

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2022

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Mel Webster, Abigail Jurist Levy, Gaye Smith and Superintendent McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://amesbury-school.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=73325850-ee4a-461b-8738-453b68e85296>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:15) – Ms. Smith read the mission statement and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:15)
 - Greg Noyes, 8 Clark’s Rd – Mr. Noyes spoke about the school improvements plans and need for greater stakeholder involvement at the site council level.
- III. Communications & Reports (5:45)
 - A. Educational Leadership
 1. Superintendent McAndrews – The Superintendent updated the committee on several items including providing a report on last years school improvement plans, an update on the upcoming Arts Summit, and official notification to the committee on the MSBA accelerated repair program rejection. The committee asked question of the Superintendent related to the topics she shared.
 2. Mayor Gove – Mayor Gove updated the committee on the preliminary plans for the Whittier Tech building project. The school is proposing a new construction with a current estimated cost after reimbursement of approximately \$290 Million. The committee discussed the building project, joined by Greg Noyes.
 - B. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Yee spoke to the committee about the ongoing plans for hosting another Winter Carnival and upcoming joint meeting with the School Committee.
 - C. Liaisons
 1. Mayor Gove gave a project update concerning the Shay Memorial project including building committee makeup, contingency balance, classroom furniture, and construction progress.
 - D. Subcommittees
 1. Mr. Webster gave an update on an approved budget timeline by the subcommittee, and South Hampton tuition. The committee discussed the proposed budget meeting schedule.
 2. Dr. Jurist Levy referenced the ongoing negotiations with AFT Amesbury and thanked them for their willingness to begin negotiations early.
 3. Mr. Webster gave a report from Buildings & Grounds covering topics including supply chain issues relating to ongoing projects, project timelines, capital improvements, and field improvements.
 4. There were no updates from the Policy subcommittee.
 5. There were no updates from Teaching & Learning.

- E. Other Business – Mr. Webster inquired about the rising electric costs and how it would impact budgeting. Mayor Gove later reminded the community that the School Committee has a vacancy and how to apply (1:30)

IV. New Business (1:14:12)

- A. Approval of Amesbury High School Identifier: Red Hawks

Mr. Webster inquired of Ms. Yee if students supported the change and Ms. Yee indicated there seemed to be excitement.

Mr. Webster moved to approve the Red Hawks as the new AHS identifier, seconded by Ms. Smith.

The committee members spoke of their support for the new identifier and the next steps for its incorporation.

Vote: Yes, unanimous (Ms. Yee also voted in favor).

- B. School Improvement Plans – The committee discussed the potential for needing additional information added to the plans relating to the ELL population.

Mr. Webster moved to approve the plans and ask the Superintendent to review legal requirements relating to ELL student populations, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

- C. South Hampton Tuition – Mr. Webster summarized the tuition proposal for the committee, also noting the need for another joint meeting with their school committee. There was additional discussion on district outreach to the South Hampton school.

Mr. Webster moved to approve a tuition of \$13,954.91, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

- D. Approval of School Choice Expenditure: AHS Fire Panel Contract – Mr. Webster noted that the finance subcommittee recommended approval.

Mr. Webster moved to approve spending \$59,025 from school choice for the repair of the AHS fire panel, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

V. Consent Agenda (1:31:30)

- a. *Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve minutes from Oct. 3 & 17, seconded by Ms. Smith.*

Approved unanimously.

- b. *Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the following warrants: Nov 17 - \$126,023.42, Dec 1 - \$540,406.30. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.*

- c. *Acceptance of Gifts: \$675 from Stone Ridge Properties Foundation for AMS NYC Trip. Dr.*

Jurist Levy moved to accept with a second by Mr. Webster. Approved unanimously.

VI. Executive Session (1:32:55)

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to collective bargaining with the AFT Amesbury Teachers/Nurses Unit, the AFT Amesbury Multi-Purpose Facilities Technicians/Maintenance Unit, and the AFT Amesbury Paraprofessionals/Tutors Unit as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair;

Committee will adjourn from executive session and not return to open session.

Ms. Smith moved to enter executive session, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: 4 Yes, approved.