



Superintendent's Corner

Gary S. Reese, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

March 5, 2016

This has been a busy week, as we have been working hard with the school administration and the school committee to develop our budget for the 2016-2017 school year. We are feeling good about this year's budget development and look forward to all of the budget presentations this year.

Budget Meetings

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been meeting individually with each principal and department area to discuss the budget development. This year, we are trying to develop a multi-year presentation approach, where the school committee and community will be able to see our various priorities, and the budgetary implications for each priority over multi-years.

Monday evening, we held our budget visioning session. This evening provided the opportunity for our administrators to gain a better understanding of the long range vision of the community with regards to our school budget. Some key areas included rebuilding our programs and services, examining our school fees (ie. Bussing, athletics, activities), early childhood programming, college/career readiness, and strengthening our ability to meet the social/emotional needs of our students and their families.

Thursday evening, the middle school, high school and innovation high school presented their budget priorities. Throughout the presentations, they identified how they incorporated topics from the budget visioning sessions into their budget priorities. The presentations are posted on the Superintendent's page on the main website.

Director of Student Services

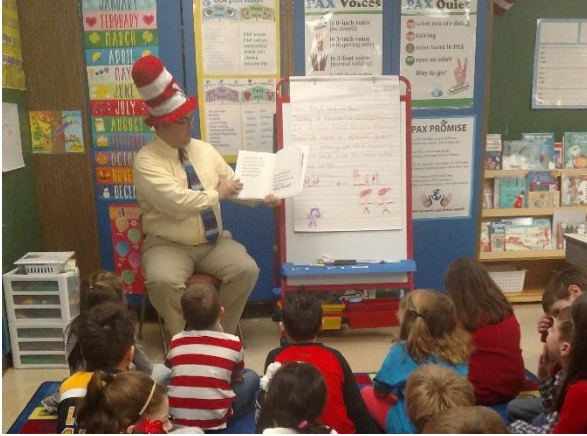
On Tuesday evening, our two finalists for the Director of Student Services position, Kate Clark and Mary Houde, participated in a community forum where they highlighted the skills that they could bring to this position. On Monday evening, they will participate in a final interview with the school committee. While each candidate possesses a different skill set, either one would bring a wealth of talent to the Amesbury Public Schools. We are in a very fortunate position to have

two very skilled and qualified finalists!



Mary Houde addresses the group at Monday's community forum.

In Our Schools...



Read Across America –On Wednesday, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday with Read Across America. On this day, many people visited the elementary schools to read to students some favorite childhood stories. I had the pleasure of reading in the classes of Ms. McCarthy (AES) and Mrs. Kermelewicz (CES). I read two stories that my children enjoy – *The Book With No Pictures* and *Memoirs of a Goldfish*. This was a great day and a reminder to me that I need to get into classes and work with the students more often!

AMS Idol– Friday evening, I got to attend (and judge) a very entertaining event. For the past twelve years, staff members at Amesbury Middle School have been presenting AMS Idol, where the teachers sing, lip sync, and dance to the delight of students and families. This fundraiser coordinated by the PAG provides a great opportunity for the students to see their teachers in a different light – *a very different light!!!!* It was a great way to spend a Friday evening and I was in good company as a judge, along with Carol Bartlett and Mayor Ken Gray. All the acts were well choreographed, but a personal favorite of mine was the group that performed Dancing Queen (shown in the picture to the right).



AMS STEM Fair: On Saturday, I was back at the middle school for their science fair. This year, a number of students participated in the event and prepared a variety of experiments and demonstrations. I was impressed with the quality of the presentations, as well as the originality of the experiments. I look forward to attending this event next year!

Be well and have a great weekend!
Gary