AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2024

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: https://fb.watch/rG1L7J4hcB/

I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (2:28)

II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (4:15)

- Karen Brannely 12 Old Tavern Ln – Ms. Brannely spoke as a teacher at CES and resident of Amesbury in opposition to any budget cuts to CES this budget cycle.
- Soleil Bennett – Ms. Bennett spoke as an AHS student in opposition to budget cuts to the arts department, specifically referencing the cut to the position held by Ms. Sconce.
- Grace Knowland – Ms. Knowland echoed the words of Ms. Bennet in support of keeping arts programs intact as well as the position of Ms. Sconce.
- Jonathan Boles – 27 1st St – Mr. Boles is an AMS art teacher and spoke against cuts to the AMS arts program.

III. Communications & Reports (11:55)

A. Educational Leadership – Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews shared a presentation with the committee regarding progress being made on the District Strategy including completed items and ongoing work. The committee asked questions of the Superintendent based on her report. The Superintendent then shared an update on the AMS roof project, which Mayor Gove contributed to, and a presentation on the Student Opportunity Act submittal which the committee would be voting on at a later date. Finally, the Superintendent shared a staffing update including open positions and recent hires/departures.

B. Student Advisory Council (1:38:40) – Ms. Litwin provided an update to the committee on behalf of the SAC including updates on scheduling, events planning, and student responses to proposed budget cuts.

C. Whittier Tech Representative(s) Report – Ms. Lowell & Ms. Coppinger joined the committee as the Whittier Tech School Committee Reps and updated the committee on items including next steps for building needs, recent grant awards, program enrollment, and the FY 25 budget. The committee discussed the report and asked questions of the representatives.

Ms. Welch moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

D. Liaisons – Shay Memorial Building Project Update – Mayor Gove and Superintendent McAndrews shared several updates on behalf of the committee including punch projects, pump station repairs, and progress towards substantial completion in order to get final reimbursement after the final audit by MSBA.

E. Subcommittees
   1. Finance & Facilities – Ms. Welch stated the subcommittee recently approved transfers and a recommendation to surplus AES, both items the full committee would be considering that evening. Ms. Welch also recapped recent budget workshops held by the subcommittee.
   2. Dr. Jurist Levy shared an update from Policy & Personnel including recurring meeting times, goals of the committee, and a policy review schedule.
   3. Ms. Welch updated the committee on behalf of the Curriculum & Inclusion subcommittee including review of goals, the Spotlight program, district strategy, recurring meeting dates.
   4. Dr. Jurist Levy stated the 1C- Long Range Planning Committee would be meeting in the coming days.

F. Other – Mr. Noyes asked about restarting school presentations including a civics presentation by AHS students. Ms. Welch also shared a legislative report including updates on the proposed state ballot questions relating to MCAS requirements.

IV. New Business (2:09:53)

1. Vote to Surplus Amesbury Elementary School – Ms. Welch began by sharing the positive recommendation from the subcommittee. Mayor Gove then summarized the process of surplusing the building including next steps. The building would not be considered surplused until the city council accepts it as such. If the council does not accept it, it reverts back to the school district. The committee discussed the motion as well as alternatives to surplusing the building. The committee discussed holding a walkthrough of the building.
   Dr. Slater moved to surplus Amesbury Elementary School, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
2. Approval of School Year 2024-2025 Calendar – Superintendent McAndrews summarized the revisions to the calendar based on school committee feedback including PRT and conference days. The committee discussed the proposed calendar. Mr. Noyes asked whether the committee could propose amendments and it was determined the committee could not.
   Dr. Slater moved to approve the calendar as presented, second by Mr. Mansperger. A brief discussion followed on school start dates moving forward. *Vote: 5 Yes, 2 No (Noyes, Omohundro).*
3. Approval of Transfers: $199,593.00 – Ms. Welch stated the Finance subcommittee recommended approval.
   Ms. Welch moved to approve transfers in the amount of $199,593.00, second by Dr. Slater. Vote: Approved unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda (2:43:10)

A. Minutes – Dr. Slater moved to approve the following minutes: Minutes: Jan 16, Jan 22. Mr. Omohundro seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

B. Warrants – Mr. Noyes moved to approve the following warrants: Jan 26 $644,122.27|Feb 8 $446,645.60|Feb 22 $422,764.23. Mr. Mansperger seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Noyes moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. slater. Approved unanimously.

DRAFT