

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
June 30, 2015**

Present at 7:00 PM: Mayor Gray, Debra LaValley, Bonnie Schultz, Tom McGee, and Peter Hoyt

Absent - Christian Scorzoni (Arrived at 7:26); and Dr. Robinson

Mayor Gray, Chair; called the meeting to order at 7:03 and Tom McGee led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement aloud.

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. Executive Session: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21 (a) (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. *Superintendent*

Motion by the Chair to go into Executive session. Roll Call was taken. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

II. Return to Open Session:
Return from Executive Session to Open Session at 7:32PM

III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:
None

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

- A. 1. First Reading Domestic Violence Leave Policy GCCD**
Mrs. Schultz asked Mr. Scorzoni about the changes.

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Ms. LaValley to table the reading until the paper was located. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

- 2. Approval of AFT Amesbury Local 1033 Teachers and Nurses and maintenance and Facilities Technicians Contracts.**
Mr. McGee stated that the posting was an error for the union contracts and will vote on them at a special meeting on July 7, 2015 at 3:30. Mr. McGee apologized for the error.
- 3. Process for filling Superintendent Vacancy – Glenn Koocher, MASC**
Mr. Koocher, MASC Executive Director, approached the podium to discuss the process of filling the vacancy of Superintendent. He handed out a booklet regarding the process and planning for the transition to the committee members and a list of names/contact information of individuals who have indicated an interest in serving as interim superintendent.

Mr. Koocher indicated that the process can be broad or very specific depending on what the committee chooses.

- First, need to decide whether to fill the position as interim or permanent.
- If interim – less formal – need to conduct interviews in an open session not executive session – could potentially do the process within a week
- Can appoint from within the district which would mean immediate placement
- Can hire interim then begin to look for permanent placement. Should begin the permanent placement process in September/October with a goal of filling the position by April

Mr. Scorzoni asked what the pre-requisites were and if there are licensure to obtain – *Mr. Koocher stated that the Commonwealth can issue a temporary license if the applicant does not have one.*

Mr. Hoyt asked what the word was out in the Commonwealth regarding Amesbury's opening- *Mr. Koocher stated that there have been many inquiries, including two phone calls today.*

Ms. LaValley inquired about the list that Mr. Koocher handed the committee. She asked if a retired principal/superintendent could be employed full time. *Mr. Koocher explained that most have a cap and some restrictions. If needed, can petition DESE to waiver salary restrictions*

After much discussion the committee decided on the following:

- Will be looking at hiring an interim and launch a larger search in September for a permanent replacement.
- MASC will collect applications/resumes and tier them for the district.
- MASC will come up with a formal application
- Need to come up with 4-5 criteria for the posting.
- Need to interview in an open session and should look at interviewing 1-3 candidates – do not need to have a search committee.
- Can have posting up on the MASC & MASS sites by tomorrow if criteria's are determined.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mr. Hoyt to post an interim Superintendent position with MASC & MASS closing on July 14, 2015. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Motion by Ms. LaValley, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to have applications, resumes and statement of interest letters collected and tiered by MASC. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

After the above votes, the committee spoke about conducting interviews on July 20, 2015. Some of the members expressed concerns with the condensed timeline. The motions were then reconsidered after dates were discussed to the following motion.

Motion by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to post an interim Superintendent position with MASC & MASS with a closing date of July 14, 2015 by 4:00PM. Reviewing applications at the July 20, 2015 School Committee Meeting and interviewing at the July 27, 2015 School Committee meeting. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

The committee then reviewed criteria's and discussed their preferences. After much discussion, the committee voted on putting forth the following four criteria's for the posting:

- Strong curriculum instruction
- Strong budget management skills
- Knowledge of Educator Evaluation tool
- Demonstrates Leadership skills/interpersonal skills

Motion by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Ms. LaValley to included the above criteria's on the interim job posting for Amesbury Superintendent. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

Mr. Scorzoni stated that he felt that the answer is right in front of us. Deirdre Farrell has stated that she is interested in filling the interim position . She served as interim Superintendent in Newburyport in 2009-2010. She is familiar with Amesbury, Chapter 70 funding, budget process and has navigated pretty well this past year in Amesbury with staff and families. Mr. Scorzoni stated that, as Mr. Koocher said, there is flexibility, why look outside – giving Deirdre the wrong message by not speaking to her.

Mr. Hoyt commented on this being an open process and will welcome all applicants. He does respects where Mr. Scorzoni is coming from.

Ms. LaValley stated that the position is not posted yet.

Mrs. Schultz stated that she would like to go through the process. She felt that in the past with Dr. Chaurette and Mr. Jack, the committee received a lot of negative comments and feels that they should go through the process.

1. First Reading Domestic Violence Leave Policy GCCD

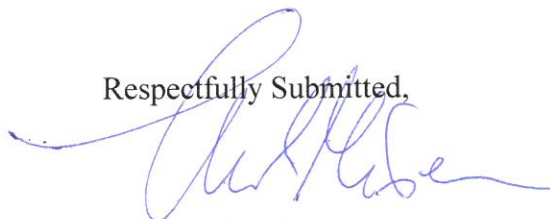
Mrs. Schultz stated that there are some changes in this policy and will have Carol send it out to the committee for the first reading.

V. PRESS CONFERENCE

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT – back into Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,



Tom McGee, Secretary