

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
August 16, 2021**

---

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair; Peter Hoyt, Mel Webster, Kate Currie, Abigail Jurist Levy (participating virtually), Maryann Welch, Elaine Bucher, Anna Bailey, and Elizabeth McAndrews.

*THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE ACT EXTENDING CERTAIN COVID-19 MEASURES ADOPTED DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, SIGNED INTO LAW ON JUNE 16, 2021 BY GOVERNOR BAKER*

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/8hJRXmLdyY/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (3:00)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (4:10)
  - Michael Woo, 53 Congress St – Addresses the committee on behalf of the I AMesbury 2030 task force.
  - Jessica Pereira, 283 Elm St – addressed the committee on masking requirements in schools
  - Jennifer Small, 32 Orchard St - addressed the committee on masking requirements in schools
  - Kebbi Nowland, 5 Unicorn Cir - addressed the committee on masking requirements in schools
  - Maryellen Joyce, 13 Ash St - addressed the committee on masking requirements in schools
  - Kim Beckman - addressed the committee on masking requirements in schools
  - Michelle Forget, 18 Spindletree Rd - addressed the committee on masking requirements in schools
  - Comments made via the Face book livestream are attached.
- III. Covid-19 – Return to School Discussion (22:50) – Superintendent McAndrews shared a presentation on COVID-19 recommendations to the committee in conjunction with Ken Berkenbush and Tina LaCorse. A discussion by the committee followed.  
*Mr. Webster moved to continue enforcing the district’s current masking policy (EBCFA) and to review the decision every two weeks, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 No (Gove). Passes.*
- IV. Communications & Reports (1:14:00)
  - a. Educational Leadership – Superintendent McAndrews provided an update to the committee on summer school, the leadership retreat, the mascot committee, her entry plan timeline, Aspen, and IT projects. Questions and comments by the committee followed.

*Mr. Webster moved to support the Superintendent's recommendation that the District implement two forms of testing (symptomatic & test and stay) with the nursing staff creating the necessary protocols, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

- b. Student Advisory Council - Ms. Anna Bailey provided an update to the committee on behalf of SAC.
- c. Liaisons – Mr. Hoyt updated the committee on behalf of the School Building Committee

*Ms. Welch moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Ms. Currie. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

- d. Subcommittees
  - 1. Budget & Finance – Update from Mr. Webster
  - 2. Personnel – Update from Ms. Currie
  - 3. Buildings & Grounds – Update from Ms. Bucher
  - 4. Policy – Update from Ms. Currie
  - 5. Teaching & Learning – Update from Ms. Welch
  - 6. AES Implementation Committee – Update from Mr. Hoyt

V. New Business (1:56:30)

- 1. Approval of Student Handbooks – The committee commented on the changes in the handbook process this year as well as other general comments.  
*Ms. Currie moved to accept the handbooks with the bus fee policy removed, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

VI. Consent Agenda (2:02:25)

- 1. Minutes – *Ms. Welch moved to approve the minutes of May 3, 6, 17, and June 1 and 7, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
- 2. Warrants – *Mr. Hoyt moved to accept the following warrants: June 4 \$635,030.79 | June 17 \$386,383.28 | June 18 \$511,892.24 | June 30 \$596,679.58 | June 30 \$574,553.52 | June 30 \$1,881,197.84 | July 29 \$180,403.12 | August 12 \$148,681.61, second by Ms. Currie. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
- 3. Gift & Donations
  - 1. \$2,500 from the Institution for Savings for the Windrush Riding Program.
  - 2. \$2,000 from Newburyport Bank for the Windrush Riding Program.*Mr. Webster moved to accept, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

*Mr. Webster moved to move the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to November 8<sup>th</sup>, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

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

## Facebook Public Comments

**Jenna-Lee Motsis** ·

30:52

Public Comment How can you reach herd immunity in the elementary school? The vaccine isn't available to that age group so your leaving those kids masking open ended for potentially the entire year.

**Lisa Hall Mazzaglia** ·

14:24

Public comment: many parents of children under 12 are hoping there will be a remote option made available . Especially in light of parents who are open about their plan to not comply with any masking of kids. Please take this into serious consideration. Thank you.

**Leran Minc** ·

20:42

Public comment: if we don't get serious about masks and vaccines, my family won't be eating out, going to businesses, or public events to ensure our 2 year old is safe. Please keep your kids safe and please keep my kid safe

**Sarah Comora** ·

42:47

Public comment: great plan!

**Osiris Sophia Macias** ·

40:18

Public comment: Can you send us parents the information for homeschooling like you mentioned?

**Amber Kalscheuer Todd** ·

22:52

Public comment: Masks need to be a parents choice.

**Maryrita Malloy Styer** ·

21:40

public comment: if we do not mandate masks think about the children being teased and bullied because their parents what to keep them safe

**Molly Concannon** ·

21:14

Public comment: will Amesbury public schools perform pooled testing?

**Traci Lynne** ·

19:30

Public comment: 88 Monroe St, Please create policies for our schools that are consistent with the most up to date federal and state guidance and protect these vulnerable young children until they can be vaccinated

**Rena Smith Taber** ·

19:16

PUBLIC COMMENT: I did not vaccinate so my students didn't have to wear a mask. I got vaccinated because my daughter is in a medical facility and I couldn't get near her with her compromised medical situation.

**Devan Ferreira** ·

19:21

Public comment: Will amesbury start pool testing?

**Lara Owens** ·

14:50

Public Comment: Lara Owens 49 Dublin Street. The only people making a big deal about masks are adults. Masks are virtually the only mitigation strategy left with full classrooms. All of the science leads to requiring masks.

[Maryrita Malloy Styer](#) ·

12:04

Public Comment: 13 Back River Road if you will not mask, home school please

[Dave Haraske](#) ·

4:54

Public comment: what target and/or plan does APS have for enrollment?

[Osiris Sophia Macias](#) ·

10:41

PUBLIC COMMENT: thank you for everything you guys are doing to protect our children!  
Keep our kids safe and masked.

[Maryrita Malloy Styer](#) ·

9:26

Public Comment: you all have done a wonderful job as a school committee, please mask our children to allow them to learn in the classroom and not get sick