

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 6, 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. Gale Hanshaw led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PRESENTATIONS

None.

III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS

- Patricia Hoyt of Pleasant Valley Road spoke in favor of a proposal on the agenda to name the high school library after Roland Woodwell, former AHS English teacher.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Business Administrator's Report

1. Quarterly Report

Mr. Bergeron highlighted areas of the quarterly report. This report will be on the next school committee agenda for a vote. The ARRA stimulus money was discussed. There will be one more report coming this year and four reports during '10-'11.

2. Transportation Contract

Mr. Bergeron reported that there were two bidders for transportation contract; First Student (current contract) and Salter Transportation. Salter Transportation was the lowest bidder and Mr. Bergeron recommended that the school committee award a three year contract to Salter.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to take business item #5, Vote on Transportation Contract out of order. Unanimous, Yes.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to award a 3-year contract to Salter Transportation in the amount of \$1,615,730 over three years. Unanimous, Yes.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Race to the Top (RTTT)

Mr. Jack informed the committee that Massachusetts did not receive approval for RTTT monies. Two states out of the 16 (Tennessee and Delaware) were awarded funds. Massachusetts ranked 13 out of the 16 states. There is a second round and a substantial amount of RTTT funds left. Amesbury should hear more information later in April.

Special Education Analysis

The superintendent, business administrator and special education director met with Futures Education. This business brings in SPED personnel to see how a school's SPED department works; how IEP's are written, how are paraprofessionals used within the system, all SPED functions are analyzed. The cost is \$15,000 but if Futures doesn't find a cost savings of at least \$15,000 then the analysis is at no cost. Ms. Bibeau stated that the budget/finance subcommittee is recommending that the committee vote to move forward on this analysis.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to engage Futures Education to do an analysis of the Amesbury Public Schools' Special Education program. Unanimous, Yes.

2. FY'11 Budget Process

The superintendent made a brief PowerPoint presentation focusing on the FY'11 budget which is based on level funding. This budget does not address the possible Chapter 70 4% decrease in funding from the state. The reductions proposed are significant.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the regular minutes dated March 2, 2010. Unanimous, Yes., Student Rep., Yes.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the executive session minutes dated March 2, 2010. Unanimous, Yes.

B. BUSINESS

- The Chair explained that after the financial Business items would be taken out of order starting with item #7, item #8 and item #6 the FY'11 budget. Followed by the rest of the items as they appear on the agenda.

Discussion on school committee members signing a disclosure form in order for them to legally be able to vote on the budget. The ethics law states that if a school committee member pays fees in order for their child/children to take the bus or participate in sports or school activities, the member must file this disclosure form in order for them to vote on these items. This includes Bonnie Schultz, Gale Hanshaw, and Ann Connolly King (signed a disclosure at the meeting).

Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Debra Bibeau to change the order of the meeting's business items so that the financial items are discussed first. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

7. Athletic and Co-Curricular Fee Increases

Ms. Bibeau stated that the budget/finance subcommittee supported the increases in fees in both athletics as well as co-curricular fees. Athletic fees will increase from \$200 to \$250 per sport with a family cap of \$810. The co-curricular fees will increase from \$50 to \$60 per activity.

Ms. Schultz asked what prices the schools in the Cape Ann League were charging for sports and activities. Ms. McAndrews, Athletic Director, read a list of schools and charges. She stated that Amesbury is in the lower end of the fee structure and any gate receipts are used to help support the coaches' salaries.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to increase the athletic fees from \$200 to \$250 with the family cap at \$810 and increasing co-curricular fees from \$50 to \$60 (unlimited). Unanimous, Yes.

8. Transportation Fee Increase

Ms. Schultz asked what the transportation fees are for other communities. Mr. Bergeron read what some of the communities in the Cape Ann League are charging. Some of the towns don't have a transportation fee, however, they charge for parking. Ms. Bibeau stated that the Commonwealth had said they would fund this mandate, however, it still remains unfunded.

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Tom McGee, to increase the transportation fee from \$200 to \$300 with a family cap of \$450. Unanimous, Yes.

6. FY'11 Budget

The Chair explained that the committee will go through the budget by cost center and any items that a member had questions about would be flagged. After going through all of the cost centers, the committee would return to the flagged items.

