

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 13, 2021**

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

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/aVb5kLAM8y/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (1:00)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (3:10)
  - Greg Noyes, 8 Clarks Rd – Requested there be a report on ESSER spending.
- III. School Committee Spotlights (5:20)
  - a. District Food Service Staff, sponsored by Heidi Gregoire – Superintendent McAndrews & Ms. Gregoire thanked the entire cafeteria workers across the district and presented each with a certificate of recognition.
  - b. Mel Webster, sponsored by Jennifer Sarno – Ms. Welch & Ms. Sarno presented Mel Webster with a Spotlight Certificate of Recognition in acknowledgement of his transparency and responsiveness to the community.
- IV. Communications & Reports (13:00)
  - a. Director of Budget & Finance – Quarterly Budget Report – Joan Liporto, Director of Budget & Finance, provided a report on the current state of the FY '22 budget. Topics including the effect of increasing substitute pay, custodial overtime, utility costs, special education tuitions, and revolving accounts. Questions and comments by the committee followed.
  - b. Director of Facilities Report
    1. AMS Roof Update – Director of Facilities, Matt Bennett, updated the committee on a recent report that was completed on the Amesbury Middle School roof. Mr. Bennett highlighted the ongoing issues with the roof and proposed remedies. Questions by the committee followed.
    2. AHS Hot Water Boiler – Mr. Bennett also updated the committee on the status of one of the hot water boilers at the High School that has begun leaking and deteriorating. A quote to replace and remove the existing unit was received for \$45,000. Questions by the committee followed.
  - c. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews provided an update to the committee on COVID-19 response, including a new channel on the website, as well as changes in notification surrounding positive cases and close contacts. The Superintendent then recognized Dr. Catarius and Ms. Jacques to provide a presentation on student achievement. Questions and discussion regarding the presentation and testing results took place.
- V. New Business (1:32:20)

- a. Approval of Transfers – *Ms. Welch moved to approve the transfers in the amount of \$297,828.00, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
- b. Policies submitted for first read: GBM, GCA, GCBB, GCBBB, GCBC, GCF GCG, JP. The committee received the above policies as a first read. Mr. Hoyt highlighted the additions/changes proposed by the Policy Subcommittee.
- c. Approval of Goals
  1. School Committee Goals – Mayor Gove highlighted and summarized the goals developed by the school committee at their goals workshops including applicable action items. Mr. Hoyt suggested striking “across presentations” from goal #2(b).  
*Mr. Webster moved to approve the school committee goals with the change suggested by Mr. Hoyt, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
  2. *Mr. Hoyt moved to approve the budget goals as presented, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
- d. Approval of funding source for AHS Hot Water Boiler - *Ms. Bucher moved to approve the funding of a new AHS hot water boiler for up to \$45,000.00 from school choice funds, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

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

- VI. Recognition of Accomplishment – Elaine Bucher (1:56:11) – The committee recognized and thanked Elaine Bucher for her service to the Amesbury School Committee. She was presented with gifts of thanks by the school committee and administration. Ms. Bucher reflected on her time as school committee member.
- VII. Executive Session (2:02:20)  
Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30 A, section 21 (a) (3) for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to negotiations with the AFT – Teachers & Nurses Unit, as an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Amesbury School Committee, as declared by the Chair;  
*Mr. Hoyt moved to enter executive session and return to open session for the purpose of adjournment, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

*Upon returning from executive session Ms. Welch moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Bucher. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*