

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
March 15, 2021**

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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/43c7998aed9176187ec8113dddd95f966cc208af83b2f9d41566671a47189289>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement (1:23:30) – Ms. Currie read the mission statement.
- II. Vote to Suspend Policy BEDB-E (1:24:00) – *Mr. Webster moved to suspend the policy, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
- III. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:24:40) a comment from Hilary Iacobucci was read (attached).
- IV. Mascot Presentation (1:28:30) AHS Students Miesha Acevedo and Sam Cadwell gave a presentation to the committee on changing the AHS Identifier. *Ms. Welch moved to create a mascot committee pursuant to policy CN, second by Mr. Webster.* The committee held a general discussion on the motion. SAC Representative Tim Gilleo also joined the discussion. Vote on the motion: *Yes, unanimous.*
- V. Capital Project Update (2:00:30) – Matt Bennett provided an update to the committee on ongoing capital projects, questions and comments by the committee followed.
- VI. Superintendent Search Update (2:05:30) Dr. Jurist Levy and Ms. Welch provided an update to the committee on the superintendent search process.
- VII. Policy EBCFA Update (2:11:40) Ms. Currie updated the committee on the changes that needed to be made to the policy to bring it into compliance with DESE guidance. *Ms. Currie moved to remove the sentence that read “exempted from this policy are students in grade 1 and below,” second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
- VIII. Re-opening Update (2:14:00) Superintendent McAndrews provided an update to the committee on the progress of returning to full in-person learning. A general discussion by the committee took place.

*Ms. Welch moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

*Public Comment*

*I am a parent of three public school children. I write to you today about your continued use of the school's mascot.*

*Studies have shown that having Indigenous Mascots is harmful to all students, of all ethnicities. The American Psychological Association published its results 15 years ago, as seen here: <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>. As a member of the school board, your responsibility is to provide a strong educational foundation for students, including critical thinking and respect for others. With the continued use of this mascot, you are disregarding the education and preparation of your students. By acknowledging that harms can be rectified at any point, you are setting a strong example for the students. As Maya Angelou said, "when we know better, we do better".*

*The National Congress of American Indians has come out strongly against Indigenous mascots, as seen at this website: <http://www.ncai.org/proudtobe>*

*Districts all across the country are removing their harmful indigenous mascots. With the renewed focus on anti-racist actions, this is a simple action that can be taken right now to correct the injustice. Now is the time. Retire the mascot.*

*Thank you for your attention to this matter,*

*Hilary Iacobucci*