COST CENTER 010 – SUPERINTENDENT/SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Ms. Connolly King objection, page 4, 11032051 Health Personnel Services
Ms. Schultz objection page 2 and 4, 11012052 Business Manager Travel

COST CENTER 012 – AMESBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Schultz objection, page 10, 11222052, AES Principal Office Expense
Ms. Connolly King objection, page 10, 11223051 AES Teachers Salaries

COST CENTER 013 – CASHMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Schultz, objection, page 18, 11322052 Cashman Principal Office Expense
Ms. Connolly King, objection, page 18, 11323051 CES Teaching Salaries
Ms. Schultz, objection, page 24, 11341152 CES Custodial Expense

COST CENTER 014 – AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. Schultz, objection, page 26, 11422052 AMS Principal Office Exp
Ms. Connolly King, objection, page 27, 11423051 AMS Teacher Pers Svc

COST CENTER 015 – AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Connolly King, objection, page 38, 11523051 AHS Teaching Salaries
Ms. Schultz, objection, page 37, 11522052 AHS Principal Office Expense

COST CENTER 017 – MAINTENANCE

Ms. Connolly King, objection, page 55, 11741352 Maintenance Utilities

COST CENTER 018 – CURRICULUM

Ms. Schultz, objection, page 57, 11821052 Curriculum Supervisor Exp
Ms. Connolly King, objection, page 57, 11823051 Curriculum Prof Develop Salary

COST CENTER 019 – SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Schultz, objection, page 59, 11921052 SPED Supervisor Expenses

Ms. Schultz cited page 2, Business Manager Travel and asked if the travel line items as well as professional development were contractual. The superintendent stated that travel was included in administrator contracts as well as an allocation to attend professional development. The Mayor stated the importance of professional development and how valuable it is to student achievement.

Ms. Schultz also asked why Business Manager Travel appeared on page two as well as page three. Once the superintendent and Mr. Bergeron explained the difference between what the travel represented, Ms. Schultz withdrew her objections on pages two and three of the budget.

Ms. Connolly King asked how a reduction in the hours of the Nurse Leader, page four, would be handled by the district. The superintendent explained that the nurse leader would be working three days per week and coordinating with all of the school nurses. Ms. Connolly King withdrew her objection.

Ms. Schultz withdrew her objection on page 10. Ms. Connolly King asked Mr. Helliesen, AES Principal, how he will handle the loss of two teachers at AES for the 10-11 school year. Mr. Helliesen stated that the loss would be felt in grade two with the growth of class sizes in that grade. She also asked Mr. Helliesen how the elimination of the K-12 Directors would affect the Amesbury Elementary School. Mr. Helliesen stated that the K-12 Directors worked more at the middle and high schools, not so much at the elementary level. Ms. Connolly King withdrew her objection.

Ms. Schultz withdrew her objection on page 18. Ms. Connolly King asked Ms. Charette, CES Principal, what her plans were for handling the loss of teaching staff. Ms. Charette stated that there will be possibly 27-28 students per class in the second grade. Ms. Connolly King also asked Ms. Charette how the elimination of the K-12 Directors would affect the Cashman Elementary School. Ms. Charette stated that the K-12 Directors affected the middle and high schools more than the elementary levels. Ms. Connolly King withdrew her objection.

Ms. Schultz withdrew her objection on page 24 as well as her objection on page 26. Ms. Connolly King asked Mr. Curry if the middle school class sizes will be affected for 10-11. Mr. Curry stated that in the past there were more students who left the middle school during the summer than entered the middle school. This current school year was just the opposite, however, he said the class sizes were okay to this point. Mr. Curry had not yet decided if the middle school would be offering Spanish next year or not. Nor had he decided whether to go from a 6-day schedule to a 4-day schedule. how the issues would be handled at the middle school.

Ms. Connolly King asked about the functions of a Team Leader. The middle school has 11 team leaders paid a stipend of \$2500 each. Mr. Curry stated that the school administrators will have to pick up some of the duties of the team leaders. The administrators will also have to pick up some of the duties of the K-12 Directors. Ms. Connolly King withdrew her objection.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Tom McGee to vote after 9:00 p.m. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.

Ms. Schultz withdrew her objection on page 37. Ann Connolly King asked Principal Murray the effects of losing 3.5 teachers for the 10-11 school year. Mr. Murray stated that many of the electives will not be staffed and class sizes will increase. Ms. Connolly King withdrew her objection.

Ms. Connolly King asked about maintenance electricity on page 55. The use of this line item was explained and she withdrew her objection.

