

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
February 3, 2020**

Present at 7:00 p.m. were Mayor Gove, Chair; Peter Hoyt, Kate Currie, Jana deBeer, Mel Webster, Maryann Welch, Alice Dragnea, Joan Liporto, and Jared Fulgoni, Superintendent of Schools.

Amesbury Public Schools Mission Statement

The Amesbury School District is unconditionally committed to every child, ensuring that all students experience success through the development of attitudes and skills necessary for lifelong learning by providing the highest quality staff, meaningful learning experiences, and a vitally involved community.

This meeting will be broadcast live on ACTV and will also be recorded.

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Mission Statement

Mr. Hoyt led the committee in the pledge of the allegiance and read the mission statement.

II. Executive Session

Mayor Gove read the following statement:

Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a)(3) ("Purpose 3") to discuss strategy with respect to litigation when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, as declared by the Chair; and pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a)(7) ("Purpose 7") to comply with, or act under authority of, any general or special law, specifically the federal education records law (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), M.G.L. c. 71, §§34D and 34E and 603 CMR 23.07 (4) which exempt student record and education record information from disclosure to third parties and also pursuant to M.G.L. c. 4, §7 (26)(c), which exempts from disclosure information the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a)(7) ("Purpose 7") to comply with, or act under authority of, any general or special law by receiving legal advice from counsel protected from disclosure under Massachusetts General Law, with the relevant citations of law for such attorney-client privilege being those cited above. The School Committee will reconvene in open session immediately following the conclusion of the executive session.

Mr. Hoyt moved to enter executive session and reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the executive session; second by Ms. Welch. Vote: 6 Yes (Gove, Hoyt, Currie, Welch, Webster, deBeer), 0 No.

III. Comments by Visitors and Delegations

- Greg Noyes – 8 Clark’s Rd

Mr. Noyes stated he had not seen any school improvement plans as required, nor had he seen and reporting of the most recent MCAS results. Mr. Noyes also thanked Ms. Liporto for creating a “paper trail” in regard to the tracking of transfers.

Mr. Webster asked the Superintendent if there was in fact a report on MCAS results in October of 2019 to which the Superintendent answered in the affirmative.

IV. Presentations and Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Fulgoni began by updating the committee on the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) passed by the legislature. The Amesbury School District will be receiving approximately \$30/student or roughly \$60,000-\$61,000 overall. In a meeting with the Commissioner it was stated that guidance would be issued to districts regarding how to apply for the money. There will be a list of ways money can be utilized by districts. As part of the SOA a committee will be formed to draft a plan for use of the funds. Additional revenue will be coming into the district from circuit breaker reimbursement for special education, out of district transportation costs. The district spends roughly \$600,000 annually on special education transportation costs.

The middle school principal search is ongoing with 41 applications received to date. Dr. Catarius has been asked to chair the search committee and Mr. Hoyt will serve on the committee as the school committee representative.

Ms. Welch recommended soliciting opinions from the public on how to spend SOA money. Mayor Gove indicated this could be done during public comment period of the next school committee meeting in March.

Mr. Webster commented that the district would be receiving (from COA) approximately the same amount of money as last year. The difference is that this year the state is telling the district how they must spend it. This is concerning, and shows the system still is not working. The Superintendent agreed and noted the larger districts, which were getting more revenue, has fewer restrictions on how the money could be spent.

Mayor Gove asked if the legislative delegation for Amesbury (Sen. Dizoglio/Rep. Kelcourse) met with the district to discuss needs. Superintendent Fulgoni indicated this was the case.

B. Full Day Kindergarten Report

Principal Nolan of Amesbury Elementary and Principal Mascia-Fayles of Cashman Elementary provided the committee with a report on the implementation of full day kindergarten (*presentation attached*).

Mr. Hoyt commented that today’s kindergarten curriculum is similar to what a 1st grader would have experienced ten years ago. The principals agreed. Mr. Hoyt concluded that the additional time now offered allows students to imbed knowledge they need. Ms. Mascia

noted that she believed this would lead to a smoother transition into 1st grade for students in the upcoming year.

Mr. Webster asked how much free play time students received. Ms. Nolan replied that it is imbedded throughout the day, as well as, at recess. Mel noted there are state requirements that the district must meet that can lead to less free time for students. Overall an additional 90 minutes were added to the day with the implementation of full day.

