

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2022

Present were Peter Hoyt, Mel Webster, Kate Currie*, Abigail Jurist Levy, Maryann Welch, Gaye Smith, Anna Bailey, and Superintendent Elizabeth McAndrews.

*Vice-Chair Currie served as Chair of the meeting.

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/dvdcx9N6Ws/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Welch led the committee in the pledge of allegiance and read the mission statement.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (0:01)
 - AHS Principal Dr. Ricci presented the Superintendent’s framed photo to be hung on an AHS wall in honor on her contribution to Amesbury Public Schools. Dr. Ricci shared that it will bring an image of diverse to the currently all male leadership photos.
 - Greg Noyes, 8 Clark’s Rd – A letter from Mr. Noyes concerning School Councils, and the AES implementation committee and the records of their meetings was read into the record.
- III. Recognition of Accomplishment - Amesbury Girls Basketball Team (0:30)

Superintendent McAndrews led off the recognition by welcoming the State Champion High School Girls Basketball team. Coach Gregg Dollas thanked numerous supporters and introduced the team to the committee. Mr. Dollas went on to highlight issues he witnessed as a coach that led to him stepping down from his role and how he would like them to be addressed. The committee members offered their congratulations to the team.
- IV. School Highlight – Amesbury Innovation High School (29:00) – AIHS Principal Eryn Maguire was joined by several students to showcase the Innovation High School to the committee. Each student took the opportunity to highlight why they chose Innovation and something they had learned during their time there. The Committee thanked the students for sharing their experiences.
- V. Superintendent’s Award/Principal’s Award Presentation (39:47) – Dr. Danielle Ricci began by presenting the Principal’s Award to Mr. Solomon Brown who achieved the 2nd highest GPA of the senior class among other academic and extracurricular achievements. Superintendent McAndrews then presented the Superintendent’s Award to AHS Valedictorian, Amelia Kirby. The Superintendent thanked the parents of both award recipients as well as highlighted the accomplishments of Ms. Kirby.

- VI. Report from the Student Advisory Council (49:00) – Ms. Anna Bailey provided an update on behalf of the Student Advisory Council covering topics including upcoming meetings and the selection of new SAC members.
- VII. Superintendent Summative Evaluation: Presentation of Evidence (49:33) – Superintendent McAndrews took the committee through a presentation of evidence for her summative evaluation. The committee discussed the process for the completion of the evaluation.
- VIII. Discussion on AES Implementation Committee (1:26:55) – The Superintendent summarized the history and purpose of the AES Implementation Committee and the fact they feel they had accomplished the work they set out to do. The committee discussed the timing of the decision to disband the implementation committee. The committee decided to refrain from taking action until their June meeting.
- IX. Revised FY '23 Budget (1:38:35) – Mr. Webster provided an overview of that night's meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Whole. Ms. Welch noted why she had opposed the revised budget, stating her desire to fund the AMS Adjustment Counselor position out of the operating budget.
Mr. Webster moved to approve a revised budget in the amount of \$35,032,129.00, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- Mr. Webster moved to adjourn and thanked Ms. Currie for serving as Chair, second by Mr. Hoyt. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

Facebook Public Comments

[Jessica Mitchell](#)

Jessica Mitchell 17 Elizabeth Street. Sorry I missed the initial public comments. We support the increase in athletic operation budget. Please keep the athletic user fees consistent with past years. Our AHS teams cannot be supported without these fees. Amesbury is full of athletic pride and our athletic department and facilities should be funded. We would like transparency on the athletic facilities budget and how funds are delineated. The state of our fields in concerning as parents. The maintenance of the fields and track has been minimal. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our students.

[April MacDonald](#)

April MacDonald 8 1/2 Greenleaf Street: for the proposed budget discussion tonight, please keep the athletic participation fees as they are instead of reducing.

Thank you for increasing the athletics operating proposed budget it is desperately needed. The facility budget also desperately needs to be increased - our facilities are crumbling and not maintained. Please vote for an increased facilities budget and prioritize our athletic facilities.