

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 3, 2024**

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/2zHgJwLyoud2pXu/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (1:17)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (2:35)
  - Jon Boles – 1<sup>st</sup> St Amesbury – Mr. Boles suggested that the schools sponsor a letter drive from students to their elected officials asking for increased funding. Mr. Boles read an example letter he had written to the mayor.
  - A Letter from SEPAC Liaisons Jessica Harris & Kristen Costa was read into the record (attached).
- III. Recognitions & Accomplishments (6:50)
  - A. Principal Ricci & Superintendent McAndrews announced the recipients of the Principal's Award (Ruby Moulton) and Superintendent's Award (Zoe Moccia).
  - B. Winter/Spring Sports – The following teams were recognized by the committee for their accomplishments during the winter & spring sports seasons: Boys Indoor Track (CAL Baker Champs), Boys Ice Hockey (CAL Baker Champs), Boys Outdoor Track (CAL Baker Champs/D6 State Champs), Softball (CAL Baker Champs).
- IV. Communications & Reports (28:55)
  1. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews updated the committee on recent staffing changes within the district including resignations, open positions, and new hires. She also provided a facilities report including updates on the CES playground installation progress, repair options for the clock on the front of AHS, the ongoing auction of the surplus equipment at AES, and finally the progress being made on replacement of the AMS roof. The committee discussed the Superintendent's report and asked questions relating to the items discussed.
  2. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Litwin gave her final report to the committee including updates on beautification of the patio outside the cafeteria and upcoming meetings to determine who next years' officers would be.
  3. Whittier Tech Representative(s) Report – Ms. Lowell updated the committee on recent happenings at Whittier Tech including end of year activities and recognitions of Amesbury students at Whittier. The committee also discussed the potential options for a new building at the Northern Essex campus.
  4. Liaisons – Mayor Gove noted there had not been a meeting since the last update.
  5. Subcommittees
    - a. Finance & Facilities – Ms. Welch stated the subcommittee had met that evening and discussed transfers, the FY25 budget, and cost of utilities. Concerning the cost of utilities, Ms. Welch and Ms. Liporto shared that approximately \$321,000 in savings had been found in the utilities line in the budget. The Superintendent then shared with the committee the potential add backs in the budget using the additional

monies. The committee then discussed these options as presented by the Superintendent.

- b. Policy & Personnel – Dr. Jurist Levy stated the subcommittee had met briefly to approve a naming application that the full committee would be discussing that evening. Mayor Gove stated the committee would be considering a private school application in the future as required by law.
- c. Curriculum & Inclusion – Ms. Welch stated the committee has been finalizing the new spotlight process/form, working with Ms. Jacques to finalize the curriculum review cycle, and upcoming review of the DCAP.
- d. 1C: Long Range Planning – Dr. Jurist Levy shared information on the report from the Abrahams Group which had been recently shared with the committee and public at large as well as next steps the subcommittee would be taking now that the report had been finalized.
- e. Other Business – Mr. Noyes brought up the request of 8<sup>th</sup> grade families to use Landry Stadium for their moving up ceremony which is traditionally used for graduations. Superintendent McAndrews shared the location options that had been offered to AMS for the ceremony.  
Ms. Welch also described a recent 4<sup>th</sup> grade project relating to weather emergencies which included a recording of video reports at ACTV.

V. New Business (1:32:30)

- A. Approval of Policies – Dr. Jurist Levy summarized the proposals to the committee including highlighting the changes that had been proposed to the committee.  
*Dr. Slater moved to approve policy ADDA, second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.*  
*Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve policy AA, second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*  
*Mr. Mansperger moved to approve policy AC, second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*  
*Mr. Noyes moved to table policy ACA, second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.*  
*Ms. Welch moved to approve policy AGA as amended, second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*  
*Dr. Jurist Levy moved to delete policy AGA-E, second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*  
*Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve policy JLA, second by Mr. Noyes.*  
Ms. Welch asked about language clarifying not missing recess for missed assignments. Superintendent McAndrews along with the committee discussed potential revisions.  
*Ms. Welch moved to amend by adding a bullet stating “Opportunity to participate in physical activity, including recess, will not be withheld in order to complete missed assignments”, second by Mr. Omohundro. The main motion also passed unanimously.*
- B. FF-E Application: Naming New Pathway Bridge between Shay and Woodsom – The sponsors appeared before the committee and summarized the project which is the result of an AEFI grant. The committee discussed the proposed name of the bridge and the importance of a precise official naming.  
*Dr. Slater moved to approve: Peter Hoyt’s “Woodsom Walkers” Bridge, second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*

*Mr. Omohundro moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*

- C. Superintendent Summative Evaluation – Dr. Jurist Levy stated the approved would be delayed to allow additional feedback from members.

*Dr. Slater moved to table, second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.*

- D. Superintendent McAndrews shared the hiring process for the Director of Student Services with the committee. The committee will appoint a member to sit on the interview committee in order to make a recommendation to the committee. Mr. Omohundro thanked Dr. Catarius for her work and stated he would be recusing himself from the process due to his wife being the AMS nurse. Ms. Slater noted she would be willing to serve, Ms. Welch shared she would be willing to be backup. *Dr. Jurist Levy moved to appoint Dr. Slater to the interview committee with Ms. Welch as a backup, second by Mr. Mansperger. 6 Yes, 1 recusal (Omohundro). Passes.*

VI. Consent Agenda (1:56:40)

1. *Minutes: April 1 & April 22. Dr. Slater moved approval, second by Ms. Welch. Approved unanimously.*
2. *Warrants: May 3 \$623,512.00 | May 16 \$577,371.59 | May 17 \$645,473.76 | May 30 \$233,422.79. Mr. Noyes moved approval, second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.*
3. *Gifts: \$2,000 from AHS Class of 2024 for new logo in AHS Gym. Mr. Mansperger moved to accept, second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*

*Dr. Slater moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Mansperger. Approved unanimously.*