

## MEETING MINUTES

### AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Wednesday, May 28, 2025

5:00 p.m.

AMS Main Conference Room (“The Bubble”)

- Meeting came to order at 5:00 pm.
  - Present: Doug Nebel, Pat Flaherty, Olivia Anderson, Jim Queenan, Jim Sweeney, Sean Toomey
  - Not Present: Alicia Linsey
- Doug provides an AMS update:
  - While the roofing work is mostly complete, we need some replacement windows for the Gym, due to damaged pieces being installed.
  - Renovations have continued in the Performance Center. Hopeful for a fall re-opening, but hedging that with a message of January 2026.
- As previously discussed with this group, we will be holding our Grade 5 Parent Information Meetings tomorrow evening, during the Celebration of Learning.
  - Principal Amy Mitchell (CES) and Doug discussed this plan on May 14 and family messaging went out that day.
  - Discussion on the most important topics to cover at these meetings:
    - Schedule
    - Start/End times
    - Bussing/Drop-off and pick up
    - Cafeteria: lunch and breakfast (grade 5 will have lunch while here for Move-Up Day).
    - Cell phones
    - Number of teachers
    - Expectations (these will also be reviewed with students during Move Up Day).
- Celebration of Learning - based on the School Council survey from earlier this spring
  - Scheduled: Thursday, May 29, 5-7 pm
  - Our Neighbor’s Table will be in the lobby, accepting donations and spreading the word about their programs. Thanks to Jim Sweeney for the arrangements.
    - Jim’s wife has been volunteering with this organization.
    - They prefer \$ over physical donations, and a QR code has been provided to families to make that simpler.
    - No canned food - looking, instead, for donations of condiments/sauces.
  - Perhaps other “vendors” will be invited for next year’s COL? Tables along the hallways for families to visit? This is a “Celebration,” so what other additions will make it feel that way?
    - Sean T offers to make cookies and coffee from Crave for next year’s COL!

- Sean also suggests drawings for donated restaurant gift certificates - he has many contacts with local restaurants and is confident we could get as many as we want.
  - COuld the Band/Chorus perform for families during the COL?
- o Teachers will be able to move about the building to view the work being displayed by their colleagues.
- o Students will attend with their families, acting as both tour guide and lead on explaining the work being displayed - giving students an opportunity to “show off” for their families.
- o Student volunteers in each classroom to explain to all visitors what the displayed assignments entailed and how the year has progressed?
- o Jim Q and Pat express that teachers are appreciative of the planning time set aside (both during the May 14 Staff Meeting and regularly planned CPT times throughout last week).
- Discussion of potential awards at the grade 8 ceremony. In the past, 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.
- Discussion of creating greater connections between AMS and AHS for our students. The Athletics Dept. visit was a good starting point, but more can be done.
  - o Not just Athletics, but Clubs and other school organizations. Students visiting AMS could receive Community Service hours...?
  - o Make the connection early - grade 6! Keep our students in APS as they move into high school.
- Doug thanked the Council for their service this year and wished for a wonderful summer. This is the final meeting for the school year.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Fall!