

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

**January 9, 2023**

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/iUAZULkd7d/>.

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (6:30)
- II. Organizational Meeting (7:40)
  1. Election of Chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary – Mr. Webster, acting as chair asked for nominations for Chair.  
*Ms. Currie nominated Mayor Gove for Chair, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*  
Mayor Gove assumed roll as Chair and asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.  
*Mr. Webster nominated Ms. Currie, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*  
Mayor Gove called for nominations for Secretary.  
*Ms. Currie nominated Ms. Welch, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
  2. Meeting Dates & Times – Mayor Gove noted meetings were traditionally on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month.  
*Mr. Webster moved to approve the meeting schedule, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*  
Mayor Gove stated the committee would hold off on making subcommittee and liaison appointments until a final committee member was appointed.
- III. Comment by Visitors and Delegations (12:06)
  - Greg Noyes 8 Clark's Rd – Mr. Noyes discussed the harm caused to children by social media, including deteriorating attention span and damage to self-worth. He noted Seattle Public Schools is suing tech giants for harm caused to youth. He stated he believed social media sites should be blocked during the school day.
  - Steve Stanganelli 12 Amidon Ave – Mr. Stanganelli noted he was a city councilor in Amesbury, speaking in his own capacity. Mr. Stanganelli encouraged the committee to engage the council early in the budget process this year. He also spoke about the need to invest in programming in the schools, possibly through regionalization.
- IV. New Business (19:05)
  1. Principal Ricci and Ms. Brockmeyer spoke to the committee about a student council trip to the MASC Student Council Conference. Amesbury High School has been sending students for over 30 years to the conference. The committee discussed the field trip application and asked questions of Ms. Brockmeyer.  
*Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the trip, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
  2. Ms. Liporto provided information to the committee on approval of a truck lease. It will be three annual payments. Mr. Webster spoke in support of approving the lease.

*Ms. Welch moved to approve the lease purchase in the amount of \$31,189.40 consisting of 3 annual payments of \$11,254.20, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

V. Communications & Reports (25:45)

1. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews discussed several topics including an update on return to school, a facilities update including updates on the AHS fire panel, AMS boiler replacement, and LED light refitting, an update on progress made in the District's Title IX self-audit, and potential SY 22-23 calendar adjustments. The committee asked questions of the Superintendent and discussed her report.
2. Q2 Budget Update – Joan Liporto provided a Quarter 2 budget update to the committee. Ms. Liporto raised concern over the health insurance account increasing by a projected cost of approximately \$156,000 over budget, this was due to the increase in hiring and employees switching to different plans. Other areas of concern were the long-term substitute accounts at AES and both the Middle and High Schools and SPED transportation. Ms. Liporto stated overall the budget is in good shape. Committee members asked questions of the Director of Finance based on her report.
3. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Yee reported to the committee that SAC has already met since returning from break. They are busy planning Winter Carnival and discussing other events in the future.
4. Liaisons – Mayor Gove provided a report on the Shay Memorial building project including timelines and upcoming milestones.
5. Subcommittees
  - a. Mr. Webster states the Budget & Finance subcommittee will meet next on Jan 23. He also proposed upcoming meetings of the whole to be used for budget workshops. Ms. Welch also noted that initial plans have occurred to hold a small joint meeting with city council members relating to budget.
  - b. Dr. Jurist Levy shared the upcoming meeting schedule for negotiations.
  - c. Ms. Currie stated there were no updates from the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee.
  - d. Ms. Currie stated there were no updates from the Policy subcommittee. Mayor Gove noted policy BCA will be reviewed by the subcommittee.
  - e. Ms. Welch updated the committee on the recent meeting of the Teaching & Learning subcommittee including review of MCAS data, math curriculum piloting, standard based report card development, and updates on MTSS work.
6. Other – Mr. Webster encouraged the public to watch a recent video tour of the new school and encouraged School Committee members to attend an upcoming MASC Learning Lunch about the upcoming DESE standards based on time lost during Covid.

VI. Consent Agenda (1:24:52)

1. *Mr. Webster moved to approve the following minutes and was seconded by Ms. Currie: Nov. 14 & 21, Dec. 5 & 12. Approved unanimously.*
2. *Ms. Welch moved to approve the following warrants and was seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy: Nov 4 - \$638,194.67, Nov 18 - \$631,527.32, Dec 2 - \$734,128.67, Dec 15 - \$389,183.14, Dec 16 - \$646,979.99. Approved unanimously.*

VII. Executive Session (1:26:20)

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;  
Committee will adjourn from executive session and not return to open session.

*Ms. Currie moved to enter executive session, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Roll call: 6 Yes. Passes.*

DRAFT