

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 8, 2021**

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

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/akn-N5I-uX/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (1:35)
- II. Comments by Visitors and Delegations (2:30)
  - Greg Noyes, 8 Clark's Rd – Mr. Noyes voiced his concern over the difficulty to find the Superintendent goals, the accuracy of the minutes the committee was scheduled to approve, as well as, shared his opinion on the Amesbury High School mascot.
  - Deb LaValley, Kingston, NH – Ms. LaValley spoke to the committee on her desire to keep the Amesbury High School mascot as it currently is.
  - A letter was read from Sharon Gordon (S. Hampton school board member/parent) in support of changing the mascot.
- III. Communications & Reports (15:00)
  - A. Liaisons
    1. Amesbury SEPAC – A written report from the SEPAC was read into the record.
    2. School Building Committee – Mr. Hoyt provided an update to the committee on the AES school building project including information on construction progress, soil reuse, and upcoming meeting dates.
  - B. Educational Leadership
    1. Superintendent – Superintendent McAndrews recognized Principals Ricci, Maguire, Haas, Mascia, and Montanari who presented their school improvement plans to the committee as “bridge plans”. After the district’s strategic plan is created, the schools will start providing three year school improvement plans with action steps. The committee provided feedback and comments on the plans. The Superintendent then provided a COVID-19/mask update to the committee, shared findings from the Mascot Review Committee, and made a recommendation to the committee, pursuant to Policy CN, to change the Amesbury High School mascot. Feedback from the committee followed.
  - C. There was no report from the Student Advisory Council.
  - D. Subcommittees
    1. Mr. Webster provided an update on behalf of Budget and Finance including information on substitute pay and the upcoming budget timeline.

*Mr. Hoyt moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

2. Ms. Currie had no new information on behalf of the Personnel Subcommittee.
  3. Ms. Bucher provided an update on behalf of Buildings & Grounds including information on outstanding issues such as the middle school roof, HVAC units, playgrounds, and window cleaning across the district.
  4. Ms. Currie highlighted several policies that the Policy Subcommittee had been discussing, including EBCFA and JKAA-R.
  5. Ms. Welch provided an update to the committee on behalf of Teaching & Learning including updates on testing, new teacher mentorship meetings, PD around Wit & Wisdom, a report on MCAS, and literacy intervention progress.
  6. Mr. Hoyt shared that the AES Implementation Committee would not have another meeting until January 2022.
- E. Other – Mr. Webster summarized the MSBA denial of the Amesbury application for the middle school roof as well as next steps.
- IV. New Business (2:13:00)
- a. Ratification of MOA between Amesbury Public Schools and AFT Amesbury  
*Ms. Bucher moved to approve, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
  - b. Substitute Pay Proposal – Daily substitute rate would increase to \$125/day, nurse rate to \$175/day. Superintendent McAndrews confirmed this would not be retroactive.  
*Mr. Hoyt moved to approve, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
  - c. Approval of School Improvement Plans  
*Mr. Webster moved to approve as presented, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
  - d. Policy EBCFA – No action
  - e. Policy JKAA-R – No action
- V. Consent Agenda (2:17:10)
- a. Minutes from June 21 | July 13 | Aug 16 | Sept 7.  
*Approved unanimously after a brief discussion (Hoyt/Bucher).*
  - b. Warrants: Aug 27 \$627,811.44 | Sept 10 \$589,982.32 | Sept 24 \$605,900.77 | Oct 7 \$534,073.28 | Oct 8 \$585,579.47 | Oct 21 \$532,212.78 | Oct 22 \$608,030.88 | Nov 4 \$96,620.97.  
Approved unanimously (Webster/Jurist Levy)  
Warrants from July 16, July 30, and Aug 13 were put on hold for the CFO.
  - c. Gifts & Donations
    1. \$500 from Julie Ann Thorsen in Memory of Rose Thorsen for the AES Library.
    2. \$100 from Steven Thorsen in Memory of Rose Thorsen for the AES Library.*Approved unanimously with gratitude (Webster/Jurist Levy)*
- Mr. Hoyt moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*