

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**December 11, 2023**

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Present were Mayor Gove, Chair; Mel Webster, Kate Currie, Maryann Welch, Abigail Jurist Levy, Greg Noyes, and Elizabeth McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesburySchools/videos/196996880146684/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:00)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (0:02)
  - Patricia Lowell – Moncrief St – Ms. Lowell spoke to the committee as one of Amesbury’s representatives on the Whittier School Committee. She shared details concerning the upcoming meeting of the Whittier School Building Committee.
  - Stan Swartz Highland St – Mr. Swartz spoke about his relationship and service with Mr. Hoyt.
  - Bridget Ramsden – Ms. Ramsden is a former student of Mr. Hoyt and spoke highly of him and thanked him for his service.
  - Deb LaValley – Ms. LaValley served with Mr. Hoyt thanked him for his service to the school committee and Amesbury as a whole.
  - Joanna Kimball – Moody St. Ms. Kimball is a teacher in Amesbury and daughter of Mr. Hoyt. She thanked her dad for his service and the committee for recognizing him.
  - Mr. Hoyt spoke, reflecting on his time of service in Amesbury, thanking those who he served with for their well wishes.
  - Steve Stanganelli – Amidon Ave – Mr. Stanganelli thanked Mr. Hoyt for his service. Mr. Stanganelli also mentioned the bus safety pilot that Peabody was participating in as well as the upcoming Whittier Tech vote.
- III. Recognition of Service (16:00) – Mr. Peter Hoyt – Mayor Gove, Superintendent McAndrews, as well as members of the current school committee spoke about Mr. Hoyt and thanked him for his service. Following the committee’s comments Mr. Hoyt was officially presented with a chair from Amesbury Chair Company to be placed at the new Shay school library.
- IV. Joint Meeting – Student Advisory Council (27:56) – Nine members of the Student Advisory Council, led by Ms. Litwin, took turns sharing a presentation with the committee on projects and initiatives that SAC was working on and hoped to undertake in the future. These projects include a club fair, 8<sup>th</sup> grade tours, feminine hygiene products in bathrooms, band/choir participation, winter carnival, and courtyard restoration.

V. Communications & Reports

A. Educational Leadership (40:30)

1. Director of Student Services: Special Education Update – Dr. Lynn Catarius provided a special education update to the committee covering topics including staffing updates, data teams, professional development opportunities, new IEP implementation, enrollment data and the district’s current special education programming. The committee asked questions of Dr. Catarius and discussed the presentation.
2. Superintendent McAndrews: Formative Evaluation – The Superintendent provided a presentation to the committee for her formative evaluation. The presentation included a review of goals, progress towards those goals as well as what that progress looked like in practice in the district. The committee discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions of the superintendent.

*Dr. Jurist Levy moved to suspend policy BDD, seconded by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*

VI. New Business (1:51:25)

1. Whittier Tech Building Project Discussion – The committee discussed the ongoing Whittier building project as well as the potential drafting of a statement on the project on behalf of the committee. Ms. Lowell, who had spoken earlier in the meeting, was invited to provide additional information/clarification to the committee. Councilor Stanganelli was also invited to provide feedback to the committee. The committee then reviewed the statement that the city council had approved and proposed the following language: *That the committee endorse the city council resolution as written by city council.*

*Dr. Jurist Levy proposed the following: That the committee endorse the city council resolution as written by city council. Ms. Welch seconded the motion. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 abstention (Webster). Motion approved.*

VII. Executive Session (2:23:00) - 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.

The committee thanked Mr. Webster and Ms. Currie for their four years of service to the committee.

*Mr. Noyes moved to enter executive session, seconded Ms. Welch. Vote: 6 Yes. Passes.*