

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
October 29, 2018**

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Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gray, Chair; Deb LaValley, Chair; Peter Hoyt, Rob Chamberlain, Gretchen Marinopoulos, Amy Sherwood, Joan Liporto, and Jared Fulgoni, Interim 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.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and Mr. Kisielewski led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Rod Walsh, AHS Guidance Counselor.

**II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

A number of community members including parents, residents, and city councilors spoke regarding their concerns about the AES school building project and the building site location recommended by the AES Building Committee. The following are concerns they expressed:

- Very appreciative of the work that has been done by both the Building Committee and the School Committee.
- Concern that there is not enough public support for the project at the CES site.
- Speakers expressed that there had not been enough transparency in the process.
- Questioned the effectiveness of doing a survey and indicated that the results of the survey should hold greater weight.
- Concern that having both schools on the same site created a safety issue.
- Requests to revote on grade configuration.
- What is the plan for the AES site if the CES site is used? No desire for it to become another Horace Mann.
- Concerns that traffic will be worse if we use the CES site and the belief that the traffic impact has been grossly underestimated in the studies provided.
- Many opportunities for cost overrun if the AES site is used – demo, abatement, and many other intangibles in the construction process.
- Request to reconsider using Woodsom for fields and access road.
- Concern about the safety of children if AES site is used as construction will be in very close proximity (not more than 10') to the children.
- Concern that some families may not be able to afford to stay in Amesbury if we build on the CES site.
- We need to keep wide, open green space.

- AES site build would be considerably longer and would run through four winters and it would be very difficult and expensive to take care of the construction site. Additionally, there is no laydown space for materials.
- Cost to use modular units for swing space would be around \$7M and there is not a viable location in town for them to be placed.

Mayor Gray thanked everyone for their feedback and closed this part of agenda.

Mr. Hoyt noted that any decision he has made while on the committee, has been made with children in mind first, last and always and he remains confident in his vote. Ms. LaValley indicated that she has relied on the research and information that has been provided to make her decision.

Discussion was held about the responsibility of the School Committee in the site selection process. There was also discussion about the process at MSBA and how that would affect the process if submission of the PDP was delayed. It was requested that copies of all presentations, meeting minutes, agendas, and reports/studies be posted on the School Building Committee website. There was discussion about the original intent for land use of Woodsom Farm. Concern was expressed about the fate of the AES property and what it would be used for in the future if the new school was built on the Cashman site.

Mrs. Marinopoulos made a motion to request a revote on the grade reconfiguration. This did not move forward as the motion must be made by someone that voted in favor of the change.

### **III. PRESENTATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **A. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Fulgoni, Interim School Superintendent, spoke about the following:

- Shared how he made a determination for his vote for the CES site. His decision was based on analysis of the information that was presented to the committee. He considered the cost and efficiency with which the funds are spent, safety of the students (active construction site within 10 feet of student areas), and overall analysis of the information that had been provided. This type of project stirs up a lot of emotion but decisions must be made based on the data available.
- There is a traffic report related to the AES project that will be posted on the website.

#### **B. Presentation by Donna DiNisco, DiNisco Design, Inc.**

- DiNisco reviewed the data provided to MSBA regarding the enrollment and the number of classrooms.
- The traffic report is 287 pages. The Committee requested that the full report be provided including traffic studies and transportation analysis.

### **IV. COMMUNICATION**

#### **A. Student Advisory Council**

No report was made.

**B. Other**

Mr. Hoyt shared that the 350<sup>th</sup> gala that was held on October 13 had a great turnout and was a wonderful evening.

Ms. LaValley reminded everyone about the AEFI Autumn Evening of Giving on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships will be awarded at this event. She also shared that the first AEFI Pub Crawl that was held on October 12 was very successful. The event was sold out; proceeds support AEFI and Alumni.

**V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

- A. Approval of Minutes: 10/01/18; 10/15/18**  
*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Sherwood to accept the School Committee minutes dated October 1, 2018. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 abstain (Sherwood).*

*Motion by Mr. Kisieleski, seconded by Ms. LaValley to accept the School Committee minutes dated October 15, 2018. Vote: 5 Yes, 2 abstain (Marinopoulos and Sherwood).*

- B. Approval of Warrants: 10/04/18 \$327,837.88**  
 10/25/18 \$397,830.07  
*Approval of warrants was moved to November 6, 2018 meeting.*

- C. MASC Resolutions, MASC delegate and alternate for Delegate Assembly**  
 Discussion held about availability to attend upcoming MASC conference. Ms. LaValley indicated that she would attend to represent our district.

- D. Gift Acceptance**  
*Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Marinopoulos to accept the gift from The Richard A. Eaton Charitable Foundation as per policy. Vote: Unanimous*

**VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. Subcommittee Meeting Schedule**  
 The proposed School Committee subcommittee meeting schedule was reviewed and the following was determined:

- Finance Subcommittee will meet monthly before the regular School Committee meeting.
- Policy Subcommittee will meet on November 26 at 4 pm. They plan to review two policy updates – JJE (Student Activity Accounts) and EFD (Meal Charge: delinquent accounts/collections).
- Personnel Subcommittee will be meeting frequently as we are going into contract negotiations. Next meeting is scheduled on November 7.

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

School Committee will meet again on November 6, 2018. Agenda items for future meetings:

Monthly meeting with Student Advisory Council – January

School psychiatric councils – December/January  
Attendance challenges – address at a future meeting

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Ms. LaValley seconded by Mr. Hoyt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07PM.*

*Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Marinopoulos", written over a horizontal line.

Gretchen Marinopoulos, Secretary