

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2024

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://amesbury-school.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=cbc88cf7-b939-4463-a3ec-3151d793582e>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:15) – Ms. Welch called the meeting to order. Mr. Mansperger read the mission statement and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:37) – No Comments
- III. Communications & Reports (4:10)
 1. Director of Facilities – Mr. Jim McCarthy provided a facilities report to the committee highlighting work done in each building over the summer. Projects included: freezer and fire alarm repair AHS, hot water tank and light pole replacement at Shay, new playground/ swing set install and air quality testing at CES, ongoing roof replacement and cabling work at AMS. Mr. McCarthy also discussed preventative maintenance and field maintenance in response to questions by the committee. Mr. McCarthy concluded by thanking his staff for their hard work.
 2. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews updated the committee on staffing within the district including new hires and recent departures. The Superintendent also updated the committee on the successful reopening of school for the year.
 3. Student Advisory Council – No Update
 4. Whittier Tech Representative Report – Ms. Sandi Coppinger shared a report with the committee on recent happenings at the Tech including return to school, enrollment numbers, programs run over the summer and potential building plans with Northern Essex Community College. Ms. Coppinger then fielded questions from the committee about the potential building project.
 5. Liaisons – No reports
 6. Subcommittees
 - a. Ms. Welch shared an update on behalf of the Finance & Facilities subcommittee covering topics including upcoming meeting dates/topics. Mr. Noyes asked a question relating to approval of transfers.
 - b. Ms. Welch shared an update on behalf of the Curriculum & Inclusion subcommittee including advertising of the new Spotlight program, the math pilot, ongoing UDL work, and bullying prevention work at AMS.
 - c. Dr. Jurist Levy updated the committee on recent work of the Policy & Personnel subcommittee including work on an animals in schools policy, high school graduation

policy, and policies relating to private schools and public comment. The committee discussed potential public comment policy changes.

- d. Dr. Jurist Levy updated the committee on recent work of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee including an overview of recent and upcoming community meetings as well as interviews with 9 districts across the state. The committee discussed the ongoing work of the subcommittee.

7. Requests of Committee

- Mr. Noyes requested an update on the work the high school is currently engaged in to define the “vision of a graduate” as part of the ongoing reaccreditation process.
- Dr. Jurist Levy shared some reflections on recent meetings relating to the Long-Range Planning subcommittee.
- Dr. Slater asked if there would be an opportunity to respond to comments made at the community conversations. The committee discussed the possibility of holding a workshop.

IV. New Business (59:00)

1. Policy GCF - Dr. Jurist Levy summarized the policy to the committee as well as the proposed changes. The committee discussed how the MASC policy and state law appeared to be in some disagreement. The Committee discussed the need for further clarification. Mr. Omohundro moved to table the policy, seconded by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.
2. Conflict of Interest Notice and Exemption Request – Ms. Welch summarized the request which had been submitted by the Superintendent. Superintendent McAndrews also summarized the request as well as the process used to get to this point. The committee asked questions of the Superintendent regarding how the position became available in light of reductions/bumping. Ms. Liporto also shared details on the process that was used to hire for this position.

Dr. Slater moved to approve the exemption as requested, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 4 Yes, 2 abstentions (Noyes, Omohundro). Passes.

3. Approval of Superintendent’s Goals – Dr. Jurist Levy shared a brief summary of the process that has been used to draft these goals and the importance of them for evaluation of the Superintendent. Superintendent McAndrews then shared her goals with the committee and highlighted the changes she had made since the last discussion with the committee. The committee discussed the proposed goals and workshopped changes/edits with the Superintendent. It was determined the Superintendent would make changes to the goals and present them at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Omohundro moved to suspend policy BDD, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 abstention (Slater). Passes.

4. Murphy, Lamere & Murphy Law Firm Representation Waiver – Ms. Welch summarized the request by reading a note from Mayor Gove explaining the request. The committee discussed the request.

Mr. Noyes moved to approve the waiver, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. The committee further discussed options if the waiver was not approved.

Approved unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda (1:57:07)

- a. *Dr. Slater moved to approve the following minutes: June 3, June 24. Seconded by Mr. Mansperger. Approved unanimously.*
- b. *Dr. Slater asked about payment to a particular vendor. Ms. Liporto stated it was a maintenance account and would look into it.*
Mr. Noyes moved to approve the following warrants: June 28 \$583,845.47/July 12 \$556,408.15/July 26 \$602,357.55/ Aug 8 \$280,695.22/ Aug 22 \$338,556.11. Seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.
- c. *Mr. Omohundro moved to accept the following gifts: 3 violins & 1 banjo (value \$400) from Margery Jennings given to the Amesbury Innovation HS. Seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.*

Dr. Slater moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mansperger. Approved unanimously.