

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2023

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, 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=797a9200-0996-45f0-b2f2-77449261910f>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:45) – Dr. Jurist Levy read the mission statement followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (4:15)
 - Steve Stanganelli 12 Amidon Ave – Mr. Stanganelli spoke about arrival/dismissal at the elementary campus, and reminded motorists that it is the law to stop for buses with red lights on.
- III. Communications & Reports (5:25)
 - A. Educational Leadership
 1. Director of Technology – Tech Update – Mr. Hare provided an update to the committee on work completed over the summer in the schools as well as ongoing projects in the district including putting 450 new Chromebooks into circulation, deploying 450 iPads to Shay, updating district phones to Voip, new domain configuration, and more. Mr. Hare answered questions concerning the IT infrastructure from the committee.
 2. Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent McAndrews introduced the district’s new Facilities Director Mr. Jim McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy spoke briefly to the committee about his background and first impressions of the district. The Superintendent addressed several ongoing infrastructure projects including the new HVAC equipment at Cashman, playground renovation at Cashman, the Middle School Roof Project, and updates on the middle school performing arts center water damage mitigation. The committee discussed the facilities report and asked questions of the director. The Superintendent also updated the committee on the opening of school including arrival/dismissal, bussing, Innovation School transportation, and ongoing hiring. The committee asked questions relating to the Superintendent’s report.
 - B. Student Advisory Council – Ms. Litwin updated the committee on upcoming projects for the year including stocking the girl’s bathroom with menstrual products and implementing a food rescue program.
 - C. Liaisons
 1. Mayor Gove updated the committee on progress relating to the Shay Memorial project including commitment approvals, change orders, painting of the playground, and ongoing punch list items. Committee members asked questions related to the project.
 - D. Subcommittees
 1. Budget & Finance - No report

2. Personnel – No report
 3. Buildings & Grounds – No report
 4. Policy – No report
 5. Teaching & Learning – Ms. Welch summarized the recent subcommittee meeting including looking at math data, ongoing math pilots, the professional development calendar, the spotlight program, and more.
- E. Other business – The public was reminded to enter the gym to vote at the upcoming election. Mr. Noyes asked about upcoming meeting agendas. A master calendar will be shared with committee members.
- IV. New Business (1:20:10)
1. Amesbury Elementary Feasibility Study Discussion – Mayor Gove discussed the history behind the reports development and requested the report be referred to the Building & Grounds subcommittee. The committee briefly discussed the report.
Mr. Noyes moved to refer the report to the Building & Grounds subcommittee, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.
 2. Declaration of Vacancy – Amesbury School Committee – Mayor Gove noted that Ms. Smith has resigned her seat due to work obligations.
Mr. Noyes moved to declare a vacancy, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.
 3. Subcommittee Appointments - Mayor appointed Ms. Currie as chair of the Policy subcommittee and as a member of the Personnel subcommittee.
 4. Approval of School Committee Goals – The Mayor noted two version of the goals were included for the committee to discuss. The committee discussed the two options.
*Mr. Noyes moved to approve draft #2, second by Dr. Jurist Levy.
Mr. Noyes moved to amend the draft section 3-C to read “Student Advisory Council”, second by Ms. Welch. Amendment approved unanimously. Main motion then approved unanimously.*
 5. Approval of Superintendent’s Goals – *Ms. Welch moved to approve the goals, second by Mr. Noyes.* The committee discussed the goals as presented and asked clarifying questions of the superintendent. *Approved unanimously.*
- V. Consent Agenda (1:46:58)
1. *Ms. Welch moved to approve the following minutes: June 5 & June 20. Second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.*
 2. *Mr. Noyes moved to approve the following warrants: June 2 \$693,289.82| June 16 \$615,037.60|June 30 \$620,260.33 | July 14 \$601,032.27| July 28 \$595,486.18| Aug 10 \$311,787.56 | Aug 11 \$548,785.97 | Aug 24 \$277,202.82 | Sept 7 \$501,820.12. Second by Ms. Welch. Approved unanimously.*
- VI. Executive Session (1:49:15) - Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to negotiations with non-union personnel, being the Superintendent of Schools.
*Dr. Jurist Levy moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.
Dr. Jurist Levy moved to enter executive session, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 4 Yes. Passes.*

Public Comments submitted via Facebook

Shauna Gonthier

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1:17:16

Public comment. We were also told when the schools were planned to be on the same campus and split up that the schools wouldn't interfere with each other for events. We're only at the first event of the year this upcoming Friday, and we have parents being pulled in two directions simultaneously and having to prioritize one child over another or run back and forth, which isn't doable for everyone. Is this something we should be anticipating consistently with events moving forward?

Laura Hallie

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18:50

Public comment. There is no AC in my 2nd graders class.

Shauna Gonthier

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1:06:40

Public comment. Speaking of the pavement in the back of Shay...I was told that the Fun Run this Friday for Shay will be held on that pavement. Is there a plan in the future to utilize another space for outdoor events for the kids so we're not packing a bunch of kids along with spectators back there?

Shauna Gonthier

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57:21

Public comment. What are the plans for fixing the "white board walls" that aren't actually useable at Shay?