

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET/FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

October 5, 2020

(Meeting conducted under the Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, Section 20, signed on March 12, 2020)

Present were Mel Webster, Chair; Maryann Welch, Abigail Jurist Levy, Superintendent Fulgoni, and Joan Liporto, Director of Finance and Operations.

Mr. Webster called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

FY21 Budget Update – Ms. Liporto said that with the additional \$700,000 approved by the Municipal Council for the school budget, the superintendent was able to restore all critical teaching and support positions that were slated to be cut. She said some positions were not added back, including the part-time attendance officer, a ½-time speech therapist, which was an open position being filled by contract services; the 2nd middle school assistant principal, and a one-to-one nurse at the high school whose special needs student was aging out. She also noted that an AIHS para salary was moved to the AIHS tuition revolving account.

2. Quarterly Financial Reports – Ms. Liporto sent committee members a sample of the quarterly financial reports she has delivered in the past. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that moving forward she would present quarterly reports to the full school committee in November, February, May, and August.

3. iPads and Special Education Van Leases – The subcommittee voted 3-0 to recommend that the School committee approve the first year of a 3-year lease for 327 iPads, for \$33,637.76; and that the committee approve a 3-year lease for a special education van at a cost of \$12,098.23 per year.

4. Transportation Contract – Ms. Liporto confirmed that the district received from Salter Transportation a 50% discount for the first 10 days of the school year, and a 10% percent discount for the remainder of September, resulting in \$16,000+ in savings. She also said Salter quickly responded immediately to the district's needs to transport special education and ELL students, which initially was not part of their contract. She said the company has been extremely accommodating and would be willing to discuss further discounts if the district remains remote long term.

5. South Hampton Tuition – Supt. Fulgoni said he would arrange a meeting with the South Hampton superintendent to get the ball rolling on setting a new tuition rate. The rate must be set prior to 12/31/20.

6. The committee voted 3-0 to recommend the school committee approve the capital projects recommended by Matt Bennett, Director of Facilities. The motion was made by Ms. Welch and second by Ms. Jurist Levy.

At 6:52, Ms. Jurist Levy made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Welch and approved 3-0.

