

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
JULY 21, 2009**

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Present at 8:00 p.m. were Debra Bibeau, Bonnie Schultz, Gale Hanshaw, Tom McGee, David Jack, Superintendent of Schools and Chanelle Havey, SAC Representative.

The Committee Secretary called the meeting to order. David Jack led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**3. COMMENTS BY VISITORS, DELEGATIONS**

- Mr. James Thivierge, 106 Friend Street, spoke about legislation he has proposed. He also requested a copy of MCAS results for 2008.

**4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**A. Business Administrator's Report**

**1. Operations/Summer Projects**

Michael Bergeron presented an overview of ongoing summer projects. New batting cages at the high school were discussed. Ms. Bibeau asked if FEMA has given the school department funds to clean up the damage on school grounds due to an early December ice storm. Mr. Jack stated that the funds were requested by the town and the funds came to the school department through the town.

- Ms. Bibeau suggested that the AHS class who donated the granite school sign be contacted regarding the relocation of the sign.
- Mr. Bergeron was asked about the water damage to the middle school stairs in the back of the building. Mr. Bergeron stated that he was aware of the problem; the stairs are moving away from the building. Mr. Ford would have more information on this issue. Ms. Bibeau asked if there was any warranty on this problem since it has only been 11 years since the middle school renovation. She stated that the Attorney General's office be contacted because the renovation work was expected to last a lot longer than 11 years.

- Mr. Bergeron was asked about the weight room at the high school and its access in the summer. He will contact Mr. Ford for the answer to the summer access. He stated that the room looked ready to use.
- Ms. Schultz asked why there needed to be fencing placed around the Amesbury Elementary School. Mike explained that it was skirting around the lower edges of the building to keep animals out.
- Cleaning up court yards was also discussed.

**B. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Jack updated the personnel report that was included in the school committee packet.

**ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OR EARLY CONSIDERATION**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the regular minutes dated June 18, 2009. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

**B. BUSINESS**

1. September, November and June School Committee Meetings  
The committee discussed issues in these months that may make it necessary to change the normally scheduled meeting dates. Mr. Jack explained that he and Russ Munroe had met in the high school library to discuss the feasibility of moving all school committee meetings to the high school library. He stated that they may be able to meet at the high school by the second meeting in September.

After discussing a possible second meeting date in September, the committee decided to wait until all of the committee members were present to make this decision. This issue will be placed on the August 18<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to accept November 4, 2009 and June 2, 2010 dates for the first school committee meetings in those months. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

2. Schedule of Subcommittee Meetings  
The budget/finance subcommittee meetings will coordinate with the approved dates in the above vote. The personnel meetings will have to wait until the full committee chooses a date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in September.

***Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to accept the budget/finance meeting dates amended with the November, 2009 and June, 2010 meeting date changes. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

3. School Committee Goals 09-10 Process  
The goal setting session was schedule for August 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The committee decided that they would like to have a facilitator at this meeting from MASC. The committee requested to receive an electronic copy of the strategic plan as well as their last year's goals.
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy JIH Interrogations and Searches  
Ms. Hanshaw stated that the language for this policy was given to us by school counsel. Ms. Schultz suggested that this policy be given to the high school for inclusion in the high school handbook.

***Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to approve policy JIH Interrogations and Searches. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy JK Student Discipline  
Ms. Hanshaw highlighted the changes made to this policy.

***Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve policy JK Student Discipline. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy KHA Public Solicitations in the Schools  
Ms. Hanshaw highlighted the changes made to this policy.

***Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve policy KHA Public Solicitations in the Schools. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy KHB Advertising in the Schools  
Ms. Hanshaw highlighted the changes made to this policy.

***Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Debra Bibeau to approve policy KHB Advertising in the Schools. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy KL Public Complaints  
Ms. Hanshaw highlighted the changes made to this policy.

***Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to approve policy KL Public Complaints. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy KLD Public Complaints About School Personnel  
Ms. Hanshaw highlighted the changes made to this policy. There was a question on the spelling of “complainant”, which is correct.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Debra Bibeau to approve policy KLD Public Complaints About School Personnel. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

## C. WARRANTS

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw to approve the warrant dated 6/30/09.*

Since there were only two members who could vote on this warrant, Ms. Hanshaw rescinded her motion. This warrant was signed in the superintendent’s office by a majority of the committee and it will be voted on in public session at the August 18<sup>th</sup> school committee meeting.

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to approve the warrant dated July 16, 2009 in the amount of \$37,209.90. Unanimous, Yes.*

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Debra Bibeau to approve the warrant dated July 30, 2009 with an amended date, in the amount of \$183,449.32. Unanimous, Yes.*

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### A. Subcommittee Reports

#### 1. Budget/Finance Subcommittee

Ms. Bibeau stated that Gene Burnham, baseball coach, had spoken to her about the batting cages. Mr. Bergeron stated that he had seen the schematic that Mr. Ford prepared outlining the location of the batting cages. Discussion ensued regarding if the committee had to vote to accept the batting cages. Mr. Jack stated that these items were not a total donation, some of the money for the cages came from fundraising.

*Motion by Bonnie Schultz, seconded by Gale Hanshaw to suspend the rules so the committee can vote after 9:00 p.m. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

*Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to allow the installation of the new batting cages with more details coming to the committee at the August 18<sup>th</sup> school committee meeting. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

#### 2. Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Hanshaw stated that the school committee has an additional donation to accept. An Amesbury family would like to donate a black hill spruce tree. They would like the tree to be planted at the Cashman Elementary School in honor of Peter Hoyt. Brad Ford made a recommendation to the subcommittee in favor of accepting this donation. Mr. Ford will make sure that this planting follows the parameters stated in policy EC.

Ms. Bibeau stated that the Amesbury Improvement Organization should be informed as they keep a count of the number and types of trees in Amesbury.

*Motion by Gale Hanshaw, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to accept the donation of the black spruce tree to be planted at the Cashman School in honor of Peter Hoyt. Unanimous, Yes, Student Rep., Yes.*

3. **Personnel Subcommittee**  
This subcommittee has not met.
4. **Student Advisory Council**  
The Student Advisory Council has not met this summer.
5. **High School Building Committee**  
Mr. McGee reported that the punch list items are getting finished on an ongoing basis. The next meeting is July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging.

Ms. Bibeau asked Mr. McGee if the bus route around the back of the high school to cut down on the congestion at the front of the school will be ready for the start of school. Mr. Ford had told Mr. Jack that there was just too much snow last year to make space around the back of the school to follow the planned route for the buses. Discussion ensued including the possible need for another crossing guard at the high school.

Other questions for the building committee were regarding the removal of dead plants, the heat and air conditioning working properly as well as the SAC issue with the placing of the bulletin boards.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Mr. Jack referred to two items in the packet; the letter thanking Congressman Tierney for his support for education as well as a letter of thanks from parents to Ms. Leary, high school Math teacher.
- Ms. Bibeau thanked the members who took advantage of the cost savings by registering early for the Joint Conference in November. She will email any hot issues that the committee could benefit from. Ms. Bibeau asked if the field hockey field was all set for the upcoming season and it is all set.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Status Update on GLEC (8/09)
2. Acceptance of Gifts (8/09)
3. Policy Manual Online (9/09)
4. 1<sup>st</sup> Day Celebration (8/09)
5. School Committee 09-10 Goals (9/09)
6. Superintendent's 09-10 Goals (9/09)
7. Lunch at Whittier (9/09)

***Motion by Debra Bibeau, seconded by Bonnie Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., Unanimous, Yes.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom McGee, Secretary