

MEETING MINUTES

AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Wednesday, February 12, 2025

5:00 p.m.

AMS Main Conference Room (“The Bubble”)

- Meeting came to order at 5:11 pm, once a quorum had been reached.
 - Present: Doug Nebel, Sean Toomey, Alicia Linsey, Pat Flaherty
 - Not Present: Olivia Anderson, Jim Queenan, Jim Sweeney
- Doug distributed copies of Strategic Objective #4 of the AMS School Improvement Plan, updated since the last meeting to include Actions, Benchmarks and Timeline descriptions. Doug posits to the groups that we should be looking at this Objective as an opportunity to trial ideas for community engagement this year, with the goal to officially adopt this Objective, with a full year plan, into the SIP for 25-26.
- Sean and Alicia discuss the notion of creating short videos on different topics, that families could access at any time - “vlogs” if you will. These should be quick and cover a variety of topics, allowing families to choose what interests them at any particular time. These could be archived on the new school/district website.
 - Doug reiterates that we hope to still be on schedule for the new website(s) to launch in March/April, although specific updates on this have not been discussed at recent Leadership Team meetings with Central Office.
 - Alicia talks about the opportunity for other school personnel to contribute vlogs on various topics: Counselors, EAST, Teacher Teams, Nursing, etc. This provides families access and connection to many more staff and groups in the building, and more opportunities for engagement.
 - Maybe even student videos?!
- Sean believes we should maintain one, overall email/vlog/communication each week, as this remains a valuable piece for families, with “quick hits” from other groups in the school during the week. Again, all of these can be archived on the website so families can go back to any messages they missed or want to check in on again.
- Discussion surrounding the frustrations of sending consistent communication on topics that some folks still don’t seem to pay attention to. Alicia suggests a family survey as the next step: let the families tell us how they prefer to receive information.
 - Deeper discussion of family surveys. Start with a simple survey as opposed to trying to add to our list of engagement ideas. Survey should be short, simple, to the point: What would engage you in the school? The first logical question: How engaged with the school do you feel now?

- o Alicia will create a draft survey and share with the Council prior to our next meeting. Will also ask for feedback: “If you could attend one event this spring, which would it be (out of a list of 3-4 suggestions).....
 - Doug asks the group about the annual “Celebration of Learning.” Alicia and Pat remembering that this used to be a wonderful event. Last year was a bit of a dud, with the interim principal not making it a priority.
 - Celebration of Learning in the elementary grades is vibrant. We should take a look and see what we can do about re-establishing this even for AMS in the spring. This will be one of the choices of events on the list mentioned above.
- Alicia and Doug bring up the grade 8 promotion ceremony/celebration. Previous controversies surrounding the use of Landry Stadium have led to this being controversial every year. Council agrees that the ceremony should be at Landry - Doug will investigate.
 - o Doug asks for opinions on a ceremony during the day v. in the evening. Alicia mentions that folks are used to an evening event that rolls right into a grade 8 dance.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2025, at 5:00 pm, at AMS.