

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2023

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Mel Webster, Kate Currie, Greg Noyes, Maryann Welch, and Superintendent McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesburySchools/videos/237766998917300/?mibextid=zDhOQc>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:00) – Mayor Gove called the meeting to order. Mr. Webster read the mission statement and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (0:27) – No comments
- III. Communications & Reports (1:05)
 - A. Educational Leadership
 1. Director of Finance – Q1 Budget Update: Joan Liporto provided a Quarter 1 budget update to the committee including updates on electricity and maintenance accounts. Ms. Liporto also covered balances in revolving accounts. Transfers will be approved at a later meeting. The committee asked questions based on Ms. Liporto’s report.
 2. Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent McAndrews shared information with the committee on the Innovative Pathways Career program. The district has been approved for a \$25,000 planning grant to help implement this program. The committee discussed the program and asked questions of the Superintendent relating to it. The Superintendent also thanked the staff members who helped with arrival/dismissal at the beginning of the year.
 - B. Student Advisory Council – No report
 - C. Liaisons
 1. Mayor Gove updated the committee on progress relating to the Shay Memorial project including approval of invoices, punch list projects, playground painting, ongoing training on controls, and landscaping. The committee also discussed adding additional equipment to the project based on available funding.
 - D. Subcommittees
 1. Budget & Finance – Mr. Webster summarized the recent meeting of the subcommittee including discussions on transfers. The committee made no recommendations.
 2. Personnel – No report
 3. Buildings & Grounds – Ms. Currie updated the committee on recent items of discussion including Shay climate controls, Cashman tree removal, HVAC replacement, and playground renovations. Ms. Currie shared that although \$178k has been spent on AMS roof repairs, shingles, patching, and moisture tests since 2016, the AMS roof is still leaking. Since the MSBA has denied the district’s numerous requests to fund the AMS

roof replacement, the city will continue the ongoing process to replace the roof without state assistance. The district has filed an insurance claim for the AMS performance center and Servpro has been onsite. Ms. Currie also discussed the bleacher inspection at Amesbury High and the hiring of a new MPFT at the school. Superintendent McAndrews also provided information to the committee on the ongoing roof repair at AMS.

4. Policy – Ms. Currie noted the subcommittee had policies for first read on the agenda for discussion.
 5. Teaching & Learning – Ms. Welch shared a summary of the most recent subcommittee meeting including updates on agenda alignment with the district strategy and ongoing curriculum work.
- E. Other business – Mr. Noyes asked about receiving reports on staffing within the district as well as updates on several issues that were previously discussed at meetings. These included the high school chemistry position, language at AMS, and music/band programming. Ms. Welch requested more details on the Whittier Tech build. Mr. Webster asked for an enrollment update from the Superintendent and requested that contracts be put on the district website.

IV. New Business (1:02:15)

- Appointment to Whittier Tech School Committee – Patricia Lowell: Ms. Lowell introduced herself to the committee and shared why she was interested in the committee. Committee members took turns asking questions of Ms. Lowell. *Mr. Noyes moved to appoint Ms. Lowell, second by Ms. Currie. Vote: 3 Yes (Currie, Gove, Noyes), 2 No (Webster, Welch). Passes.*
- Policies for First Read – The following policies were before the committee for first read and were summarized by Ms. Currie: BIA, BBF (APS)/BCA (MASC), BDD (MASC), BG (APS)/BHC (MASC), BCE. Feedback will be sent to Ms. Currie.
- Acceptance of FY24 Innovation Career Pathways Planning Grant: \$25,000 (Vote Expected) – *Ms. Currie moved to accept, second by Mr. Webster. Approved unanimously.*

V. Consent Agenda (1:44:10)

1. *Mr. Webster moved to approve the following minutes: June 29, Aug 7, Aug 21. Second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*
2. *Ms. Welch moved to accept the following warrants: Aug 25 \$635,735.38 | Sept 8 \$618,741.76 | Sept 21 \$351,387.82 | Sept 22 \$671,819.27. Second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*

Mr. Webster moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Currie. Approved unanimously.