

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

**April 3, 2023**

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/kL6yxnJQ4B>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:23)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (2:15)
  - Steve Stanganelli – 12 Amidon Ave – Mr. Stanganelli spoke about the issues with the states funding formula relating to the budget. He also encouraged the committee look into joining a lawsuit against the state and add legal fees to support that into the budget. Increase elementary recess.

Mayor Gove shared that she received a number of emails over the weekend from community members sharing their concerns about the bell schedule and 30 min lunch/recess; however, none requested their statements to be read during public comment.
- III. Communications & Reports (5:20)
  - A. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews shared an update relating to the ongoing planning for building moves over the summer. A consultant has been hired to help with moving logistics. Ultimately an RFP will be created to hire a company to complete the move.
  - B. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Yee shared an update on behalf of SAC and the plans for an art showcase as well as a survey to collect student opinions about the arts.
  - C. Liaisons – Mayor Gove updated the committee on the progress of the Shay Memorial Building Project. The mayor highlighted recently approved change orders, the project budget, and general construction updates. Superintendent McAndrews shared her excitement at the progress. The project continues to trend under budget.
  - D. Subcommittees
    - 1. Budget & Finance: Mr. Webster stated all recent meetings have been related to the budget. The subcommittee would not meet again until May.
    - 2. Personnel: Dr. Jurist Levy updated the committee on ongoing negotiations with AFT Amesbury. She shared a timeline of meetings that had taken place, a total of 51 hours of meetings so far. Four future negotiation sessions are currently scheduled. MPFTs are under contract until the end of June, and teachers/paras are under contract until the end of August.
    - 3. Buildings & Grounds: Ms. Currie shared updates from previous subcommittee meetings including the AES feasibility study, CES HVAC units, AMS boiler and roof repair, ongoing LED light retrofitting, and options for applying for a Green Communities Grant.



4. Policy: Ms. Smith stated the next meeting of the subcommittee would be the end of April. Ms. Smith noted MASC was targeted by a cyber attack and policies were temporarily unavailable.
5. Teaching & Learning: Ms. Welch shared a summary of the recent subcommittee meeting with topics including data review, Kindergarten scheduling, budget concerns relating to curriculum piloting, innovative pathways, and upcoming spotlights.
6. Other – Mr. Webster asked for an update on the unveiling of the new identifier.

IV. New Business (43:15)

1. FY 24 Budget – Mayor Gove summarized the process the committee would use to vote on the proposed budget. Superintendent McAndrews clarified that the budget as presented included the AMS World Language program. Committee members shared their thoughts on the budget and stated what they would like to see added back into the budget proposal. After discussion, the committee asked to add \$208,000 back to the budget and for the new totals to be provided for discussion. The committee proceeded to take the following votes on the FY 24 budget:

*Mr. Webster moved to approve district administration cost center in the amount of \$1,720,871, second by Ms. Currie. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 No (Noyes), 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Noyes moved to approve the transportation cost center in the amount of \$649,860, second by Ms. Currie. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Ms. Welch moved to approve the Shay Memorial cost center budget in the amount of \$4,458,547, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Webster moved to approve the Cashman Elementary cost center budget in the amount of \$4,119,903, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Noyes moved to approve the Middle school budget in the amount of \$5,568,148. No second, motion fails.*

*Ms. Currie moves to approve the Middle School cost center budget in the amount of \$5,673,148, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 No (Noyes), 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Webster moved to approve the High School budget in the amount of \$5,465,552, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 3 Yes (Noyes, Webster, Welch), 3 No (Currie, Jurist Levy, Smith), 1 Abstention (Gove). Motion fails.*

*Ms. Currie moved to approve the High School budget in the amount of \$5,365,552, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: 3 Yes (Currie, Jurist Levy, Smith), 3 No (Noyes, Webster, Welch), 1 Abstention (Gove). Motion fails.*



*Mr. Webster moved to approve the Innovation High School budget in the amount of \$872,059, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Ms. Currie moved to approve the district technology budget in the amount of \$188,902, second by Ms. Welch. Vote 4 Yes, 1 No (Webster), 2 Abstentions (Gove, Noyes). Passes.*

*Mr. Noyes moves to approve the district maintenance budget in the amount of \$2,575,389, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Noyes moves to approve the Curriculum and Professional Development budget in the amount of \$463,803. No second, motion fails.*

*Ms. Welch moved to approve the Curriculum and Professional Development budget in the amount of \$363,803, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 No (Noyes), 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Dr. Jurist Levy moves to approve the Special Education budget in the amount of \$4,171,097, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Webster moves to approve the Employee Benefits budget in the amount of \$6,727,593, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

The committee held a further discussion on the high school budget and where \$100,000 of the budget would be drawn from (city appropriation vs. school choice).

*Mr. Webster moved to approve the High School budget in the amount of \$5,465,552, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Ms. Currie moved to approve the FY 24 district budget in the amount of \$36,986,724, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

2. Vote on Last Day of School – Superintendent McAndrews stated the last day of school is proposed as June 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Dr. Jurist Levy moves to approve the last day of school as June 21<sup>st</sup>, second by Ms. Smith. Approved unanimously.*

3. Capital Improvement Plan – Superintendent McAndrews & Joan Liporto summarized the proposed plan for the committee. The committee discussed the plan and asked questions about various projects. No vote taken.

*Mr. Webster moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Ms. Welch. Passes unanimously.*



4. Discussion on Goals Workshop – The committee discussed a date for the annual goals workshop. The consensus of the committee was to meet on May 13.

V. Consent Agenda (1:51:40)

- A. *Mr. Webster moved to approve the minutes from February 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.*
- B. *Ms. Currie moved to approve the following warrants: Feb 23 \$439,973.33/Mar 10 \$652,412.61/Mar 16 \$7170.00 | Mar 23 \$297,766.78/Mar 24 \$633,265.97. Second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.*

VI. Executive Session (1:53:44)

- A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to collective bargaining with the AFT Amesbury Teachers/Nurses Unit, the AFT Amesbury Multi-Purpose Facilities Technicians/Maintenance Unit, and the AFT Amesbury Paraprofessionals/Tutors Unit as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair; *Ms. Welch moved to enter executive session, second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*