

MEETING MINUTES

AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Wednesday, April 16, 2025

5:00 p.m.

AMS Main Conference Room (“The Bubble”)

- Meeting came to order at 5:04 pm.
 - Present: Doug Nebel, Alicia Linsey, Pat Flaherty, Olivia Anderson, Jim Queenan, Jim Sweeney
 - Not Present: Sean Toomey
- Doug provides an AMS update:
 - Roof work is all but complete. Metal trim and Gym windows (to be completed over April Break) are the last pieces.
 - Renovations have begun in the Performance Center. All chairs have been pulled out and old electrical equipment is being stripped out. Hopeful for a fall re-opening, but hedging that with a message of January 2026.
 - We have been approved to use the Stadium for the grade 8 celebration at the end of the year. This will be June 16, 5pm (Ceremony) and 6pm (Dance).
- Bryant Mitchell and student athletes have visited the 2nd grade to talk up Amesbury sports. Coach Bryant will also be visiting AMS to talk up sports at all three lunch periods soon.
- Discussion of a June Parent Night for current 5th graders (soon to be 6th graders for the fall). While an August evening is great and should still be on the books, it would be great to give folks a chance to learn about AMS in June - help calm the moving to the middle school jitters before the summer!
- Celebration of Learning
 - Scheduled: Thursday, May 29, 5-7 pm
 - Add a fundraising aspect to the evening? Make it a competition among the grades to add some excitement? Jim S will contact Our Neighbor’s Table to inquire.
 - While it is nice to have teachers in their classrooms, this is also an opportunity for teachers to visit other Teams and see the great work that has been going on around the building. We’d like to honor both of these during the evening.
 - Perhaps parents bring their students? This may prove more engaging for the families and allow the students to explain the assignments on display...to “show off” a bit for their parents.
 - Student volunteers in each classroom to explain to all visitors what the displayed assignments entailed and how the year has progressed?
 - Jim Q and Pat express that teachers need time to properly prepare for that evening...how can we provide that time prior to the event?
 - Staff Meeting time is suggested as there is a May 14 meeting on the calendar.
 - CPT time could also be provided in the week(s) leading up to May 29.

- o Should the Celebration of Learning be structured much like the Open House in the fall? Make these “bookend” events for the year?
- o Will the 8th grade Civics projects be completed and be able to be displayed at the Celebration of Learning? Doug does not believe so, but will inquire with Tia and Joe C.
- o The discussions continued and reached a point at which it was decided that a staff survey should be sent out (Doug), seeking opinions on how the Celebration of Learning should be structured. Staff will be offered the various ideas talked about tonight and can “vote” for the aspects of the event they would like to see built in. Doug will create this survey and send it out to staff to complete over the April Break.
- Discussion of potential awards at the grade 8 ceremony. Perhaps a return of the “Golden Eagle” awards? These focused on pure academic success and there has been talks in the District about creating awards that keep all students eligible to win: character awards, citizenship awards, etc. Even if you are not excelling in your studies (and there can be many reasons for this, often reasons that are beyond the student’s control...is it fair that these students are not eligible to win?), you can still be a respectful, responsible, empathetic member of the school community. .
- Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2025, at 5:00 pm, at AMS.