Ms. Schultz withdrew her objection on page 57 regarding curriculum. Ms. Connolly King asked for an explanation of 11823051, curriculum professional development salary. The item was explained that it had an effect on the loss of K-12 Directors. Ms. Connolly King withdrew her objection. Ms. Schultz withdrew her objection on page 59.

The Mayor stated that creating a level funded budget is a monumental task and has been done for two years in a row. Recognition and gratitude to the superintendent, the administration, and the school committee for all their efforts to get to this budget's bottom line.

Ms. Bibeau thanked the Mayor and the budget/finance subcommittee for all of their efforts.

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve the FY'11 budget recommended to the committee by the budget/finance subcommittee in the amount of \$24,933,496, the same amount as the current year's budget. Unanimous, Yes.

9:40 p.m. short recess

9:50 p.m. meeting resumed

1. 1st Reading GBCBC/JFCB & Exhibit, JFCB/GBCBC & Exhibit Promoting Civil Rights & Prohibiting Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination, and Hate Crimes

2. 1st Reading GBCBD/JFCD & Exhibit, JFCD/GBCBD & Exhibit Sexual Harassment

- Ms. Hanshaw pointed out the additions made to these comprehensive policies that will come before the committee for a 2nd reading at the next meeting.

3. Policy FF Naming New or Existing Educational Facilities

Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to bring this item to another meeting to be accompanied by a presentation put together by Mr. McGee with film clips from the Veteran's Day assembly and work done by the Student Advisory Council. Chanelle Havey will speak with SAC. Unanimous, Yes., Student Rep., Yes.

4. Vote on School Choice for 2010-2011

Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to close the Amesbury Public Schools to School Choice in grades K through 4 and 6. Grade 5 and grades 7 through 12 will be open to Choice. If applicants exceed acceptable limits, a lottery will be held on Monday, June 14, 2010.

C. WARRANT

Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the warrant dated April 8, 2010 in the amount of \$239,642.23. Unanimous, Yes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. **Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

Ms. Bibeau stated that they added an item to the future meetings; if the maintenance building closes, where will the maintenance department go?

The Mayor stated that the town had a major facility issue. The town is looking into creating a large facility on Water St. to house all the town's vehicles and functions under one roof.

Ms. Bibeau stated that Brad Ford is making a list of any storm damage for insurance as well as FEMA.

2. **Policy Subcommittee**

This subcommittee will meet on April 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the superintendent's office.

3. **Personnel Subcommittee**

This subcommittee met with Michelle McNulty, Esq. regarding negotiations with the union. Negotiations are ongoing. The superintendent's evaluation will be reported at the May 18th meeting.

4. **Student Advisory Council**

Chanelle Havey asked the school committee to report any issues with the high school student handbook prior to their 4-13-10 meeting.

Ms. Connolly King congratulated Chanelle on her involvement with the cyber bullying piece. Ms. Bibeau asked that Russ Munroe be asked if he can send the cyber bullying presentation to the MASC website and put it on APS TV.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ms. Bibeau spoke about a piece on “U Tube” called “Shift Happens” that she would like to schedule as a presentation in May or June.
- She also reported that there were 50 student representatives at the Day on the Hill. Ms. Bibeau will be attending a national conference in Chicago supported by MASC.
- Congratulations to Justin LaBatte for having perfect attendance for 12 years of school. The School Committee would like to do some kind of recognition for this accomplishment. The policy subcommittee will take a look at it. Ms. Hanshaw expressed her disappointment on the way the high school handled the press on this issue. Ms. Schultz stated that the school committee missed an opportunity for one of their goals on reporting on things that are done well in the schools.
- Ms. Hanshaw stated that there will be an upcoming high school handbook meeting on April 27th and any ideas for changes need to be sent to her prior to that date.
Ann Connolly King needs an 09-10 handbook.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Responsive Classroom Presentation – E. Elliott & W. Helliesen (4/6/10)
2. Landry Stadium Committee (May, 2010)
3. AHS & AMS Handbook (5/18/10)
4. Collaboration to Support Our Youth (D. Smith, D. Georges, T. Imel)
5. Presentation on the new OPTIONS program

At 10:30 p.m. the committee agreed to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and will not return to open session but will adjourn the regular meeting after the executive session.

Roll Call Vote: Kezer, Yes; Bibeau, Yes; Schwartz, Yes; Schultz, Yes; Hanshaw, Yes; McGee, Yes; Connolly King, 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.