

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022**

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair; Peter Hoyt, Mel Webster, Kate Currie, Maryann Welch, Abigail Jurist Levy, Anna Bailey, and Superintendent Elizabeth McAndrews.

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/bZHBdjPg6b/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:15)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (2:10)
 - A Letter from Nicole Boyd in favor of dropping the mask mandate was read into the record.
 - Eric Girard from Spindletree Rd. spoke in favor of keeping the mask mandate in place for the time being.
 - Marissa Lena O'Connor Mandeville – Submitted a comment via Facebook requesting that the mask mandate remain in place.
 - A Facebook comment from Elise Matyja was read aloud in favor of mask optional.
 - Public comments submitted online after the comment period are attached.
- III. Communication and Reports (7:20)
 1. Educational Leadership – Superintendent McAndrews shared a presentation regarding masking in schools to the committee. Also present were Ken Berkenbush, Diane Dardeno, and Kristin Tierney to answer public health related questions from the committee. The Superintendent recommended that AHS begin a mask optional policy as of February 16. The Superintendent also recommended that mask optional be extended to the District's other school buildings beginning on February 28th. Discussion by the committee followed.
 2. Report from Math Coach & Reading Interventionist – Beth Cavalier and Lisa Dupere each presented an overview of their work as Math Coach and Reading Interventionist respectively. Both women then answered questions posed by the committee.
- IV. Items for Approval (1:15:37)
 1. Transfers – Mr. Webster shared that the Finance Subcommittee of the whole voted 6-0 to approve the transfers. *Mr. Webster then moved to approve the transfers in the amount of \$585,790.00, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
 2. Revised 2022-2023 School Year Calendar – Superintendent McAndrews highlighted the revisions that had been made to the calendar including the addition of a holiday and changing of the last day of school. Discussion by the committee followed.

Ms. Currie moved to approve the revised calendar, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3. Pre-K Tuition Rate – Mr. Webster advised that the Finance subcommittee voted 6-0 to recommend the new fee schedule.
Mr. Webster moved to approve the fee increase in the integrated Pre-K program to \$300/month with a \$150 deposit, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4. Policy EBCFA – The committee discussed the actions that could be taken related to the policy in light of the MASC revising the policy and the Superintendent’s recommendation to move to mask optional.
Ms. Welch suggested moving to item “F” the High school mask waiver, Mayor Gove then took Item “F” out of order and placed it on the table for discussion.

5. Mask waiver for Amesbury High School effective Feb 16, 2022 – Mayor Gove summarized the waiver and how it related to current committee policy.
Ms. Welch moved to accept the mask waiver for Amesbury High School effective February 16, 2022, second by Mr. Hoyt.
The committee discussed the acceptance of the waiver in relation to DESE and School Committee policy.
Motion passes unanimously.

The committee then returned to debating item “d” concerning policy EBCFA. Discussion on the policy continued.

Mr. Webster moved the School Committee implement a mask optional policy for all schools on February 28 and that the committee would adopt the new policy supporting mask optional prior to February 28, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: 4 Yes, 2 No (Currie, Jurist Levy), motion passes.

6. MSBA Statement of Interest - Amesbury Middle School Roof Project – Superintendent McAndrews summarized the submission completed by herself and Ms. Liporto. The committee discussed the submission.

Ms. Welch moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

The committee discussed the need to continue pursuing fixes for the AMS roof after submitting the SOI.

Ms. Welch read the following resolution: Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 15, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Amesbury, MA, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 15, 2022 for the Amesbury Middle School located at 220 Main Street, Amesbury, MA 01913, which describes and

explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future, Amesbury Middle School Roof Replacement (Priority 1); and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Second by Ms. Currie.

Mr. Webster praised the facilities department for their work addressing the roof issues while waiting for repairs.

Vote on the motion: Yes, unanimous.

Dr. Jurist Levy moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Public Comments

[Sarah Comora](#)

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21:06

Public Comment: DESE does not because pediatric eligibility for boosted is variable based on first vaccination schedule. ...

[Sarah Comora](#)

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21:58

Public Comment: N95 Masks should be properly fitted and re fit tested as needed for secure use. It doesn't do any good to wear an N95 if you are not fit tested

[Elise Matyja](#)

4

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5:57

Public comment: id like to ask for mask optional. Children can wear N95s which provide adequate protection for those that wish. Cloth masks have been noted to do little to nothing per the CDC website.

[Michelle Elizabeth](#)

5

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7:13

Public comment. Please I ask the school committee to give us a choice in the matter. Those families who are not comfortable, feel free to keep masking. Please do not the whole community to continue to mask. They have been proven ineffective. We need an end