

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 18, 2011**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Thatcher Kezer, Chair, Debra LaValley, Bonnie Schultz, Stanley Schwartz, Tom McGee, Gale Hanshaw, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools and Courtney Ouellet, SAC Representative. (*Absent: Connolly King*)

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. LaValley.

The Chair stated that this meeting would have an abbreviated agenda due to the inclement weather. There will be no presentations, comments by visitors, delegations and no administrative reports.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the school committee minutes dated January 4, 2011. Vote: 5, Yes, 1 Abstain (Hanshaw), Student Rep., Yes.

B. BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of Charitable Donation

Ms. LaValley stated that the Windrush Farms Therapeutic Riding Program was a great benefit to our students and she thanked the Frank L. Currier Foundation for their kind donation.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to accept the charitable donation of \$2,000 from the Frank L. Currier Foundation for the Windrush Farm Therapeutic Riding Program. Unanimous, Yes.

2. Ad Hoc Advisory Committee – Voting Location

The Chair explained that the Board of Registrars is requesting that an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee be put together to look for a new venue for election day voting. The Town Hall is inadequate, it has restricted access causing long lines and the parking is limited. The Registrars are requesting that a member of the school committee serve on this committee. Ms. LaValley expressed her interest in serving on the advisory committee representing the Amesbury School Committee.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to recommend Debra (Bibeau) LaValley as the school committee representative to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. Unanimous Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Business items 3, 4, and 5 will be put on the next school committee agenda for action.

3. Superintendent's Search

The Chair explained that the school committee had met prior to this meeting in a Personnel Meeting of the Whole School Committee to discuss the process of a search for a new superintendent. There are seven (7) motions that need to be made and voted on by the full committee at this regular meeting.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to approve that the Amesbury School Committee contract with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees for Superintendent search consulting services. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Ms. Schultz asked if there was a benefit to being a member of MASC. Ms. LaValley said that the fee for the services is put at a minimum for members.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw that the Amesbury School Committee require the following ranges for candidate selection: MASC will bring forward to the Search Advisory Committee a range of 10-12 qualified candidates and that the Search Advisory Committee forward 3 to 5 finalists to the Amesbury School Committee for consideration as the next Superintendent of Schools. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Ms. Schultz asked how people in the community and beyond will know that there is a search committee. The Chair stated that media of all types will be utilized, parent organizations, current staff, the Municipal Council, etc. Most entities will be spoken to directly. Mike Gilbert will be setting up focus groups to ascertain the qualities that Amesbury is looking for in a Superintendent. It will be a public process.

Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the Superintendent Search Timeline as presented. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the qualifications required for the next superintendent of schools as certified or eligible for certification as a superintendent of schools in Massachusetts, holds a minimum of a Masters Degree and has a minimum of ten (10) years of work experience in education administration. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve the salary range of \$155,000 to \$170,000 per year and an initial contract for a period of three (3) years with all other terms and conditions to be negotiated between the selected candidate and the Amesbury School Committee. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve that any applicant who is currently either an employee of Amesbury or a resident of Amesbury who meets the approved qualifications shall be included in the candidates provided to the Search Advisory Committee. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the survey as recommended. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

The survey will be made public; it will be online and can be submitted electronically throughout the district. The deadline to submit the survey is February 25, 2011.

The Chair stated that the votes taken regarding the superintendent search will allow the search to move forward. Ms. LaValley added that the focus group schedule will be coming up soon and it is vital to the search process.

All information regarding the search should be forwarded to the school committee's secretary, Suzi Cashman, at the superintendent's office.

C. WARRANT

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Debra LaValley to approve the warrant dated January 13, 2011 in the amount of \$283,955.03. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 Abstain (Hanshaw).

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

No reports.

B. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Student Advisory Council

No report.

Mr. Schwartz announced that Sam Martinez, middle school foreign language teacher, has received an award; "Excellence in Foreign Language". Mr. Martinez was scheduled to attend this meeting to be recognized for this award but has been rescheduled to a future meeting.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Date for Goals Review (2/15/11)
2. Recognition of Recipient of "Excellence in Foreign Language" (3/1/11)
3. Parent Portal in X2 – Anne Verret-Speck (2/1/11)
4. School Calendar 2011-2012 (2/1/11)
5. Principal and Superintendent's Awards (2/1/11)
6. Quarterly Report Vote (2/1/11)
7. Budget Transfers Vote (2/1/11)

VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE

None.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Unanimous, Yes. Student Rep., Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom McGee, Secretary

Amesbury Public Schools Mission Statement

The Amesbury School District is unconditionally committed to every child, ensuring that all students experience success through the development of attitudes and skills necessary for lifelong learning by providing the highest quality staff, meaningful learning experiences, and a vitally involved community.