



Superintendent's Corner

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Superintendent

November 4, 2016

Highlights from Monday's School Committee Meeting...

AFT Teachers – Contract Ratification: The AFT Teachers' Union and the personnel subcommittee of the school committee recently reached a tentative agreement on a successor contract for the teachers and nurses lasting from September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2019. AFT teachers met in the afternoon on October 31st to secure a vote to ratify this contract. At the school committee meeting, Rob Chamberlain and Peter Hoyt had to abstain from the vote, because of a connection to a member of the bargaining unit. Gretchen Marinopoulos was not present for the meeting. The vote from the remaining members to ratify the contract was unanimous. In addition to some revised contract language, the salary increases for the teachers/nurses include:

FY 17:	1%
FY 18:	1% on day one 1% on day 91
FY 19:	creation of a new step 17 at 2.5% above step 10 1% on day one 1% on day 91

First reading of two policies

BEDB-E: Agenda Format – Last Fall, the agenda format was adjusted slightly. The Presentations and Reports section were combined. There is a school committee policy which identifies the structure of the meetings. Additionally, it was felt that the press conference Roman numeral should be removed, as there is very rarely a need for the press conference. These changes were reflected in the proposed policy which was entered into the record as a first reading.

JJE – Student Activity Accounts – Director of Finance and Operations Joan Liporto reviewed the current student activities policy, along with reviewing the recommendations from the MASBO report. Accepted into record as a first reading was an updated policy that reflects changes as recommended in the MASBO report and constitutes best practice for maintaining student activity accounts.

Review of School Committee Goals – Financial Goal #1: The school committee is continuing to review the goals that were established earlier in the year to ensure progress. During this meeting, the committee discussed financial goal #1. This goal states:

Continue to formally develop a proactive multi-year budget plan. This will allow Amesbury to avoid difficult fiscal choices while systematically building stronger budget development practices.

- a. Ongoing. Analyze past budget and funding cycles to better predict future funding.*
- b. Immediately. Utilize new revenue reports to better understand opportunities around cash flow and our fee structures.*
- c. Ongoing. Continue to work with the City to fund capital needs.*
- d. By February 2017. Creation of a multi-year budget document and roadmap.*
- e. Ongoing. Support the administration in their efforts to seek out and take advantage of new grant and partnership opportunities.*
- f. By Summer 2017. Review all Central Office job descriptions.*

Whittier Tech Visit

On Tuesday, I joined some member of the school committee (R. Chamberlain, P. Hoyt, D. LaValley, T. McGee, and N. Wheeler) on a tour of Whittier Tech. This visit was scheduled as a result of a request from Mr. Wheeler to be able to learn about current programming at Whittier. We had the opportunity to walk around a number of the shops and see the students in action. It was very impressive the level of quality educational opportunities that Whittier can offer our students from Amesbury that complements the instructional program here at Amesbury High School.

Opioid Prevention Grant

Tuesday afternoon, I met with some of our adjustment counselors, nurses, guidance counselors and health teachers to discuss the possibility of applying for a Youth Opioid Prevention Grant through the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. The funds for this grant were established from a settlement with CVS Pharmacy. The grant is designed to support research-based prevention initiatives to address opioid dependence and addiction in our schools. This meeting generated some good discussion and we identified some specific action steps to be completed prior to the next meeting in order to be able to apply for this grant within the designated time frame.

Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society

Tuesday evening, I attended the induction ceremony for our math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta. I was impressed with the number of students being inducted who have made a commitment to high standards and scholarship in the area of math. The advisor for this honor society is Ms. Jess Regis.



MASS/MASC Conference

On Wednesday – Friday this week, I attended the Joint conference of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) and Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS). School Committee Member Deb LaValley also attended the conference. The theme of the conference was very timely given the work we are currently doing around curriculum revisions, embedding social emotional learning competencies. The title of the conference was *Social and Emotional Learning and the Impact of Poverty on Education*. I got to attend a variety of workshops on this topic, which included:

- SEL: Moving from Compliance to Cultural Implementation
- Innovative Practices to Social/Emotional Learning
- Families in Crisis – Addressing Social and Emotional Needs of Students and Families
- SEL and the Mental Health Needs of Children in and out of the Classroom
- Measuring Social and Emotional Learning
- Special Education Transportation: Cost Savings Strategies
- School Law 201
- Addressing Violence in Our Schools: From Bullying to Dating Violence

This was an excellent conference. During each breakout session, there were a number of workshops that were appealing to me and Ms. LaValley. At our next school committee meeting (on November 21st) I will share some highlights from the conference.

A couple of Important Upcoming Events...

Amesbury Educational Foundation Inc.

AUTUMN EVENING OF GIVING

Come enjoy an autumn evening with friends and celebrate the winners of:


The annual \$10,000 Jordan M. Shay Memorial Grant
An annual grant funds innovative programs in the Amesbury School System

A \$5,000 AEFI Educational Grant

Monday November 7th
6pm-9pm
The Ale House
33 Main Street Amesbury, MA

Tickets are \$25 and include a
Delicious 4 course buffet dinner featuring a seasonal menu

For information on this event or to purchase tickets in advance visit www.AEFIonline.com



THE PETTENGILL HOUSE, INC.
Children & Family Services

11th ANNUAL WINTER COAT PROGRAM

Collecting new and gently used warm winter jackets, parkas, snowsuits, heavy winter sweatshirts for teens, ski jackets and waterproof gloves to support community adults and children in need.
All sizes from infant to XXL are needed.

PLEASE DROP OFF AT:
Millennium Engineering, Inc.
(Go to the back of the building.)
62 Elm Street (rte. 110) Salisbury, MA
(across the street from Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society)

Monday, November 7th
Wednesday, November 9th
Thursday, November 10th
10am to 2pm

Direct inquiries to Peg Brown, Coat Volunteer Coordinator at:
coatdrive@pettengillhouse.org
Or call Pettengill Family Resource Center at:
978-792-5205



Be well and have a great weekend! This afternoon, I will be going to Landry Stadium to watch our varsity girls' soccer team take on the Innovation Academy of Tyngsboro in their first match in the post-season playoffs!

Gary