the committee met on October 10 and will meet again on November 21.

VII. Future Meetings/Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on December 2, 2019. Subcommittees and other meetings will be held on the following dates:

1. Personnel Subcommittee Executive Session/contract negotiations – November 12, 2019 at 12:30 pm
2. Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee – November 18, 2019 at 4:30 pm
3. Policy Subcommittee – November 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm
4. AES School Building Committee – November 21, 2019 at 4:00 pm
5. Finance Subcommittee – December 2, 2019 at 6:00 pm
6. Joint Ed Subcommittee – December 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm

The committee suggested the following future agenda items:

- Update from both AES and CES principal on full day Kindergarten
- Fall athletics update
- Joint meeting of School Committee with the full board of SAC (January/February)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Lavoie, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mayor Kenneth C. Gray, Chair