

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2024**

Present were Maryann Welch, Abigail Jurist Levy, Greg Noyes, Kate Slater, Brock Omohundro, and Elizabeth McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://amesbury-school.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=3cf80cb3-846b-4305-8d96-f4cf5a555214>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:00)
Ms. Welch called the meeting to order and gave a brief overview of how virtual meetings are conducted.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (2:25)
 - A letter from Sean Toomey was read into the record (attached).
- III. Communications & Reports (6:25)
 1. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews provided a school readiness/staffing update to the committee. The Superintendent touched on the significant internal movements due to bumping and shared a list of outstanding openings. The committee briefly asked what the contingency plan would be if a position went unfilled as the year began.
 2. No Whittier Report – Ms. Lowell noted the Whittier committee was on summer break.
 3. No SEPAC report
 4. Liaisons – Superintendent McAndrews gave a brief update on the Shay building project highlighting outstanding items including the improvements to the walking bridge, and sewer pump drawdown testing. A washer/dryer would also be purchased for the custodial staff. Uses for the remaining contingency funds were being explored. Mr. Noyes mentioned some rusting on outside fixtures would need to be replaced.
 5. Subcommittees
 - a. Finance & Facilities – Ms. Welch noted there would be a meeting upcoming. The Superintendent and Ms. Liporto provided a brief update on the progress being made on the AMS roof project, which is slated to begin in September. The committee discussed the logistics of the project relating to safety and security.
 - b. Policy & Personnel – Dr. Jurist Levy noted the next meeting of the committee would be in late August.
 - c. Curriculum & Inclusion – Ms. Welch noted the committee would be meeting after the conclusion of the current meeting. At the last meeting the committee discussed the Spotlight program, the updated DCAP, AIHS becoming a Title 1 school, the results of the recent math pilot, and annual goals.
 - d. Long Range Planning – Dr. Jurist Levy discussed the ongoing work of the subcommittee including meeting with schools that have a middle/high model and upcoming community conversations.
 6. Other Business – Mr. Omohundro asked the Superintendent for clarification surrounding recess at AMS. Superintendent shared the rationale for the change including the desire to lengthen the class times after the previous year's change of schedule. The Superintendent also noted there would still be time for unstructured activities outside

the classroom setting. Mr. Noyes noted the change to recess was consistent with the district's wellness policy.

IV. New Business (57:32)

1. Appointment of Martha Robinson as Interim Director of Student Services – Superintendent McAndrews introduced Ms. Martha Robinson to the committee and highlighted the process that was used to name her as finalist for the position. Ms. Robinson joined the meeting and introduced herself to the committee sharing her educational and work background. The committee took turns asking questions of Ms. Robinson relating to her knowledge of APS and her plans for the fall if hired.
Dr. Slater moved to appoint Ms. Robinson, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
2. Approval of Handbooks – The committee received the draft student handbooks as a first read. The Superintendent noted suggested edits should be shared with herself and the building principal.

V. Consent Agenda (1:28:30)

1. *Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve minutes from May 6th & 20th. Second by Mr. Omohundro.*
After a brief discussion Ms. Welch called for the 2 minutes to be acted upon separately.
Dr. Jurist Levy then moved to approve the minutes from May 6th. Second by Dr. Slater. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 No (Noyes). Passes.
Dr. Jurist Levy then moved to approve minutes from May 20th. Second by Dr. Slater. Passes unanimously.
2. *Mr. Noyes moved to approve the following warrants: May 31 \$699,835.41/June 14 \$708,544.27/ June 27 \$483,804.49/July 25 \$255,438.16. Second by Mr. Omohundro. Passes unanimously.*
3. Gifts/Donations - \$1,200 from One8 Foundation Special Grants Fund to support additional participation in the Applied Learning Leadership Discovery Program at AMS. Superintendent McAndrews summarized what the gift would be used for (Tier 1 instruction).
Dr. Slater moved to accept, second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Noyes moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Omohundro. Passes unanimously.