Superintendent Fulgoni lauded the strengthening of the early literacy program, which will benefit the entire school system.

C. Facilities Management Report

Facilities Director Matthew Bennett provided the committee with an update on ongoing facilities assessments and areas of concern.

- AES & AMS Roofs – Currently patch repair work is being done at both locations using a patch and seal method in order to reduce use of “stick and patch” method which is less durable. Standard leaks are being reduced at AMS and more problems continue to pop up at AES. Goal is for both buildings to be dry so a moisture analysis can be done. Analysis can ultimately reduce cost of repairs.
- General repairs – Minor plumbing and maintenance issues have been fixed. A few temperature controls at the High School misread but we are making progress.

Mr. Webster asked about the coordination and prioritization of repairs. Mr. Bennett indicated some repairs, if continued to be put off, would lead to more costly issues in the future. Roofs are an example of repairs that have been put off, leading to additional issues. Mr. Bennett also mentioned the HVAC units at Cashman that have not been maintained properly and are at the end of life expectancy.

V. Communications

A. Student Advisory Council

Ms. Dragnea informed the committee that the SAC has met with Principal McAndrews to discuss the new 6-block schedule for the new school year. SAC has recommended that “practice day” be held at the end of the current school year to allow students to experience the new schedule and make the transition smoother. SAC is also preparing for “Frost Fest” which is a week of free after school activities meant to increase school spirit.

Ms. Dragnea asked if it would be possible for the yearly report SAC makes to the committee to take place in March. Mayor Gove indicated it would take place during the March School Committee meeting. Traditionally the entire council participates, usually about 10 students.

Mr. Hoyt commended the High School staff and students for the recent presentation of Chicago. He also updated the committee of the progress of the silent capitol campaign of the Industrial History Museum and invited the public to an upcoming fundraiser at Flatbread.

Mr. Webster noted Principal McAndrews would be holding an informational meeting the coming week on the new High School schedule.

B. SEPAC Liaison Recommendation

Ms. Welch stated that on January 22nd the Amesbury SEPAC held a public business meeting at the High School and unanimously voted to recommend Lindsay Pouliot to be Amesbury SEPAC Liaison to the Amesbury School Committee.

Ms. Welch moved to appoint Ms. Pouliot as SEPAC Liaison to the Amesbury School Committee effective immediately; second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

C. Other

VI. Items for Approval or Early Consideration

A. Approval of Minutes: 1/6/20

Motion by Mr. Webster to approve minutes from 1/6/20; second by Ms. deBeer. Vote: Yes, unanimous

B. Approval of Warrants

1. 12/19/19 - \$427,781.00

Mr. Hoyt moved to approve; second by Ms. deBeer. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

2. 1/16/20 - \$403,457.16

Mr. Webster moved to approve; second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3. 1/30/20 - \$599,017.68

Ms. deBeer moved to approve; second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

C. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

1. \$61,558.65 from AEFI for AHS technology upgrades

Principal McAndrews informed the committee that at an AEFI luncheon Joe Kardek pledged \$50,000 for technology upgrades at the High School. It was decided that the money would be used for updating the technology engineering lab and computer programming lab. Total cost was \$61,558.65 which Mr. Kardek generously provided.

Mr. Hoyt moved to accept; second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

2. \$2,294.00 from the Keliher and Davis Families for AHS Gym floor resurfacing.

Ms. deBeer moved to accept; second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3. \$2,000 from the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation for the Partnership for Amesbury Community and Teens (PACT).

Mr. Hoyt moved to accept; second by Ms. deBeer. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4. \$2,730.00 from the Committee to Elect Christian Scorzoni for AES to purchase an early literacy program by Great Minds.

Mr. Webster moved to accept; second by Ms. Currie. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

5. \$1,100 from 3 anonymous donors to pay down school lunch debt.

Ms. Liporto noted that recent news stories have led to donors giving towards the paying down of school lunch debt. The money will be divided among the schools.

Mr. Hoyt moved to accept; second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, Unanimous.

D. Approval of 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mr. Webster asked how many years the district had started school before Labor Day. Mr. Hoyt indicated it has been the practice for several years.

Mayor Gove asked whether the calendar had been reviewed by the teachers' unions.

