

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
September 9, 2019**

Present at 6:00 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 6:02 PM. Mr. Mroszczyk led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

Mayor Gray motioned to go into Executive Session M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a)(3) ("Purpose 3") to discuss strategy with respect to litigation when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body; and pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a)(7) ("Purpose 7") to comply with, or act under authority of, any general or special law, specifically the federal education records law (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), M.G.L. c. 71, §§34D and 34E and 603 CMR 23.07 (4) which exempt student record and education record information from disclosure to third parties and also pursuant to M.G.L. c. 4, §7 (26)(c), which exempts from disclosure information the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a)(7) ("Purpose 7") to comply with, or act under authority of, any general or special law by receiving legal advice from counsel protected from disclosure under Massachusetts General Law, with the relevant citations of law for such attorney-client privilege being those cited above.

Roll call vote was taken:

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

Entered Executive session at 6:04 pm. Regular meeting will resume following Executive Sessions.

Meeting resumed at 6:47 pm.

II. Comments by Visitors and Delegations

One community member shared comments on the 2018 balance sheet and tax foreclosures. Another community member suggested that the committee have an email address set up for our SAC representative. It was also noted that our mission statement would suggest that we have no cut (athletics) policy.

Comments were closed at 6:53 pm.

III. Presentations and Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fulgoni shared that the Amesbury Public Schools had a smooth opening for the new school year. The new principal at AES is doing well. We opened school with 2009 students – down slightly from last year – with most of the attrition happening between 8th – 9th grades when students decide to attend vocational schools. The Superintendent suggested that the committee consider what we can do better to offer more options to our students so that we can keep them.

A committee member asked if there had been feedback on the new full day kindergarten program and the Superintendent shared that feedback had been very positive from both parents and teachers. Several committee members expressed concern about the number of students that leave the district and suggested that the families should receive a survey to help us determine what we can do to keep more students in Amesbury schools.

B. SAC Report

Alice Dragnea, a senior at AHS, is the president of Student Advisory Council. SAC is getting organized and will meet within the next two weeks. Elections are being held to add new members.

IV. Communications

A. Other

Mr. Hoyt shared that there is an episode of *Around Amesbury* on ACTV with Superintendent Fulgoni and Donna DiNisco having a factual discussion with the host about the AES Building Project.

Ms. LaValley shared that AEFI would be having their second annual pub crawl on Saturday, September 29. Tickets are available online at the AEFI website.

Mr. Mroszczyk asked if it would be possible to have regular updates on the progress of the AMS turnaround plan. The full plan as submitted to DESE will be posted on the middle school website. Ms. LaValley asked that there be a report out at the October meeting.

IV. Items for Approval or Early Consideration

A. Approval of Minutes: 08/09/2019

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Mroszczyk to approve the minutes dated August 19, 2019. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

B. First Reading – Bullying Prevention Policy (Updated August 2019)

Mr. Hoyt shared that the Director of Teaching and Learning had brought some changes to this document to the attention of the Policy Subcommittee. These changes bring it in line with DESE policies and requirements. Mr. Mroszczyk noted that DESE recommends that a school satisfaction survey be completed every four years.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt to move this policy to a second reading at the next meeting on October 7, 2019.

C. Approval of Student Handbooks for 2019-2020 School Year

Mr. Hoyt shared that the 2019-2020 Student Handbooks had minimal changes. It was suggested that beginning next year the absenteeism policy be included in the handbooks. This policy was updated recently and should be included.

Motion by Mr. Hoyt, seconded by Mr. Mroszczyk to accept the handbooks with thanks to building principals and officer personnel. Vote: Yes - 6; No - 1 (LaValley) Motion passes.

D. Appointment of representative to serve on the CREST Collaborative Board

Mayor Gray asked Superintendent Fulgoni if he would be willing to continue to serve in this capacity. The designee will be reviewed and designated annually.

Motion by Mr. Lavoie, seconded by Ms. LaValley to have Superintendent Fulgoni serve on the CREST Collaborative Board. Vote: Yes - unanimous

V. Informational Items

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance Subcommittee:

This subcommittee will meet on September 10 at 6 pm.

2. Personnel Subcommittee:

Contract negotiations continue. The subcommittee will meet again on September 24 at 5 pm.

3. Buildings/Grounds Subcommittee:

Mr. Kisieleski shared that a Director of Facilities had been hired and will be invited to the next subcommittee meeting, date to be determined.

4. Policy Subcommittee:

The subcommittee will meet on August 26 to review the Bullying Prevention policy, Field Trip policy, a social media/communications policy at all levels (students, staff, faculty, etc). The committee looked at MASC to review other district policies and it was very helpful to have input from John Dubuc and Tim Costello. The subcommittee will meet again on October 15 at 4 pm.

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 September 19.

B. School Building Committee Report:

Mr. Hoyt shared the MSBA unanimously approved the plan submitted. The final Community Forum will be held on September 30 and will be broadcast live. The next School Building Committee meeting will be held on October 10 after the debt exclusion vote on October 8.

VII. Future Meetings/Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on October 7, 2019. Subcommittees and other meetings will be held on the following dates:

1. Joint Ed Subcommittee – September 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm
2. Personnel Subcommittee Executive Session/contract negotiations – September 24, 2019
3. AES School Building Committee – October 10 @ 4 pm
4. AES School Building Committee Open Forum – September 19
5. Policy Subcommittee – October 15, 2019 at 4:00 pm
6. Curriculum Subcommittee – after new year
7. Buildings/Ground Subcommittee – TBD

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to adjourn at 7:22 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Kenneth C. Gray, Chair