

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2024

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Maryann Welch, Kate Slater, Kurt Mansperger, Abigail Jurist Levy, Greg Noyes, Brock Omohundro, and Elizabeth McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/rHqPd-Gmfk/>

I. FY 25 Budget Public Hearing

In addition to the below speakers, letters submitted in advance were also read and are attached.

Name	Topic
Bre-Shannon Campbell	3rd grade teacher - concerned about cuts/class sizes.
Emi Burrell	Speaks as 5th Grade parent - worried about cuts at AMS, loss of team model.
Mo O'Mullane	AMS teacher - spoke about need to pass level services budget
Solae Bennett	AHS student - In favor of saving arts programs.
Tia Costello	AMS teacher - spoke against proposed cuts
Connor Wilson	AHS student - spoke against cuts at AHS including visual media
Joanna Kimball	AMS Chorus teacher - spoke in favor of the arts in APS, as well as support of the teachers as a whole
Anna Lussault	AHS Senior - spoke in favor of the arts program
Sophia Menotakis	AHS Freshman - Spoke in favor of the arts programs
Aiden Neale	AHS student - spoke in favor of the arts/visual arts
Natalia Makarewicz	AHS student - spoke in favor of the arts programs at the HS
Suzanne Meyer	AHS student - spoke against cuts, specifically to the arts programs
Cindy Yetman	Union president - spoke against the proposed cuts
Kaitlin Sconce	AHS Arts teacher - spoke in favor of the visual arts programs
Allison O'Claire	Parent speaking against proposed cuts, especially to arts. Please fund 8%

Ryan Jackson	AHS teacher - spoke in favor of fine arts/visual arts programs
Dawn Pelletier	Shay Para - Spoke in favor of keeping Kindergarten para
Lauren Snay	CES Para - Spoke about rightsizing,
Julie Bender	Parent - spoke against proposed cuts, specifically AMS
Spencer Galvin +2 others	spoke against the proposed para cut at AIHS.
Calista Catarius	AHS student - spoke in favor of AHS arts programs and against the proposed cuts
Dara McGonagle	Parent/AHS teacher - spoke against cuts
Casey Metcalf	AHS student - spoke in favor of the arts programs at the HS
Bethany Noseworthy	AIHS Counselor - spoke against the proposed cuts, specifically the AIHS MPFT & Para
Kiera Estabrook	AHS Student - Spoke in favor of arts programs at AHS.
April Rivers	AHS Teacher - spoke in support of teachers, look at other areas to cuts.
Emmerson Clark	AHS student - spoke in favor of visual arts programs.
Matthew Ruccio	AHS student - spoke in favor of arts programs at AHS.
Brianna Grove	AHS student - spoke in favor of the arts programs at the HS
Alexander Mendoza	AHS student - spoke against the proposed cuts to staff
Mark Rinaldi	AMS Teacher - spoke against the cuts, specifically to AMS
Gianna LeBlanc	AMS Student - spoke in support of the guidance counselors.
Beth Corcoran	Community Member - spoke in support of the staff and students.
Karen Brannely	CES 5th grade teacher - CES cannot handle any cuts
Lisa Mazzaglia	AMS Parent - opposed to cuts, especially cuts to the arts
Lori Byman	AMS Librarian - Opposed to AMS cuts
Michalle Leblanc	AMS Parent - concerned about proposed cuts
Shiela Harney	5th grade teacher - opposed to staff cuts, concerned about class sizes, technology needs

Bobby Brown	Labor rep from Haverhill, opposed to any cuts
Zoe Moccia	AHS student - spoke in favor of visual arts programs.
Diana Martin	AIHS Parent - spoke against cuts at AIHS including the secretary position
Grace Knowland	AHS student/homeschooler - Dual enrollment student who spoke in favor of visual arts programs
Jason Menotakis	APS student - Opposed to cutting the arts programs at AMS/AHS
Alice Bettencourt	Shay teacher - spoke in opposition to proposed cuts. fully fund the budget.
Avari Henson	AHS student - Spoke in opposition to proposed cuts.
Alexandra Jones	AHS student - spoke in opposition to cuts to the arts programs
Eric Blancett	Former APS student - Envision what you want your schools to be
Grace Ostrander	AHS student - Opposed to cuts to visual arts programs
Lauren Duffner	APS Parent - Opposed to removing Kindergarten paras, pass higher budget to city council
Amelia Olsen	AMS Teacher - spoke in favor of arts programs at APS.
Chris Nye	Community member - spoke in support of the staff and students. pass a level budget.
Emma Gregory	AHS Student - spoke in support of the AHS arts department.
Jenn Marr	Community member - spoke in opposition to proposed cuts
Jon Boles	AMS Art teacher/member of school council - Opposed to proposed cuts.
Rachel Kezer	Reading on behalf of Karen Burn - Opposed to budget as currently presented.
Christine Way	Community member - spoke in opposition to cuts to counselors, paras.
Amy Sherwood	Community member - spoke in opposition to proposed cuts. Pass full budget, consider override
Illise Litwin	SAC student rep - spoke in favor of maintaining the AHS arts programs.
Steve Stanganelli	City counselor/parent - spoke in favor of the arts programs at APS.
Gail Fusco	Kindergarten para - opposed to para cuts.

Jim Sweeney	APS parent - spoke about the importance of investing in education. Don't make these cuts for a gap year.
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Dr. Slater moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

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