

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Thatcher Kezer, Chair, Tom McGee, Gale Hanshaw, Bonnie Schultz, Stanley Schwartz, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools and Chanelle Havey, SAC Representative.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Tom McGee led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Nurse Leader Update – Joan Connor

Joan Connor, APS Nurse Leader, presented the committee with data on visitations to the nurses' offices. She spoke about the increase in visits throughout the schools for illnesses and first aid. She stated that the increase is a reflection of complaints of the flu-like symptoms and number of diabetics in the school system.

Ms. Connor also spoke how the Governor's cuts will affect the Amesbury Public Schools by 3% (\$1234.00) with respect to the grant.

B. AMS School Improvement Plan

Principal, Michael Curry, made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the work that is being done at the Middle School to increase student achievement. He spoke about three elements that will improve the growth of students:

- Unconditionally committed to every child
- Provide Dynamic School Experience
- Assisted by Vitally Involved Community

AHS School Improvement Plan

Principal, Les Murray, handed out his presentation to the committee. He stated that the high school exceeded its target for MCAS in ELA and Math this past year. They came close to meeting target in Biology/Science. He went on to state the accomplishments in all areas of the curriculum. AHS is in the top third in the state.

Thatcher Kezer congratulated Mr. Murray on the presentation that took place in the auditorium, that morning, regarding letters to Mr. Woodwell.

3. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

Greg Noyes directed questions to Principal Murray regarding the high school. He asked about the drop-out rate and what the Options Program was all about. He went on to comment about Amesbury Elementary School's presentation at the last school committee meeting. He stated that with AES on "probation" with MCAS last year, it was detrimental to all of Amesbury Public Schools kids.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Curriculum Director's Report

1. Professional Development Day Update

Telena Imel updated the Committee regarding the ongoing professional development activities. She stated that the Leadership Team Goals are concentrated on: Literacy, Technology and Educational Best Practice. She went on to state that the Professional Release Time on November 10th worked out well. Teachers in Grades 1-8 had parent conferences, and kindergarten, SPED and AHS teachers concentrated on other aspects of education.

2. Grants Update

Ms. Imel announced that the Amesbury Public Schools had been awarded a K-12 Literacy Grant in the amount of \$30,000. This money will be used to fully implement the John Collins writing team, to develop data teams (Data Divas), for training and for after school meetings.

The second grant, that Ms. Imel spoke about, was the Teaching American History Grant. Out of eight applicants that applied to deliver the grant only 3 were awarded it: Pam Gagnon, Connie Wall and Sue Hanscom.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. DSAC – District and Schools Assistant Centers

The superintendent attended a conference in Lowell concerning the creation of DSAC's. He stated that a district only qualifies if their school is not making AYP (AES & AMS) in MCAS. This will help the schools with MCAS issues and help improve with weaknesses.

2. Early College Program

The superintendent stated that the Early College Program in conjunction with NECCO has had a very successful start. He referred to a meeting that he had with 12 parents of 31 students that par-take in the program. He went on to say that this program affects all other classes and motivates the students to learn.

3. Other

Mr. Jack commented on the Woodwell piece that Mrs. Hoyt presented with her students that morning in the auditorium. He stated that it was emotional and compelling and hopes that it will continue.

5. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to approve the regular minutes dated November 4, 2009. Vote 4 Yes, 1 Abstain (Schwartz), Student Rep., Yes.

B. BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of AES and CES School Improvement Plans

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee, to approve AES and CES School Improvement Plans. Vote 4 Yes, 1 Abstain (Schwartz), Student Rep., Yes.

2. Acceptance of AMS and AHS School Improvement Plans

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw, to approve AMS and AHS School Improvement Plans. Unanimous, Yes, - Student Rep., Yes.

3. Alternative Meeting Date for December 1, 2009

- Discussion regarding the change in School Committee from December 1, 2009 to December 2, 2009 because of a conflict with municipal council meeting and state elections. Chanelle Havey, SAC Rep, will notify the SAC team that they will now meet with School Committee on December 15, 2009 instead of December 1, 2009.

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Stanley Schwartz, to change the School Committee Meeting from December 1, 2009 to December 2, 2009. Unanimous, Yes, - Student Rep., Yes.

4. First Readings of Policies:

a. EGAF – Cell Phones and Portable Communication Devices

- Mrs. Hanshaw pointed out changes in Section I of the policy and a new section, Section III, added.

b. IHBAA – Observations of Special Education Programs and their Designees for Evaluation Purposes

- Mrs. Hanshaw explained to the committee that this was a new policy that was given to her by Kathy Glennon, Special Education Director, and that it was required by DESE.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to suspend the rules so that the school committee may take a vote after 9:00 p.m. Unanimous, Yes, 1, Student Rep., Yes.

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C. WARRANT

- Mrs. Schultz asked Mike Bergeron, Business Administrator, if there was any cost to switching over to the Point of Sale in the lunch room. Mr. Bergeron stated that there were 5 lines added at a minimal cost and the work was done by our school electrician.

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee, to approve the warrant dated,

6. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Budget/Finance Subcommittee**
Did not meet.
2. **Policy Subcommittee**
This subcommittee met last week and will meet again December 3, 2009
3. **Personnel Subcommittee**
This subcommittee met this evening and discussed job descriptions for school nurses and speech pathologist assistants. Next meeting will be December 15, 2009.
4. **Student Advisory Council**
Chanelle Havey reported that SAC met last night and spoke about the School Committee Meetings and the Winter Carnival that is coming up.
5. **High School Building Committee**
Mr. McGee stated that the meeting last Friday was cancelled. Next meeting will be December 4, 2009 at 7:00 AM. It will be month before the track can be used.

B. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Mr. Jack acknowledged a letter that was sent to Mr. Murray, AHS Principal, thanking him for serving as a member of the NASSP IDEA Task Force.
- On Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at 12:30, a test of the Seabrook Sirens will be going off in the area.
- The jazz band will be performing on Friday night at the MASC/MASS conference in Hyannis.
- Mayor Kezer stated that he, Representative Costello and Judge Uhlarik will be at the Middle School tomorrow evening speaking with fifth graders about the three branches of government.

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- Mayor Kezer stated that second grade students from CES visited him at the Town Hall last week to ask him questions about his job. Yesterday he received a book made by those students. The book was titled, *Book About The Mayor*.
- Mrs. Hanshaw spoke about the retirement party that was held Monday for Dr. Chaurette at Ristorante Molise. Dr. Chaurette received a rocking chair with plaque for his five years of service at Amesbury Public Schools.

- Bonnie Schultz asked Mr. Jack if the Academy presents an Improvement Plan. Mr. Jack will contact Donna George, Director, to present sometime in December.

7. **FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Meeting with Student Advisory council (12/15/09)
2. Reception for Amesbury High School Renovation
3. School Committee Open House at AHS
4. New School Calendar 12/09

8. **PRESS CONFERENCE**

None

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 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.