

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Draft SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2023

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://amesbury-school.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=281722d3-bdd7-4e18-aca2-3662bf3155f6>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance– Mr. Noyes read the mission statement and the committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:10)
 - Jim Sweeney from Aubin St. thanked Superintendent McAndrews for hosting an arts meeting and shared information on upcoming Booster Club meetings.
 - Austin, an APS 3rd grader, spoke about the need for CES playground to be renovated. Mr. Webster responded that there was good news coming concerning that project.
 - A comment from Christine Manclark was read into the record. Ms. Manclark was advocating for a strong music program at AHS.
- III. School Spotlight – Amesbury High School (9:50) – Mr. Gearin introduced Teacher Suzanne Meyer and students of the performing arts program. Members of the Drama club spoke about their experiences from their latest performance: “Mean Girls”. The students answered questions from the committee.
- IV. Communications & Reports (21:18)
 - A. Educational Leadership – Superintendent McAndrews spoke to the committee on several topics including a \$75,000 earmark the mayor secured for Cashman playground improvements, the moving and cleaning of buildings, and the AMS Principal search. Finally, the Superintendent updated the committee on the outlook of music and band programming in the district. The committee asked questions of the Superintendent and discussed the report. (Kate Currie arrived to the meeting)
- V. New Business (59:45)
 1. Superintendent Summative Evaluation – *Mr. Webster moved to approve, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous (including student Rep).*
 2. Approval of Cleaning Contract – Mr. Webster noted the contract was a \$95,000 increase, mostly due to the size of Shay. Budget and Finance subcommittee recommended approval. *Mr. Noyes moved to approve, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
 3. Approval of Transfers – Mr. Webster stated Budget & Finance subcommittee recommended approval of the transfers. The committee discussed the upcoming fiscal year budget. *Mr. Webster moved to approve transfers in the amount of \$583,961, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

4. Approval of Van Lease - Mr. Webster stated the Budget and Finance subcommittee recommended approval. Ms. Liporto summarized the request for the committee. The committee did not take a formal vote.
5. Approval of Facilities Use Policy – Superintendent McAndrews and Ms. Liporto summarized the policy as presented. The committee discussed the policy. Recommended changes would be sent to Ms. Smith.
6. Vote to Expend School Choice Funds – Mr. Webster summarized the need to expend additional funds to cover electrical bills. Ms. Liporto and Mayor Gove also spoke about the reason for the request as well as the reason for the increase in electric costs.
Mr. Noyes moved approval of school choice funds up to \$350,000, second by Mr. Webster. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 No (Webster). Passes.
7. Approval of Revised Fy' 24 Budget – Mr. Webster stated the Budget & Finance subcommittee recommend approval of the revised budget of \$36,783,093.
Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the revised budget of \$36,783,093, second by Ms. Currie. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 No (Webster), 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes

VI. Executive Session (1:28:35)

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;

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