

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
MARCH 2, 2010**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order. Ms. Connolly King led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Superintendent's Award – Rebecca Crochiere

Superintendent Jack presented Rebecca Crochiere with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Award for academic excellence.

B. Principal's Award – Colleen Brockmyre

Les Murray, Amesbury High School Principal, gave the Principal's Award to Colleen Brockmyre.

- Both Rebecca and Colleen were given savings bonds from the Amesbury Alumni Association. The Mayor congratulated them for the outstanding work they have done throughout their high school years. He also congratulated the parents of the two recipients.

C. Current Programming and Special Events – Denise Minnard Campoli

Foreign Language Director, Denise Minnard Campoli, showed the committee a DVD of Amesbury Public Schools' students speaking to each other in various foreign languages with the English translation in closed caption. She also announced that Governor Patrick declared this week as Foreign Language Week.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Curriculum Director's Report

1. Title I Program Update

- Ms. Imel stated that due to the success of the Summer Title I Literacy and Math Camps, this summer will be the 3rd year of offering these camps for Title I students. The camps have helped to decrease the regression of Title I students during the summer months. Brochures will be mailed home on March 12th with a response deadline of April 9th.

- Ms. Imel explained that there is a limited amount of funds available to cover the costs of this summer camp so the students that are invited are the ones who are most at risk academically.
- Ms. Imel reported on professional development activities going on. The middle school teachers were visited by a group of teachers from Stratham, New Hampshire. The teachers came to observe what our teachers are doing to help our students. The Tufts consultants were there as well.
- A professional development exercise was conducted at the high school. Administrators and teachers took “learning walkthroughs” in and out of classrooms to see what teachers and students were engaged in.

B. Superintendent’s Report

1. Northeast MA District Jr. Music Festival

The superintendent acknowledged two middle school students, Aspen Gibbs and Meagan Meagher for being selected to participate in the Music Festival. The concert will take place on Saturday, March 27th at Lowell High School.

2. Boston Globe Scholastic Arts Festival Awards

Six of Amesbury’s student received awards at this Festival. They are:
 Kevin Rivera, Silver Key
 Siobhan Dolan, Silver Key and Honorable Mention
 Maureen Kelly, Gold Key
 Kaci Kus, Silver Key and Honorable Mention
 Julia Lawliss, Honorable Mention
 Melina Mavroforos, Gold Key

3. Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program

Amesbury applied for and were awarded this grant of \$150,000. This grant is through the ARRA monies and will be used for a solar display on the roof of Amesbury High School. The next step will be selecting a vendor. The grant pays for the equipment so Amesbury gets 100% of the energy savings.

4. Science Fair 2010

The superintendent attended a very successful Science Fair on Saturday, February 27th. Ms. Bibeau thanked the PTA and congratulated all of the contestants.

5. MSBA to View Amesbury Elementary School

The superintendent explained that the MA School Building Association will be viewing Amesbury Elementary School in response to the Statement of Interest submitted by the school department. MSBA will bring a team of four that will include an architect and an engineer. Mr. Helliesen, Principal, Mr. Ford, Director of Operations, Mr. Bergeron, Business Administrator, Mr. Jack, Superintendent and Mayor Kezer were present. MSBA will put together a Senior Study and the project will be put in an appropriate category based on what the MSBA team puts in the Senior Study. The Superintendent will report the status of this process at the next school committee meeting.

- Ms. Bibeau asked the Superintendent and the Mayor to report on any damages caused by the recent wind storm. Mr. Jack stated that the problems on the school side were minimal, however, due to uprooted trees and downed utility wires, school was cancelled. The Mayor spent the entire evening at Emergency Management with the DPW, Fire Chief, Police Dept, etc. At one point there were 25-30 roads that were impassable. A shelter in Newbury was opened and the residents of Powow Villa were evacuated to that shelter.
- The Mayor further stated that there were still some homes without power. The leaf dump will be open through Sunday, no stickers required, so that debris from downed branches, etc. could be cleaned up.
- On Monday morning Pleasant Valley Road was blocked on one end so the busses that do that route could not get through. This was cleared by the end of the school day.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the regular minutes dated February 2, 2010. Vote; 6 Yes, 1 Abstain (Bibeau), Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the executive session minutes dated February 2, 2010. Vote; 6 Yes, 1 Abstain (Bibeau).

C. WARRANT

Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the warrant dated February 25, 2010 in the amount of \$511,158.52. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the warrant dated March 11, 2010 in the amount of \$204,272.50. Vote: 6, Yes, 1 Abstain (Connolly King).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Bibeau stated that at the last budget meeting, the subcommittee was able to meet with all cost center managers regarding the FY11 budget. The next budget two meetings are on March 11th at 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 13th at 8 a.m. both at the Horace Mann School.

Mr. Bergeron showed the subcommittee an analysis on tuition based Kindergarten. The analysis showed that we would lose state funds by going with tuition based Kindergarten.

Three members of the Landry Stadium Committee were present. They have requested that the school department increase ticket prices by \$1.00. The subcommittee asked the Landry Committee to attend a school committee meeting in May, after the budget process has concluded.

2. Policy Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet on March 17th in the superintendent's office. Bullying policy and a possible forum with parents on bullying will be discussed.

3. Personnel Subcommittee

This subcommittee met with Michelle McNulty, Esq. to bring the subcommittee up to date on contracts and timelines.

4. Student Advisory Council

Chanelle Havey reported that the Frost Fest Week was a great success. There is a talent show on March 29th and an open SAC meeting on March 30th.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ms. Bibeau reminded members that the Day on the Hill takes place on March 30th. There is no fee for students on the Student Advisory Council.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Vote on School Choice SY10-11 (4/6/10)
2. Responsive Classroom Presentation – E. Elliott & W. Helliesen (4/6/10)
3. Landry Stadium Committee (May, 2010)
4. AHS & AMS Handbook (5/18/10)
5. Collaboration to Support Our Youth (D. Smith, D. Georges, T. Imel)
6. Day on the Hill (3/30/10)

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 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.