Superintendent Fulgoni indicated that was not past practice, however the calendar was drafted to make sure it complied with Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Mr. Webster moved to approve; second by Mr. Hoyt.

Mayor Gove asked about the method that was used to determine when "PRT" days would be held throughout the year and the proximity to vacations days. The Superintendent noted that there were a limited number of days that PRT days could be held on due to holidays and other events.

Ms. Welch heard concern from parents that a current year PRT day fell on the week after school vacation and noted that this would not be the case in the coming school year. There is a PRT day scheduled for the week prior to a vacation week.

Ms. Currie asked why PRT days were scheduled to all fall on Wednesdays in the coming school year. Superintendent Fulgoni stated that when held on Fridays, attendance dropped due to proximity to the weekend.

Vote: Yes, unanimous.

E. Revisit 19-20 School Year Calendar Change voted in November

The School Committee had approved moving a professional development day from March 13th to the day of the 2020 Presidential Primary. Due to an error in the minutes, the Primary date was stated to be on March 5th. With the Primary actually being on March 3rd this needs to be re-voted. Vote will be to move the professional development day from March 13, 2020 to March 3, 2020.

Mr. Webster moved to approve; second by Ms. deBeer. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

F. Approval of SOI Submission for Amesbury Middle School

Superintendent Fulgoni informed the committee that the SOI would be submitted on behalf of the district to support the repair of the Middle School roof. SOI is not a competitive grant but instead serves as notice to MSBA of desire to participate in lottery to receive funds. SOI has been submitted in years past. MSBA changes targets based on number of applications received. City Council also has to authorize submission.

Ms. Welch noted that answer on page 12 needed to be corrected to reflect a response in the affirmative.

Mr. Webster questioned the age of the roof, whether it was 24 years old. Superintendent Fulgoni indicated the document would be edited prior to the submission on or before February 14.

Mayor Gove stated her office had also provided a list of suggested edits. The document will be shared with the committee once it is submitted.

Mr. Webster moved to approve the submittal; second by Mr. Hoyt.

Mr. Webster read the following vote language: *Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 3, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Amesbury, 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 1/31/20 for the Amesbury Middle School located at 220 Main St 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: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school. The roof is 21 years old and has begun failing in multiple areas causing leaks and water intrusion into the school building. 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/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Vote: Yes, unanimous.

G. Approval of Policies (First Read)

1. GBEBD- Online Fundraising and Solicitation-Crowdfunding Policy

Ms. Currie stated the policy committee had recommended a change of “director of technologies” to “Superintendent or designee” in the 2nd paragraph.

Ms. Welch states she had suggested amendments as well.

Mayor Gove recommended all proposed changes be sent to Ms. Currie ahead of the next scheduled policy subcommittee meeting.

2. IJOA- Field Trips

Ms. Currie stated the policy subcommittee recommended adding #6 to section “D” stating: *Any funds remaining after completion of the trip and after all outstanding expenses have been paid shall be gifted to the Extra-Curricular school account to be used for extra-curricular activities of the students.*

Mr. Hoyt thanked Ms. Liporto for providing language to the committee.

3. FF- Naming New or Existing Educational Facilities Policy

Ms. Currie stated the policy subcommittee had recommended removing “a candidate must have at least 25 years of service to the Amesbury Public Schools to be considered”. The rest of paragraph #2 was reworked by the superintendent to illuminate reference to specific dates.

Ms. Currie noted that the remaining policies were boilerplate policies from MASC and no changes had been made.

4. JBB- Educational Equity

5. JFABD- Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services

6. JFABE- Educational Opportunities for Military Children

7. JFABF- Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

Ms. Welch asked if the wording of the boilerplate policies meant that they had been approved by MACS but not by the district. Mr. Hoyt responded that this was correct.

Mr. Webster asked about the status of revising the entire policy manual. Mr. Hoyt indicated no progress had been made yet.

VII. Informational Items

A. Subcommittee Report

1. Finance Committee:

Mr. Webster stated 3 budget workshops had been held with requests presented by administrators and department heads. These requests totaled approximately 3.6 million dollars or 12% of the total budget. This is in addition to other costs that may increase within the district. A budget workshop will be held on February 24th at 7pm to begin setting priorities.

Transfers were also approved at finance committee meeting by unanimous vote. A vote of full committee is now needed for the amount \$486,519.06.

