

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2024

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Maryann Welch, Abigail Jurist Levy, Greg Noyes, Brock Omohundro, Kate Slater, and Elizabeth McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/toNYGDQAH/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (6:45)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (7:50)
 - Jon Boles, 1st St Amesbury – Mr. Boles shared several ideas he would like to see implemented in the schools including students serving as teacher assistants, reducing the number of Chromebooks, and elimination of 2 assistant principals at the middle school.

Mr. Noyes moved to take item IV-B (Student Advisory Council) out of order, second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.

IV-B – Ms. Litwin updated the committee on behalf of the Student Advisory Council including the planning of elections for the coming year, and the end of year project which is the cleanup/improvement of the patio at AHS. The committee asked questions of Ms. Litwin including appointments to the regional board and participation in the leadership conference.

- III. Executive Session - Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to negotiations with non-union personnel, being the Superintendent of Schools. (16:40)

Dr. Jurist Levy moved to enter executive session, seconded by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.

- IV. Communications & Reports (43:20)
 - A. Educational Leadership
 1. Superintendent McAndrews updated the committee on staffing within the district including recent hires and resignations. The committee asked questions relating to the report including known retirements and effects of budget votes on current positions.
 2. Q3 Facilities Report – Jim McCarthy updated the committee on facilities projects in the district including energy efficiency upgrades, road repairs, middle school roof repairs, purchasing of landscape equipment, CES playground installation, and planned summer work. The committee asked questions relating to the clock at the front of AHS, and AMS auditorium repairs.
 - B. Whittier Tech Rep. Report – Ms. Patty Lowell updated the committee on behalf of the Whittier Tech School Committee. Ms. Lowell spoke about ongoing plans for a future building project, a recent state skills competition, and upcoming graduation

information. The committee asked questions of Ms. Lowell relating to public comment procedures for committee meetings as well as recent budget hearings and proposals.

- C. SEPAC Update – A report from the SEPAC was read into the record (attached).
- D. Liaisons – Mayor Gove updated the committee on recent actions by the building committee including approval of invoices, and purchasing of equipment for landscaping and the kitchen, and punch list items.
- E. Subcommittees
 - 1. Finance & Facilities – Ms. Welch updated the committee on recent meetings of the subcommittee including approval of transfers, next steps relating to budget approval, Landry stadium maintenance, and AES closeout.
Mr. Noyes was recognized to share a presentation with the committee relating to his thoughts on the recently approved budget.
 - 2. Policy & Personnel – Dr. Jurist Levy spoke about the committees’ ongoing cycle of policy review, and updated the committee on coming work relating to the Superintendent’s evaluation. The committee discussed the upcoming evaluation schedule with the Superintendent.
 - 3. Curriculum and Inclusion - Ms. Welch shared notes from the recent subcommittee meeting including the subcommittee goals, policy AGA/Spotlight program, ongoing math pilots, and curriculum review cycle. The committee asked questions of the Superintendent relating to remaining ESSER funding.
 - 4. 1C: Long Range Planning – Dr. Jurist Levy spoke about the Abrahams Report and noted the district expected to receive it shortly. She also referenced recent discussions relating to school committee involvement in school events.
- F. Other – Ms. Welch asked about Chartwells providing a demonstration of meals for the committee at a future meeting. Mr. Omoundro asked about bussing in respect to cameras on busses and recent bus delays. Ms. Liporto provided information on both, and the committee discussed.

V. New Business (2:26:00)

- 1. Approval of Transfers – Amount totaling: \$972,286.00. Ms. Welch noted the subcommittee gave a favorable recommendation.
Mr. Noyes moved to approve, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.
- 2. Approval of contract between the Amesbury School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools – *Ms. Welch moved to approve the contract, second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*
- 3. Vote to surplus remaining contents of the Amesbury Elementary School with only a salvage value and to further authorize the Superintendent to engage with an auction firm to liquidate all contents – *Mr. Noyes moved to approve, second by Dr. Slater.*
Ms. Liporto summarized the process through GovDeals. The committee discussed the proposal. *Vote: Approved unanimously.*

VI. Consent Agenda (2:37:13)

- A. *Ms. Welch moved to approve the minutes from March 4, March 18 (Public hearing), March 18 (Regular meeting), second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*

*B. Mr. Noyes moved to approve the following warrants: Warrants: April 4 \$252,258.23
| April 5 \$662,896.67|April 18 \$516,435.45|April 19 \$658,918.72 |May 2
\$312,706.83. Second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*

Dr. Slater moved to adjourn, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.

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