

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
MAY 17, 2011**

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

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

**II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

None

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Homeland Security – Mark Casto gave an overview of a special project that he worked on with students; Emily Noonan, Julie Denatolis, Ed Welch, John Fournier, Allie French and Justin Shine. Twenty students interested in math and science applied to work on this project with Mr. Casto at Northeastern. Homeland Security funded this project and all students were hands-on. Part of the project was to see how to take the information and develop an entire class lesson on the topic.

B. Student Handbooks

1. Ms. McAndrews, AHS Dean, spoke to the committee about the small changes they plan on making to the student handbook. Ms. Schultz asked if they could make the wording they were changing a little more clear.

Ms. LaValley left the meeting at this point.

Mr. Curry, AMS Principal, spoke about the minor changes that would be made at the middle school level handbook. One reason is that all of the schools will have a district handbook section that includes all of the school committee policies that are required to be in the student handbook.

Mr. Helliesen, AES Principal, stated that there were no changes to the student handbook except in the format. Ms. Schultz asked if Whittier Regional Vo-Tech had been contacted and asked to print the books.

Each school had already selected a printing company that they were comfortable with using.

***Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Tom McGee to accept the changes to all three student handbooks as presented. Unanimous, Yes.***

#### IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

##### **A. Curriculum Director's Report**

Ms. Imel gave a PowerPoint presentation to the committee regarding the Common Core Standards. The purpose of these standards is to help the schools prepare students for college reading and mathematics.

##### **B. Business Administrator's Report**

Mr. Bergeron gave the committee a list of transfers that will need a vote of approval at the June 7<sup>th</sup> school committee meeting.

##### **C. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Jack stated that the school department would be making a presentation to the Municipal Council on the budget on the following evening. He reminded the committee that once he sends them the summary of his goals, they need to get the superintendent's evaluations to Suzi Cashman, school committee secretary, as soon as possible in order to have time to create a summary based on the data from the committee.

The superintendent reminded the committee that there were two graduations coming up. The Seniors at AHS will graduate on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The ceremony will be held at Landry Stadium unless it is raining, then it will be held in the AMS auditorium. Seniors at the Amesbury Academy will graduate on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall Auditorium at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Connolly King asked when the committee will get back together to make more cuts in the budget. Mr. Jack said that it depends on what happens with the Municipal Council. Mr. Jack recommended any questions on the budget be sent to him. The Mayor gave a time frame regarding what they could expect in the coming weeks. The budget sent to the council is \$399,000 over what the Mayor's number was for the school department to get to. The council may increase a line item but it has to be by 2/3rds vote. The Mayor suspects that there is still work to be done on the school side to decrease the \$399,000. The date of the council vote on the budget is still not determined, it is supposed to be happening on the second Tuesday in June.

Mr. Jack said that the school administration would continue to look at the areas of the budget that affect the classrooms the least.

The last day of school for students will be June 24<sup>th</sup>. The staff end of year luncheon will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the high school.

#### **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

##### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the school committee minutes dated May 3, 2011. Unanimous, Yes.*

*Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to suspend the rules in order to conduct business after 9:00 p.m. Unanimous. Student Rep., Yes.*

**B. BUSINESS**

**1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy JLA School Wellness Policy**

The current policy JLA has been totally rewritten by the health advisory committee. Mr. Schwartz asked if the Nurse Leader position is still part of the APS and Mr. Jack said that it is being paid by a grant, the hours have been decreased so no money is coming out of the budget to support this position.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the updated policy JLA School Wellness Policy on the second reading. Unanimous, Yes.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy ECAB Vandalism**

Ms. Hanshaw explained the proposed changes to this policy.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve the updated policy ECAB Vandalism on the second reading. Unanimous, Yes.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy EEAC-R1 Student Conduct on School Busses**

Ms. Hanshaw explained the proposed changes to this policy. Mr. Schwartz asked the superintendent if the changes to the policies that were approved tonight would be sent to the schools for inclusion in their new student handbooks. Mr. Jack stated that they would because there was enough time left before the handbooks will be printed.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the updated policy regulation EEAC-R1 Student Conduct on School Busses on the second reading. Unanimous, Yes.*

**C. WARRANT**

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve the warrant dated May 19, 2011 in the amount of \$364,028.96. Unanimous, Yes.*

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

No report.

**2. Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Hanshaw stated that the subcommittee will have to reschedule their next meeting.

**3. Personnel Subcommittee**

Mr. Schwartz stated that negotiations are ongoing.

**B. COMMUNICATIONS**

**1. Student Advisory Council**

Courtney Ouellet stated that the council is working on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation to help bridge the gap between middle school to high school. She also thanked the committee for all that she has learned while attending and participating in the school committee meetings all year. She said that there is a SAC election coming up and her predecessor will be named.

Ms. Schultz congratulated Coach Chris Perry for his 500<sup>th</sup> win coaching softball.

The committee stated that the Top 10 Dinner at Molise was great and continues to be a wonderful event every year.

The recipients of the Academic Excellence Awards were congratulated.

There will be a Memorial Day event held in Landry Stadium on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> following the parade from the Fire Station. In case of rain, the AMS auditorium will be used.

The Mayor said that there will be 9/11 remembrance ceremonies and that Rosie Warner is selling flags. He also stated that he had received correspondence from a teacher outlining special education proposals and that he had handed each school committee member a copy of this correspondence.

One of the school committee members asked about the bids for the outsourcing of the paraprofessionals that has been discussed at several meetings. The superintendent said that there were currently four companies on the bid list.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Mayor read the future agenda items aloud and asked the committee if they had anything to add.

1. Retiree Reception (6/7/11)
2. Summer Meeting Dates (6/7/11)
3. Summer Reading List (6/7/11)
4. Superintendent Evaluation (6/7/11)

**VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

Motion by Stanley Schwartz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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.*