

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
JUNE 7, 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 Jon Tedford, SAC Representative.

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

**II. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

The Chair explained to those in attendance that during Comments by Visitors, Delegations, he is recommending to the committee that they take business item number one, "Outsourcing Bid for Paraprofessionals" out of order followed by a vote to table the item until the June 21<sup>st</sup> school committee meeting. He explained that the school committee is going through impact bargaining with the union right now and that there is no new contract in place. The school committee just recently received a proposal from the union regarding the special education paraprofessional's contract. The committee needs time to analyze the proposal and there are two negotiation meetings scheduled where discussion of this proposal will take place. The vote on June 21<sup>st</sup> will be either to go with the new proposal from the union or to go with the proposal from Futures Education.

*Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to take business item number one "Outsourcing Bid for Paraprofessionals" out of order. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to table business item number one, "Outsourcing Bid for Paraprofessionals". Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

The Chair stated that this section of the school committee meeting was still open if anyone wanted to make a comment. He reminded all those in attendance that this section of the meeting will not go on for more than 20 minutes and that each person has three minutes to speak. He also stated that this was not a question and answer period. The Committee would be listening and taking notes.

- Citizen 1) Venita Henderson, 52 River Street  
She asked the school committee to consider all of the factors before making a decision.
- Citizen 2) Bernadette Lucas, 19 Unicorn Circle  
She shared stories of her experience working as an outsourced person. She did not think it was a good solution to save money.
- Citizen 3) Joseph Greaney, 50 Orchard Street  
He asked a question regarding the relationship between the two outsourcing bidders.

Citizen 4) Anne Ferguson, Municipal Councilor  
Councilor Ferguson thanked the members of the school committee for all the work they have done on the budget.

Citizen 5) Karen Hitchensen, 7 Winkley Street  
Shared her concern about the Futures Program.

The Chair ended the “Comments by Visitors, Delegations” portion of the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

### **III. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Recognition of Retirees**

The following retiring staff were recognized for their service to the children of Amesbury. Each staff member received a citation from the Mayor as well as from Representative Costello. The School Committee gave out engraved silver frames with a photo of each person interacting with students or colleagues.

Elizabeth Brosnan	AMS Teacher	32 Years
David Jack	Superintendent	6 Years
Tom Horan	AHS Teacher	34 Years
Patty Hoyt	AHS Teacher	36 Years
Denise Minnard Campoli	AHS Teacher	24 Years
Les Murray	AHS Principal	10 Years
Ken Parkinson	AHS Teacher	18 Years

Not in attendance were:

Starr Hume	AMS Secretary	15 Years
Cindy Shields	AHS Teacher	24 Years

#### **B. Summer Reading List**

Patty Hoyt, English Department Head, informed the committee of the process of making the summer reading materials as easily accessible to the students as possible. The students can also choose books from the list of “Faculty Favorites”. The lists are available online and the Public Library has an application enabling students to read books online via their computer.

Telena Imel, Curriculum Director, explained the requirements for grades 5-8 and 1-4, also the changes to technology that makes it easier for students to obtain books from the list.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

##### A. Business Administrator's Report

The list of transfers that were in the last school committee packet needs to be voted on at this meeting. He also spoke briefly regarding the National Grid/Guardian deal to replace school property lights with LED lights in an effort to help the school department on the cost of energy.

##### B. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jack stated the Municipal Council will vote on the final budget on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. The school department needs to cut \$400,000 for fiscal year 2012.

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 beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a video of the retirees set for 12:30 p.m.

The superintendent said that the AHS graduation was great; the speech given by retiring Principal, Les Murray, was excellent. He also said that the Amesbury Academy graduation on Sunday was a great event attended by Stan Schwartz and Bonnie Schultz.

Mr. Jack acknowledged the Chartwell's Business Report in the school committee packet as well as Kevin Kish, Food Services Director, for the great work he has done by involving students and parents in his marketing of the food services program. The bottom line would have been \$4000 more if there weren't so many snow days during the school year.

#### ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION

##### A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve the school committee minutes dated May 17, 2011. Unanimous, Yes.*

##### B. BUSINESS

###### 1. Surplus Horace Mann School

The committee discussed the process for vacating the Horace Mann School and releasing the property to the town.

*Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to announce to the Municipal Council that the Amesbury School Committee agrees to transfer the Horace Mann Administrative Building back to the Council for disposition as of July 15, 2011 as amended. Unanimous, Yes.*

**2. Transfers**

Mr. Bergeron had given out the list of transfers at the last school committee meeting and included another copy in this packet. Ms. LaValley told the committee that the Budget/Finance Subcommittee had voted to accept the transfers.

*Motion by Debra LaValley, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the transfers as submitted. Unanimous, Yes.*

**3. Summer Meeting Dates**

Possible meeting dates for the month of July were discussed. July 19<sup>th</sup> was the one date that the largest amount of the committee could attend. The August meeting dates would be done via communications through the committee secretary.

**4. AFT Teacher Contract**

The Chair explained that this item was put on the agenda in case the AFT had come to an agreement through negotiations

**C. WARRANT**

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Stanley Schwartz to approve the warrant dated June 2, 2011 in the amount of \$227,449.10. Vote: 6, Yes 1 Abstain (Connolly King).*

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Reports**

**1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

Ms. LaValley reported to the full committee that at the 6:00 p.m. meeting, Mr. Bergeron reported to them that National Grid and Guardian Energy are teaming up to replace all of the parking lot lights at the high school to led lights. Doing this will save the school department \$11,000 per year. The Cashman School will be done after the high school.

**2. Policy Subcommittee**

Ms. Hanshaw stated that the subcommittee have scheduled a meeting for 1:00 p.m. on 6/8/11 in the Superintendent's office.

**3. Personnel Subcommittee**

Mr. Schwartz stated that negotiations are ongoing.

## **B. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **1. Student Advisory Council**

The Chair welcomed the new Student Advisory Council Representative, Jon Tedford, to the meeting. Jon reported that the Council is working on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. LaValley thanked the staff who put the retiree reception together. She also reported that the Pops Concert was great, alumni showed up, as a surprise to the retiring music teacher, Tom Horan.

Ms. LaValley stated that the Memorial Day Parade was great and she thanked the Veterans. She also congratulated the softball team for making it to post-season play.

Mr. Schwartz congratulated graduating seniors of the AHS graduation as well as the Academy graduation. He also stated that it was good to see Academy students receiving scholarships to continue their education.

## **VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

1. Meeting to go over school committee goals for 11-12 and include the new superintendent
2. August regular meeting date

## **VIII. PRESS CONFERENCE**

None.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:45 p.m. the Chair stated that it is necessary for the committee to go into executive session under MGL 39, 23B to discuss salaries of non-union personnel. He also stated that the committee will adjourn from public session following the executive session and will not reconvene in public session.

*Roll Call Vote: Kezer, Yes; LaValley, Yes; Schwartz, Yes; Schultz, Yes; Hanshaw, Yes; McGee, 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.*