

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Draft SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2023

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: https://fb.watch/nb_Z1Jmuq-/

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:25) – Mayor Gove called the meeting to order, read the mission statement, and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (2:00)
 - Bruce McBrien 80 High St – Mr. McBrien spoke about waste and recycling in school cafeterias and encouraged the committee to look at ways to reduce waste.
- III. Executive Session (6:20) - 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, 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. Welch moved to enter executive session, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 6 Yes. Passes.
- IV. Communications & Reports (32:57)
 - A. Educational Leadership - Superintendent McAndrews introduced the new Interim Middle School Principal Jayne Villadenis. Ms. Villadenis introduced herself to the committee. Following the introduction Ms. McAndrews updated the committee on the moving and opening of schools as well as plans for pick-up/drop-off at the new campus and hiring needs. Questions by the committee followed.
 - B. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Litwin updated the committee on ongoing focuses of SAC for the new school year including changing the way students can join SAC to a Google form. Questions by the committee followed.
 - C. Liaisons
 1. Mayor Gove updated the committee on progress relating to the Shay Memorial project including change orders, and punch list progress. Superintendent McAndrews shared additional details on construction progress and plans for the ribbon cutting. Committee members asked questions related to the project including questions surrounding project delays.
 - D. Subcommittees
 1. Budget & Finance – Mr. Webster stated the subcommittee took the summer off and would be scheduling a next meeting in coming weeks.
 2. Personnel – Dr. Jurist Levy stated the next meeting would be Aug. 16 to discuss the Superintendent’s goals.
 3. Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Webster stated the next meeting will be Aug. 22nd.

4. Policy – Ms. Smith noted the date of the next meeting is Aug. 15th where they will discuss community use of buildings, mask policy, and nursing forms.
 5. Teaching & Learning – Ms. Welch summarized the most recent meeting including discussions on math curriculum, the Math Academy grant, MTSS implementation, the PD calendar, lunch allotment, and SEL pilots.
- E. Under business not anticipated the Mayor mentioned the AES feasibility study was recently completed and reminded the community of the upcoming Shay ribbon cutting. The School Committee calendar of agenda topics was requested by Dr. Jurist Levy.

V. New Business (1:29:23)

1. Approval of Handbooks – Committee members were instructed to send comments/revision to Ms. Currie and central office staff.
2. Approval of School Committee Goals – Mayor Gove summarized the drafted goals to the committee and requested feedback be sent to her. The committee discussed the goals as presented.
3. Approval of Grade Reconfiguration MOU
Mr. Webster moved to approve, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: 6 Yes. Passes.
4. Ratification of the MOU for a collective bargaining agreement between the Committee and the AFT Amesbury, Teachers and Nurses Unit for the period September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026.
Mr. Webster moved to approve, second by Ms. Smith.
Mr. Webster thanked the District and AFT bargaining teams for their work, Mayor Gove echoed his comments. *Vote: 6 Yes. passes.*
5. Ratification of the MOU for a collective bargaining agreement between the Committee and the AFT Amesbury, Paraprofessionals Unit for the period September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026.
Mr. Noyes moved to approve, second by Ms. Smith.
Mr. Webster thanked the bargaining teams for their work.
Vote: 6 yes. Passes.

VI. Consent Agenda (1:45:15)

1. *Ms. Welch moved to approve the following minutes: April 24, May 8, May 13, May 15. Second by Ms. Smith. Approved unanimously.*
2. *Ms. Welch moved to approve the following warrants: June 15 \$301,096.65 | June 29 \$350,749.99 | June 29 \$4,187.10 July 15 \$86,857.24 | July 15 \$124,607.68 | July 27 \$230,217.13. Second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*
3. *Mr. Webster moved to approve the following donations with gratitude: \$3,000 from Institute for Savings Charitable Foundation for Windrush Riding Program & \$2,000 form Newburyport Bank Charitable Foundation for Windrush Riding Program. Mr. Noyes seconded. Approved unanimously.*

Dr. Jurist Levy moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Smith. Vote: Yes, unanimous.