

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2025

Present were Mayor Gove, Chair, Maryann Welch, Abigail Jurist Levy, Kurt Mansperger, 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/681cd8d317bec000083947ca>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:28)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:39) – No comments
- III. Spotlight Award Recognition (3:07) – AHS Teacher Sarah tessitore, Shay teacher Susan Gonthier, and substitute Karen D'Aganese were recognized as Spotlight recipients. Dr. Slater & Mr. Omohundro took turns reading nomination statements for each award recipient. Ms. Welch also shared that AMS crossing guard John Walsh was also receiving a spotlight award.
- IV. Communications & Reports (11:26)
 - A. Educational Leadership
 1. Director of Finance: Q3 Budget Report – Ms. Liporto shared a Q3 budget update with the committee. In the report she covered topics including circuit breaker relief, tuitions, transportation, and highlighted areas of concern such as substitute costs. The committee discussed the report in relation to the items covered by Ms. Liporto.
 2. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews began by sharing a staffing update with the committee including recent departures, open positions, and progress on hiring for the upcoming school year.
The Superintendent the shared her summative evaluation presentations with the committee showing evidence towards progress of her goals. The presentation addressed the Superintendent's four goals including Professional Practice, Student Learning, and District Improvement goals 1 & 2. Mr. Omohundro and Mayor Gove addressed next steps in the evaluation process including timelines for submitting feedback.
 - B. Student Advisory Council – Marly Metcalf updated the committee on behalf of the Student Advisory Council. Ms. Metcalf updated the committee on upcoming spring projects and recent SAC elections. The committee asked Ms. Metcalf about recent advocacy efforts surrounding changes to school lunches. The committee discussed school lunches and recent and ongoing updates to kitchen equipment.
 - C. Whittier Tech Report – Ms. Lowell shared an update on recent happenings at Whittier including progress on a potential building project, advisory board annual dinners, skill competition results, and the upcoming prom and graduation. The committee discussed the prospect of a building project and requirements by MSBA.

- D. SEPAC Liaison Report – Ms. Fraise, co-chair of SEPAC, shared an update on recent and upcoming meetings hosted by the SEPAC, strategies for parent engagement, and desire to collaborate more closely with the district.
- E. Shay Memorial Building Project Update – No recent meeting of the committee.
- F. Subcommittees
- On behalf of Finance & Facilities Ms. Welch shared that the committee recently approved budget transfers, looked at the draft maintenance plan, and the FY26 budget reduction update from the APS leadership team. The Superintendent also briefly addressed the proposed reductions.
 - On behalf of Curriculum & Inclusion Dr. Slater shared that the committee has been discussing spotlights, community celebrations surrounding Juneteenth, and the Superintendent’s goals presentation.
 - On behalf of Policy & Personnel Mr. Omohundro updated the committee on consideration of polices which are now before whole committee for consideration, plans for conducting the Superintendent’s review, and an application process for non-public schools. The committee discussed the Superintendent’s desire to add administrative staff at CES and what, if any, policy implications there would be.
 - On behalf of Long-Range Planning Dr. Jurist Levy shared information for the newly formed working groups including looking at strategies for fundraising, and planned work to be performed at upcoming meetings. The subcommittee will be developing workbooks to plan for 3 areas of focus.
- G. Requests of Committee
- Mr. Noyes asked for an MCAS presentation and report by the SAC on a recent field trip.

Mr. Omohundro moved to suspend policy BDD, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. 6 Yes, 1 No (Mansperger). Passes.

V. New Business (1:50:40)

1. Policies for first read – Mr. Omohundro and Superintendent McAndrews shared background and rational for adding policies LA, LB, & LDA to the handbook. These polices are recommended by MASC as part of relationships with non-public schools. the committee discussed these polices and the implications of adopting them.
- Dr. Slater moved to approve policy LB, seconded by Mr. Omohundro. The committee discussed the obligations this policy committed the district to comply with. 1 Yes (Slater), 5 No, 1 Abstention (Mansperger). Fails.*
- Mr. Noyes moved to approve policy LDA, seconded by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*

The committee then began addressing polices JRA and LBC, both before the committee for a second reading. The committee discussed questions from previous meetings relating to requirements of the policies regarding student privacy.

Ms. Slater moved to approve policy JRA, seconded by Dr. Slater.

The committee discussed the policy further with Mr. Mansperger sharing concern over approving before fully understanding the ramifications. Ms. Welch proposed language adding clarity to the policy.

Ms. Welch made a friendly amendment to add the word "individual(s)" after the words "third party". Accepted by Dr. Slater. Vote: Passes unanimously.

Mr. Omohundro moved to approve policy LBC, seconded Dr. Slater.

Mr. Noyes asked for clarification surrounding the referenced checklist. It is a DESE checklist. The committee discussed the role of the checklist and when it would be presented to the committee. Approved unanimously.

2. *Approval of Award of Contract for Before/After School Care with the YMCA of the North Shore – Superintendent McAndrews and Ms. Liporto shared the background that led to the district going out to bid. The committee asked question relating to the RFP that was used and language in the proposed contract. Ms. Liporto addressed the applicants and why the YMCA was ultimately chosen. The committee asked questions of Ms. Liporto regarding programming options and usage of existing staff.*

Dr. Slater moved to approve the contract, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 6 Yes, 1 Abstention (Omohundro). Passes.

VI. Consent Agenda (2:24:04)

- a. *Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the following minutes: March 10 Public Hearing, March 10 Regular Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Omohundro. After a brief clarification to a question by Mr. Noyes the vote was 6 Yes, 1 Opposed (Noyes). Passes.*
- b. *Dr. Slater moved to approve the following warrants: April 4: \$647,280.38, April 17: \$661,683.75, May 1: \$628,809.08. Mr. Noyes seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.*
- c. *Dr. Jurist Levy moved to accept \$175 in donations to the AHS music department. Seconded by Mr. Omohundro.*
Dr. Jurist Levy asked for clarification on how the donations were processed and held by the district. Approved unanimously.

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