

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
October 28, 2020**

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

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:

Mayor Gove called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

I. Executive Session

1. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, being the Superintendent of Schools.

2. 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 Amesbury Federation of Teachers as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair. The School Committee will reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the executive session. II. Action on negotiations with non-union and union personnel, as needed III. Personnel Updates

Ms. Bucher moved to enter executive session, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

II. Action on negotiations with non-union and union personnel, as needed (started 5:41 pm)

Mayor Gove read a statement:

“After a period of open and honest dialogue about recent changes in educational and operational philosophies, the School Committee and the Superintendent have amiably and professionally agreed to end their employment relationship. There are other legitimate goals and objectives the Committee and the community wish to pursue. Superintendent Fulgoni respects the duty of elected officials to determine the policies governing the educational program and district operations, and agrees that the Committee is entitled to select district leadership which shares its objectives and philosophy.

The District and the Amesbury School Committee thank Superintendent Fulgoni for his efforts on behalf of the children of Amesbury. There has been much accomplished on Superintendent Fulgoni’s “watch”, such as gains in achievement at all schools, middle school exiting its DESE imposed accountability status, full day kindergarten implemented, school choice “in” doubling each year while decreasing the choice “outs”, and the start of construction on a new school, to name a few. We know that he will continue to support,

assist and champion the Amesbury Public Schools as we all hope the schools and the children find good health and great success.”

III. Personnel Updates

Mayor Gove asked for nominations for an acting Superintendent.

Ms. Currie moved to appoint Elizabeth McAndrews as Acting Superintendent of Amesbury Public Schools, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

A general discussion occurred about appointment language and the process of determining an acting principal for AHS.

Mr. Webster requested to get an update on enrollment numbers and open personnel positions during an upcoming meeting. Mr. Hoyt requested the Chair add a “moment of silence” for Brian Butler, a former School Committee member who recently passed away, to Monday’s School Committee meeting.

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