

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2023

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Mel Webster, Kate Currie, Abigail Jurist Levy, Greg Noyes, Maryann Welch, Gaye Smith, and Superintendent McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/m2dOIgshBt/>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (1:45) – Mayor Gove called the meeting to order. Ms. Smith read the mission statement and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (3:30)
 - Karen Brannely 12 Old Tavern Ln – Ms. Brannely, an APS Teacher, spoke about the need for additional SPED staff.
 - Christine Manclark 80 Friend St – Ms. Manclark spoke to the committee about the importance of music and arts in the schools.
 - Kebbie Knowland 5 Unicorn Cir – Ms. Knowland asked why DEI was a priority in schools. She does not believe it should be.
 - Dan Fijalkowski 5 W Whitehall Rd – Mr. Fijalkowski, an APS music teacher, shared that a lot of 8th grades were looking at Whittier and noted a thriving music program may keep them in district.
 - Joanna Kimball 4 Moody St – Ms. Kimball, APS Chorus teacher, spoke to advocate for a strong music program and invited the committee to attend upcoming music showcases.
 - Stacey Fijalkowski 5 W Whitehall Rd – Ms. Fijalkowski, an APS teacher, spoke in favor of a strong music program in the district.
- III. Communications & Reports (18:19)
 - A. Educational Leadership - Superintendent McAndrews updated the committee on several facilities related items including competition of the AMS boiler install, completion of a Green Communities application, and the new cleaning contract. Questions by the committee followed.
 - B. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Yee updated the committee on ongoing focuses of SAC including upcoming election for the new school year and an upcoming presentation by SAC on student feedback on music and the arts.
 - C. Liaisons
 1. Mayor Gove updated the committee on progress relating to the Shay Memorial project including change orders, technology additions, and construction progress. Superintendent McAndrews shared additional details on construction progress. Committee members asked questions related to the project.
 - D. Subcommittees
 1. Budget & Finance – Mr. Webster recognized teachers on Teacher Appreciation Week and summarized the recent meeting of the subcommittee including discussions on

transfers, bus contract extensions, lease approvals, the audit, and the upcoming budget presentation to city council.

2. Personnel – Superintendent McAndrews updated the committee on the recent negotiations as well as upcoming meetings.
3. Buildings & Grounds – Ms. Currie updated the committee on upcoming meetings.
4. Policy – Ms. Smith noted the date of the next meeting.
5. Teaching & Learning – Ms. Welch stated the next meeting will be May 16th.

Mr. Noyes requested a future discussion on school committee input on scheduling.

IV. New Business (45:46)

1. Approval of New Position - Assistant Director of Student Services – *Mr. Noyes moved to approve, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: 6 yes, 1 no (Currie). Passes.*

V. Consent Agenda (46:30)

1. *Mr. Webster moved to approve the following minutes: Mar 13, Mar 27. Second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.*
2. *Mr. Noyes moved to approve the following warrants: April 6 \$322,406.27 | April 7 \$646,264.78 | April 20 \$555,304.12 | April 21 \$633,723.10 | May 4 \$288,351.78. Second by Ms. Welch. Approved unanimously.*

VI. Executive Session (48:18)

A. 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; and

B. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 301A, s. 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct contract negotiations with such nonunion personnel, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair.

Mr. Webster moved to enter executive session, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.