

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2025

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Maryann Welch, 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/682f478b834d0e00088cb2c6>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:12)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:55)
 - A Letter from Deanna Martin was read into the record (attached)
 - A Letter from Cindy Collins was read into the record (Attached)
 - Matt Lipsom spoke about his concerns regarding the search process for the AIHS principal
 - Hillary Fraise spoke about her concerns concerning the AIHS principal search
 - In response to public comment the Superintendent was asked to share information on the AIHS principal search process.
- III. Superintendent/Principal Awards (17:20)
 - Samantha Bender was recognized with the Superintendent's Award. Superintendent McAndrews shared a little about Samantha and her accomplishments in high school.
 - Adelyn Upson was recognized with the Principal's Award. Principal Ricci shared background on Ms. Upson and some of her accomplishments in high school.
- IV. Presentation: Introduction to Playful Learning (26:10)

Superintendent McAndrews introduced Principals Montanari and Mitchell as well as teacher Stacey Fijalkowski. These three presenters shared background on the Playful Learning Grant, progress towards implementation, and what fully implemented playful learning would look like in the schools. The committee asked questions of the presenters including how playful learning may be implemented at higher grades in the future.
- V. New Business (48:00)
 1. Conflict of Interest Notice and Exemption Request – Superintendent McAndrews submitted notices to the committee in the hopes her two children would be hired as staff for the APS Extended School Year. The committee discussed the notices and asked clarifying questions concerning outstanding staffing needs and hiring practices for ESY. *Mr. Noyes moved to accept the disclosure and find that the financial interest would not affect the services provided, seconded by Dr. Slater. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 abstention (Omohundro).*

2. School Committee/District Goals Review – Mayor Gove noted this review was part of a periodic check in by the committee to check the status of the approved goals. Mayor Gove read each of the goals with the committee members commenting with thoughts on progress and possible next steps. Finally, the committee discussed next steps and timelines for future committee/Superintendent goals.
 3. Approval of Transfers – Ms. Welch noted the Finance Subcommittee had unanimously approved the proposed transfers. Ms. Liporto briefly explained the reasoning for the transfers that were made, specifically higher substitute and transportation costs. *Mr. Noyes moved to approve the transfers, second by Mr. Omohundro. Passed unanimously.*
 4. Acceptance of Book Donation from Rotary – Superintendent McAndrews & Dr. Salter shared that these resources were given to assist in the teaching and awareness of the Juneteenth holiday. The books have a value of \$565. *Ms. Welch moved to accept the donation, second by Dr. Slater. Mayor Gove thanked those that made this donation possible. Approved unanimously.*
- Mr. Noyes moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*

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