

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING

February 1, 2021

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

This meeting was conducted under the ‘Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20’, signed on March 12, 2020.

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed here:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/cd8a8680be40ef09ca26da8bbbc9c473a6b0d588fe27fcdf749030958c05e36b>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement (1:13:28)
- II. Vote to Suspend Policy BEDB-E (1:15:46)
Mr. Hoyt moved to suspend the policy, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- III. Executive Session (1:16:48)
 - A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation with the AFT-Amesbury if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Ms. Currie moved to enter executive session and return to open session at the conclusion, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- IV. Comments by Visitors and Delegations (1:18:30)
 - Cynthia Collins 129 Elm St. (Attached)
- V. New Business (1:20:50)
 - a. Approval of MOU between Amesbury Public Schools and AFT Amesbury
Mr. Webster moved to approve the MOU, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
 - b. Whittier Tech Seat re-Appointment – Mayor Gove read a letter from Mr. LeSage into the record. (Attached).
Mr. Hoyt moved to re-appoint Mr. LeSage, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: 6 yes, 1 recusal (Bucher). Passes.
 - c. Appointments to AES Implementation Committee (1:24:30)

Mr. Webster stated he is resigning from the AES Implementation Committee. At a later date, another School Committee member will take this representative position.

Mr. Webster moved to appoint the Cashman Elementary Principal to the AES Implementation Committee, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

- d. Opening of School Choice for 2021-2022 School Year (1:28:26) – Superintendent McAndrews provided an overview of School Choice to the committee followed by questions and discussions by the committee.

Mr. Webster moved to open school choice, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

VI. Communications and Reports (1:34:05)

- a. Educational Leadership – Superintendent McAndrews presented a report to the committee on pool testing and was joined by Head Nurse Rita O'Neill.
The Superintendent's recommendation was for the district not to participate. Discussion and questions by the committee followed. Superintendent McAndrews also updated the committee on the recent Tiered Review, as well as, the Middle School Principal Search.
- b. Student Advisory Council – No Report.
- c. Liaisons
 - 1. SEPAC – Ms. Pouliot provided an update to the committee on the Amesbury SEPAC.
 - 2. School Building Committee – Mr. Hoyt updated the committee on the most recent meeting of the AESBC.
- d. Subcommittees
 - 1. Budget and Finance – Mr. Webster provided an update to the committee on behalf of the subcommittee.
 - 2. Personnel – Ms. Currie provided an update to the committee on behalf of the subcommittee.
 - 3. Buildings & Grounds – Ms. Bucher stated the subcommittee would be meeting later in the month.
 - 4. Policy – Ms. Currie stated the subcommittee would be meeting the following week.
 - 5. Teaching & Learning – Ms. Welch provided an update to the committee on behalf of the subcommittee.
 - 6. AES Implementation Committee – Mr. Webster and Superintendent McAndrew provided an update to the committee.
- e. Superintendent Search Committee - Dr. Jurist Levy and Ms. Welch updated the committee on the progress of the the committee, as well as, next steps.
- f. Other
 - 1. Mr. Hoyt shared a letter of thanks to the committee from Ms. Holly Shea.
 - 2. Mr. Webster discussed a resolution supporting the arts.

VII. Consent Agenda (2:29:07)

- a. *Mr. Webster moved to approve the minutes from 1/4 and 1/19, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

- b. *Mr. Hoyt moved to approve the following warrants: December 31 \$592,619.10 | January 14 \$461,223.21 | January 15 \$549,916.72 | January 28 \$394,753.69. Ms. Bucher seconded the motion. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

VIII. Ms. Welch moved to adjourn, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Public Comment

public comment. cynthia collins 129 elm street. the numbers for time on learning sent to state does not correlate with actual number of hours students getting direct instruction. The guidelines say direct in person instruction daily not a drop in. The high school has no instruction still on Wednesdays. My nephew in Cashman grade 4 has remote Thursday and Friday with a morning meeting attendance and then a checkout at the end of the day. He is given a packet to work on independently. That is very different than what was sent to the state.