

## MEETING MINUTES

### AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Wednesday, October 9, 2024

5:00 p.m.

AMS Main Conference Room (“The Bubble”)

- Meeting came to order at 5:00 pm.
  - Present: Doug Nebel, Sean Toomey, Olivia Anderson
  - Not Present: Alicia Linsey, Jim Sweeney, Jim Queenan
- Mr. Nebel welcomes the attendees and leads a short round of introductions with some background information provided by each member. Neither Jim Sweeney nor Aliciaq Linsey were able to attend from the parent group; Jim Queenan unable to attend from the staff group. We are looking for 1 more staff member to join the Council, and the hope is that Pat Flaherty (grade 6 Social Studies) will agree to do so.
- Mr. Nebel reviewed the general purpose and goals of the School Council. This information has also been printed and organized in a folder for each member (those unable to attend today will receive these folders for the next meeting). This information has also already been provided to the Council members electronically prior to this meeting.
- Mr. Nebel explains that this is a DESE-mandated council, which means that should a quorum of members not be present for a meeting, the meeting should not happen. Our current Council sits at 6 members, so 3 being present tonight technically is not a majority and the Council would not normally meet. However, it was agreed that the meeting would continue so that we could get started on collaboration and planning for our work together. No decisions requiring a vote would be made this evening, since a quorum is not established.
- The Council reviewed the general information on the goals and responsibilities of School Councils, from the documents provided by Mr. Nebel. It was noted that the Council is meant to assist in identifying the educational needs of the AMS students, to make recommendations to the principal in the development and implementation of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and to assist in reviewing the annual school budget in the areas of improving student performance. Mr. Nebel describes this group as an “advisory committee” for the school administration.
- With a quick review of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) that was developed last year by the interim principal and School Council (this was established as a two-year plan, covering 2023 - 2025), Mr. Nebel drea attention to the following areas on which the Council should focus thai year:
  - Enhancement of parent/family involvement in the life of the school
  - School Safety and Discipline
  - Establishment/continued development of a school environment characterized by tolerance and respect for all groups.

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- While a more comprehensive review of the SIP will occur at the next scheduled meeting, Mr. Nebel did explain that Strategic Objective #3 should be a focus, as well. Some aspects of their Objective have been completed/have been started, but references to Restorative Justice as part of the school discipline policies have not been specifically addressed with action steps. The Council will discuss if this is still a goal we should pursue, or if some other form of disciplinary support can be examined.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

**Next Meeting:** November 13, 2024, at 5:00 pm, at AMS.