

**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**June 24, 2024**

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Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Maryann Welch, Kurt Mansperger, Greg Noyes, Brock Omohundro,  
and Elizabeth McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/QN11NKPAZ6r859x/>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (10:30)
- II. Comment by Visitors and Delegations (20:52)
  - Anna Buonopane – Ms. Buonopane shared her concerns about bullying at AMS as well as concerns about the recent search for a student services director.
  - Allison Pruna – Arlington St – Ms. Pruna shared her concerns over the recent search for student services director and the need for parental input on the search committee. She also shared her concerns about more transitions for students as part of potential grade reconfigurations.
  - Hillary Frazee – Main St - Ms. Frazee shared her concerns about the recent search for student services director.
  - Cindy Collins – Pearl St – Ms. Collins shared her concerns about the recent search for student services director and asked for increased transparency and communication in the future.
  - A letter from the Amesbury SEPAC was read into the record (attached).
- III. Retiree Recognition (37:15) – Superintendent McAndrews introduced ten retiring members of the school staff by presenting each with a certificate of recognition. The committee thanked the retirees for their many years of service.
- IV. Presentations & Reports (44:00)
  - a. Superintendent's Report - Impact of FY25 Budget Reductions: Superintendent McAndrews shared a presentation with the committee on the impact of additional funding on the FY25 budget cuts. She highlighted the cuts that were still taking place, which were partially reinstated, and fully reinstated. The committee discussed the cuts and what would be restored.
  - b. K-8 Math and Literacy Data and Response to MTSS – Ms. Holly Cole shared a presentation with the district highlighting progress made relating to MTSS interventions. Ms. Cole spoke about math interventions, the Tier 1 math pilot, and shared MAP data showing the gains students had made. She also spoke about ongoing ELA initiatives and DIBELS data as well as highlighted progress students were making. The committee asked questions of Ms. Cole and discussed the data in the reports.

V. New Business (2:24:30)

1. Appointment of Ms. Paula Donnelly as Director of Student Services – While the candidate had withdrawn from the process the Superintendent took time to summarize the process used to get to this point. The committee discussed next steps regarding the possible appointment of an interim director.
2. District/School Committee Goals – No action
3. Approval of Superintendent's Summative Evaluation – Mr. Omohundro summarized Superintendent's evaluation and the process that was used by the committee to get to this point. Superintendent McAndrews thanked the committee for their feedback and made several comments on the specific findings in the evaluation. The committee discussed a small change to avoid confusion surrounding how the evaluation would be perceived by teachers.

*Mr. Omohundro moved to approve the evaluation as amended, second by Ms. Welch. Approved unanimously.*

4. Approval of Transfers: Amount of \$34,536.00 – Ms. Liporto summarized the proposed transfers.

*Mr. Noyes moved to approve the transfers, second by Mr. Mansperger. Approved unanimously.*

5. Re-vote of FY25 Budget - Ms. Liporto summarized the reasoning for the need to revote the budget based on the vote of the city council. A new *total* needs to be revoted as well as several of the cost centers.

*Mr. Omohundro moved to approve the Shay budget in the amount of \$5,555,369, second by Mr. Mansperger. Vote: 3 Yes, 1 No (Welch, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Noyes moved to approve the Cashman budget in the amount of \$4,112,584, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Mansperger moved to approve the AMS budget in the amount of \$5,631,472, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 3 Yes, 1 Recusal (Omohundro), 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Mansperger moved to approve the AIHS budget in the amount of \$872,958, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 3 Yes, 1 No (Omohundro), 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Ms. Welch moved to approve the maintenance budget in the amount of \$2,601,758, second by Mr. Mansperger. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

*Mr. Noyes moved to approve the APS FY25 budget in the amount of \$37,945,439, second by Mr. Mansperger.*

Ms. Welch stated this was a difficult budget season.

*Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

6. Approval of Renewal Option for Salter Contract for FY25 – Ms. Liporto stated this would be our last year of the current contract and the district would be going out to bid in FY25.

*Mr. Mansperger moved to approve, second by Ms. Welch.*

The Mayor spoke about looking into additional transportation options in the future in addition to asking the state to begin reimbursing districts.

Passes unanimously.

*Ms. Welch moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.*