

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

**March 17, 2025**

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://imd0mxanj2.execute-api.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ssr/watch/67d9b67e27676f0008ffb6f1>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:20)
- II. Comment by Visitors and Delegations (1:32)
  - A letter from Ms. Kate Currie was read into the record.
  - Ms. Jen Hawrylcw spoke in support of the Superintendent's level services budget
  - Mr. Matt Lipson spoke in favor of AIHS remaining in its current location
  - Ms. Hillary Fraise spoke in favor of AIHS remaining in its current location
  - Mr. Jon Kezer spoke in favor of AIHS remaining in its current location.
- III. FY26 Budget Deliberation (10:00)
  - Timepoints 10:00-50:00: The committee began budget discussion by cost center. The committee discussed the line items relating to step increases, individual contracts, human resources, and translation services. Concerning transportation the committee discussed proposed bus fee increases and challenges surrounding buses running on time including start/dismissal times and number of buses. The committee also discussed transportation reimbursements and where the money goes when it is received. The committee continued by cost center by discussing Shay's budget including the potential cut of a math specialist, possible increases to PreK tuition, and the addition of a grade 2 teacher.
  - Timepoints 50:00 – 1:30:00: The committee continued discussing the proposed cuts to the Shay budget including potential cuts to nursing staff and secretaries. The mayor asked for a staffing pattern to be shared with the committee. The committee further discussed Shay including PreK tuitions and the copier lease. The committee then began discussion of the CES budget including Chromebook usage, the integrated arts specialist, and curriculum costs. The committee then began discussing the AMS budget.
  - Timepoints 1:30:00 – 2:15:00: The committee continued the discussion of the AMS budget including proposals surrounding clubs, Chromebook usage, delivery of world language, potential changes to extracurriculars, and proposed cuts to a secretary position.

*Mr. Omohundro moved to suspend policy BDD, second by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*

Discussion of the AMS budget continued with options for foreign language if cuts are made, and potential usages for the empty wing of the building including possible revenue generation.

The committee then began the discussions of the AHS budget beginning with potential issues that would arise with cuts to bussing, potential usage of volunteers for athletic programs.

- Timepoints 2:15:00 – 2:25:00: Discussion of the AHS budget continued. The committee asked about potential child care programs being implemented at the high school, changes to supplies accounts, increases to athletic fees, and effects of proposed cuts to the arts.
- Timepoints 2:26:00 – 2:29:00: Next the committee took up the AIHS budget. Principal Maguire asked questions of the committee relating to wait lists to attend innovation, increasing the number of tuition-in students, beginning an innovation program at the middle school level, and building/program capacities. The committee then began discussing general maintenance including fields, devices, and building cleaning and maintenance.
- Timepoints 3:00:00 – 3:57:00: The committee continued discussion on building maintenance including switching to cleaning building in house. The committee then discussed curriculum and professional development budgets including grant obligations, curriculum implementation, and the Dyslexia specialist. Moving on to special education, the committee discussed home hospitalization spending, and cuts to the diagnostician position.

The committee next began a general budget discussion focusing on strategies for increasing revenue, maintaining the location of AIHS, and implementing early childhood programs at AHS. The committee further discussed the desire to maintain AIHS at the current location and other next steps.

*Dr. Slater moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 3 Yes (Slater, Mansperger, Juist Levy), 3 No (Omohundro, Welch, Gove), 1 Abstention (Noyes). Motion fails.*

Mayor Gove clarified the items needed for the next meeting in order to hold a vote on the budget.

*Dr. Slater moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*