Ms. Liporto said that policy may indicate that only subcommittee needs to approve. Mel suggested abiding by policy and not requiring a full vote of the committee to approve.

2. Personnel Committee: Mr. Webster stated the first meeting of the subcommittee was scheduled for the following week to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation Process and Paraprofessional negotiations.
3. Building & Grounds Committee: Ms. deBeer stated the committee discussed the SOI for AMS's roof, as well as, the Amesbury Innovation High School lease. Currently the lease is month to month but there is interest in entering into a longer-term lease. An RFP will be issued. School safety concerns at AES were discussed, including the needed repairs over the next 2 years. A discussion was also begun on the future of the AES once the new school is completed. It is too early to determine if the old AES will be surplus or not.
4. Policy Committee: Ms. Currie provided an update on the most recent meeting of the policy committee. The committee discussed the Boston Public Schools social media policy and the desire to adopt a similar policy for Amesbury. Policy JJE, concerning student fundraising, was also discussed and the business manager will provide additional information on language.
Mayor Gove asked that the policy committee review the policy regarding school committee agendas at their next meeting.
5. Curriculum Committee: Ms. Welch noted that the curriculum subcommittee meeting on the 23rd of January was the first meeting of the subcommittee in almost a year. Committee will be starting from scratch and the first meeting was more of an informational meeting. Director of Teaching and Learning Lyn Jacques explained her role to the committee, as well as, the curriculum work that was performed 4 years ago. A draft of the curriculum review cycle was provided to the committee. A Multi-Tiered System of Support document (MTSS) was discussed from 2nd year of the AMS Turnaround Plan. Amesbury does not have a MTSS but Ms. Jacques will be drafting one. Committee focused most on teaching and learning goals of the current school year. Professional development days were used to help teachers identify student objectives and success criteria, principals and other administrative staff observed classrooms to find out how this training had been implemented. By March, teachers will have had multiple sessions on a variety of instructional strategies. By June, the goal is that, 80% of teachers will have clearly defined student learning goals and success criteria posted in their classrooms, and will refer to these frequently during classroom instruction; and they will see evidence of increased instructional strategies to better meet the needs of all learners. Greatest priorities for next year are a new reading program for the elementary schools, more training for Tier-2 supports, ST math and additional STEM.

In response to public concerns Ms. Jacques also informed the committee that schools has received data training, WWII and financial literacy courses are taught at the High School. Next meeting will be held on February 13th.

The committee requests that the committee be renamed to now be known as the “Teaching and Learning subcommittee.”

Motion by Ms. Welch to rename the Curriculum subcommittee to the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee; second by Ms. deBeer. Vote: yes, unanimous.

B. School Building Committee Report

Mr. Hoyt noted the building committee has not met since the last school committee meeting. He noted that at the upcoming building committee meeting the design development overview will be presented and a vote on submittal to the MSBA will be taken. Mr. Hoyt also noted Councilor Wheeler will be returning to the building committee as a member of the city council.

By the beginning of the next school year there will be construction fencing in place separating the Cashman School from the site of the new school.

C. New School Committee Member Orientation Update

Mayor Gove shared that the committee would be taking part in a 5-part MASC workshop series. The first workshop will be held on February 8th. Other meetings will be scheduled at this meeting. A facilities tour is also be scheduled separately from the workshops.

VIII. Future Meetings

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on March 2, 2020 at 7:00pm. Subcommittees and other meetings will be held on the following dates:

1. AES School Building Committee – February 6, 2020 at 4:00pm
2. Finance Subcommittee – March 2, 2020 at 6:00 pm
3. Personnel Subcommittee – February 10, 2020 at 5:30pm
4. Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee – February 25, 2020 at 5:00pm
5. Policy Subcommittee – TBD
6. Teaching and Learning – February 13, 2020 at 6:00pm
7. Budget Workshop (committee of the whole) – February 24th at 7pm

There will be a joint meeting of the City Council and School Committee on February 11th to fill the vacancy on the School Committee.

Mr. Webster requested contracts be added to the website. Ms. Liporto indicated they would be added once signed. Mr. Webster also requested an energy audit of the schools, as well as, looking into the possibility of adding solar to the Middle School roof. Both these things are being looked into.

IX. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Hoyt; second by Ms. Currie. Vote: Yes, unanimous.