

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2023

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://amesbury-school.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=5d61ab7b-c8a1-47c4-b218-904f16cd2fd3>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:13)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:30)
 - Jim Sweeney from Aubin St spoke about the resurrection of the Music Booster Club in Amesbury. The focus would be supplementing the music programs in the district. Mr. Sweeney asked for a committee discussion on music and the arts at a future meeting.
 - Page Hanson, a former student, spoke about needing to prioritize and recognize music and the arts at Amesbury High School.
 - Cindy Roberts spoke in favor of prioritizing the high school band.
 - Christine Manclark, a parent and AMS Para, spoke in favor of recognizing and prioritizing music and the arts in Amesbury.
 - Maeve Sweeney, an AMS student, spoke in favor of a strong and stimulating music program at AHS.
 - Jessica Silva, an AMS student, spoke in favor of prioritizing band at AHS.
- III. Recognitions & Accomplishments (14:25)
 - A. Athlete Recognitions – Athletic Director Gearin introduced representative from the following teams to share highlights from their recent seasons: Football, Ice Hockey, Boys Indoor Track, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Outdoor Track, Girls Outdoor Track, and Softball. The committee congratulated all the athletes on their accomplishments.
 - B. Retiree Recognition – Superintendent McAndrews introduced each of the 19 retiring APS staff members and presented them with a certificate of recognition for their service.
 - C. Spotlight: Early Literacy Grant Team: Superintendent McAndrews gave a brief introduction to the grant team and then played a video produced by the team showing the work that was done this year in grades K-2. The committee thanked the team and asked questions about their work.
- IV. Communications & Reports (54:35)
 - A. Presentation of New Mascot – Mr. Gearin thanked the mascot committee for their hard work and introduced Nikki Raffenetti of Carbon. Ms. Raffenetti’s company designed the

new identifier for the district. Ms. Raffenetti described the process that was followed to come up with the new design and then unveiled the design. The committee discussed next steps and the rollout of the new identifier.

B. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Ilise Litwin joined the committee as the new representative from the Student Advisory Council.

C. Liaisons

1. Shay Memorial Building Project Update – Mayor Gove and Superintendent McAndrews gave an update to the committee on construction progress as well as the plans for moving buildings.

D. Subcommittees

1. Mr. Webster gave a report on behalf of Budget & Finance. The subcommittee will be meeting on the 20th of June to recommended approval of a new budget number based on the actions of the City Council.

2. Dr. Jurist Levy stated the next negotiating session with AFT Amesbury would take place on June 6th.

3. Ms. Currie summarized the most recent Buildings & Grounds subcommittee meeting including updates on the AES feasibility study, CES roof leaks, Shay trainings, AMS roof patching, and the AHS Baseball field being included in upcoming capital requests.

4. Ms. Smith summarized the recent meeting of the policy subcommittee including updates on nursing forms and the community use of schools policy.

5. Ms. Welch stated the next meeting would be on June 20th.

E. Under business not anticipated, Superintendent McAndrews announced DESE had granted a waiver for the missed day of school at CES due to electrical issues. Mr. Noyes requested an update on the finalization of the school committee goals and Mayor Gove stated they are in process. The committee also discussed the upcoming AMS Principal interviews.

Ms. Welch moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Ms. Currie. Vote: Approved unanimously.

V. New Business (1:26:26)

1. Superintendent Summative Evaluation – Dr. Jurist Levy presented and summarized the Superintendent's summative evaluation as completed by the committee. The committee discussed the evaluation as presented as well as the evaluation process in general.

2. Approval of MOU: 2023-2024 Amesbury High School Schedule – Dr. Jurist Levy and Superintendent McAndrews summarized the MOU as presented. The MOU addresses teacher concerns with the AHS schedule. The MOU allows the administration to create a schedule pending a new contract being agreed upon.

Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve with change of sub rate as appears in Exib. A to the language that appears in the MOU itself. Motion seconded by Ms. Smith. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Webster). Passes.

VI. Consent Agenda (1:56:50)

A. *Ms. Welch moved to approve the minutes from March 27 & April 3 and Mr. Webster seconded. Approved unanimously.*

B. *Mr. Webster moved to approve the following warrants: May 5 \$611,697.84|May 18 \$453,307.88|May 19 \$627,021.12|June 1 \$460,331.67|. Second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*

VII. Executive Session (1:58:17)

- 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; *Ms. Currie moved to enter executive session, second by Ms. Smith. Approved unanimously.*

DRAFT