

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
OCTOBER 5, 2010**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Debra LaValley Bibeau.

**II. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. MCAS Presentation – Telena Imel**

Ms. Imel gave a PowerPoint presentation on the latest MCAS results. She stated that the district had much to celebrate with the success of Amesbury students and the comparison between Amesbury and the State average. There was a question and answer period following the presentation.

**III. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

Mr. Greg Noyes, Clark’s Road, commented that the state’s expectations regarding MCAS scores that students are supposed to reach are unrealistic.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**A. Business Administrator’s Report**

**1. Quarterly Report**

Mr. Bergeron explained items in the quarterly report that were discussed by the budget/finance subcommittee prior to the full committee meeting. This report will go before the committee for a formal vote.

He reported that the school department has collected \$62,000 in transportation fees. Circuit Breaker monies are going to be an increase over last year’s figures which will give the school department the ability to prepay some of the special education tuitions for next year. Mr. Bergeron and Ms. Glennon are planning on applying for “extraordinary relief” funds in January or February. If Amesbury’s special education costs reach a certain point, Amesbury will be eligible for extraordinary relief monies.

Both the So. Hampton and the Choice student numbers are down from last year.

**B. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Jack reported that the school department budget is now frozen. This means that it will be "business as usual" as far as classrooms are concerned but no unencumbered money would be spent, except for essential items. He reported on the meeting that he attended along with Ms. LaValley Bibeau and Ms. Imel regarding RTTT money that Amesbury needs to write a grant for by 10/27/10.

The superintendent gave the committee a synopsis of the Academy lease with All Saints Church for classroom space as well as use of a gymnasium. It is a 3-year lease at \$45,000 per year. The Academy budget will sustain the cost of this lease. If the school committee approves the lease, the Academy will move either December or January 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Schultz asked if the school committee could take a tour of the space. Mrs. Georges stated that the school will host an open house once they are moved in. Ms. LaValley Bibeau stated that it would be beneficial if the Academy board and the school committee could get together for a meeting/workshop.

*Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to take business item #3 Academy Lease out of order. Unanimous, Yes.*

*Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the 3-year lease by the Academy of property from All Saints Church. Vote: 4, Yes; 1 Abstain (Schultz).*

**ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the school committee minutes dated September 21, 2010. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstain (Schultz), Student Rep., Yes.*

**B. BUSINESS**

**1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy JFCB/GBCBC Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Hazing, Bullying, Cyber Bullying, Sexting, Discrimination and Hate Crimes**

Ms. Hanshaw told the committee that this policy came to the committee on a first reading but the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was inadvertently skipped.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve Policy JFCB/GBCBC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy GBCBC/JFCB Promoting Civil Rights and Prohibiting Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Hazing, Bullying, Cyber Bullying, Sexting, Discrimination and Hate Crimes**

Ms. Hanshaw explained that this policy was exactly the same as the policy just approved, the coding of the policy is the only difference.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve Policy GBCBC/JFCB on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

3. **Change Date of First Meeting in November**

Ms. LaValley Bibeau explained that the first meeting in November was changed from November 2<sup>nd</sup> due to election night to November 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, the Chair will be unable to attend as well as some other members.

*Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to change the date of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> school committee meeting to November 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Following discussion on which date would work for members of the committee, the consensus was to send via email 2 or 3 possible dates for the first meeting in November and see which date would best suit the majority of the committee.

*Ms. LaValley Bibeau withdrew her motion.*

4. **Vote Delegate to Joint Conference and Alternate**

Mr. McGee volunteered to represent the committee at the conference to vote on the resolutions as the committee wishes. Ms. LaValley Bibeau volunteered to be the committee's alternate as she will be attending the full conference as well.

*Motion by Debra LaValley Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve Tom McGee to represent the committee as the delegate to the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Tom McGee, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve Ms. LaValley Bibeau as the alternate delegate to the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

C. **WARRANT**

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee to approve the warrant dated October 7, 2010 in the amount of \$123,290.62. Unanimous, Yes.*

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Budget/Finance Subcommittee**

Ms. LaValley Bibeau reported that most of what was discussed in the subcommittee meeting had been explained by Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Jack. She stated that Question 3 on the ballot could be devastating to the schools if it passes. The question is about

lowering taxes that the town and school department depend on to function. If passed, it could mean over a \$3M cut to the budget.

**2. Policy Subcommittee**

This subcommittee met on September 30, at 4:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's office. There are policies ready for a first reading at the next school committee meeting.

**3. Personnel Subcommittee**

Mr. McGee reported that this subcommittee will meet prior to the October 19<sup>th</sup> school committee meeting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**1. Student Advisory Council**

Ms. Ouellet reported that the council has some fundraising ideas. They have one new member and still need 2 seniors, 1 sophomore and 2 freshmen.

- Ms. LaValley Bibeau announced that AEFI will be having an Autumn Evening of Giving on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ale House. They will be awarding the \$10,000 Jordan M. Shay Memorial Grant.
- Mr. Jack thanked both Amesbury Glass and Signs by Doug for donating the materials and labor for signs in the library.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Report on Diversity in Students & Personnel
2. Adult Ed. Enrichment Program Proposal – Maggie Furlong (11/10)
3. Date for Goals Review (2/11)
4. School Improvement Plans (10/19/10)
5. School Improvement Plans (11/3/10)

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Tom McGee to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Unanimous, 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.*