

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
November 23, 2020**

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Present were Mayor Gove, Chair; Peter Hoyt, Mel Webster, Kate Currie, Abigail Jurist Levy, Maryann Welch, and Acting Superintendent, 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/64145873bad5da84d6eda08df1ba9dbb88cbf4ec9c81b2bd2a340ccac6a5198e>

**I. Executive Session (3:00)**

1. 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 AFT Amesbury, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair.
2. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, being the Acting Superintendent of Schools

*Mr. Hoyt moved to enter executive session, seconded by Mr. Webster. Passed without objection.*

*Upon returning to open session, Mr. Hoyt moved to take item IV out of order, seconded by Ms. Currie. Passed without objection.*

**II. Superintendent Next Steps/Hiring Process (5:38)**

Ms. Dorothy Presser of MASC joined the committee virtually to provide an overview to the committee on the available options to begin and conduct a search for a permanent Superintendent. A general discussion on the process by the committee took place.

*Mr. Webster moved to commence the search for a permanent superintendent, to start on or around the beginning of the next school year, and to utilize an outside consulting firm still to be determined, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

**III. Items for Approval (33:25)**

1. Approval of Modified Hybrid Plan for Middle and High Schools.  
The committee asked questions of the Superintendent regarding the Middle and High School hybrid plans, followed by general discussion.

*Mr. Hoyt moved to approve the plans as presented, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

2. Ratification of 20-21 Re-Opening Memorandum of Understanding II with AFT Amesbury, regarding Hybrid Re-Opening Plan adopted by Committee on October 16, 2020 relative to Elementary Schools.

*Mr. Webster moved to approve the MOU, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

3. Ratification of 20-21 Re-Opening Memorandum of Understanding III with AFT Amesbury, regarding the Hybrid Re-Opening Plan for Middle and High Schools.

*Ms. Welch moved to approve the MOU, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

#### **IV. Reopening Plan Stages (43:56)**

Superintendent McAndrews provided an overview to the committee on the actions of surrounding districts related to learning models in relation to a start date of the Amesbury plans. Mayor Gove read a letter from the Public Health Nurse in support of re-opening AMS and AHS. General questions and discussion by the committee took place.

*Mr. Webster moved to begin the AHS/AMS hybrid learning model on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, seconded by Ms. Welch. Vote: 3 Yes (Welch, Webster, Gove), 3 No (Currie, Hoyt, Jurist Levy). Motion fails.*

Discussion by the committee continued.

*Mr. Hoyt moved to begin hybrid learning at AMS/AHS on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, seconded by Mr. Webster. Vote: 5 yes, 1 no (Currie). Motion passes.*

A general discussion on the reopening plans took place. Mayor Gove shared an update on technology progress.

*Ms. Welch moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hoyt. Motion passes without objection.*

Public Health Nurse letter

Attention: Amesbury Public School Committee

The Amesbury Health Department, and Public Health Nurse, currently support Superintendent, Elizabeth McAndrews in reopening of the Middle and High School in Amesbury for hybrid learning.

While the community of Amesbury has seen a rise COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, the Cashman and Elementary School has not seen the transmission of the virus in the school setting. This is consistent with other local schools, which have not attributed their community spread of coronavirus to school exposures.

There are two students in district who have tested positive. However, in person learning continues to be a low-risk activity as it relates to the spread of COVID-19. The plans and strategies put in place to minimize any transmission of COVID-19 among the student population make the school setting one of the safest spots at this time.

Both staff and families have worked together to create a safe environment in the schools with mask use and physical distancing of students and teachers. We are confident that the Amesbury School nurses, and city's Public Health officials can work together to act promptly and mitigate any potential spread of COVID-19.

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