

**AMESBURY HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2025**

Present were:

- Woon Chul Fisher
- James Hindman
- Logan Genuardo
- Craig McPherson
- Tim Osgood
- Dr. Danielle Ricci
- Laila Whitcomb

Minutes taken by Michelle Martens, Principal's Secretary.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes
 - a. *Mr. McPherson made a motion to approve previous minutes, seconded by Mr. Fisher. (note if discussion took place here and summarize). Vote: Yes, unanimous.*
2. Future Freshman Planning Update
 - a. Dr. Ricci provided an overview, noting positive feedback for recent activities.
 - i. A night event in early November saw a "good increase" with 60 families/kids attending.
 - ii. 8th graders from AMS, River Valley, and South Hampton visited on November 19 for a mock pep rally, school tour, and general learning.
 - b. Discussion on Community Awareness: Dr. Ricci wants to improve community awareness of school offerings. Ideas included creating weekly videos for 8th graders (Hindman).
 - c. Mr. McPherson raised the issue of student attrition to private schools. Dr. Ricci noted the high school wants to improve branding and is working with an agency on this.
3. Bell to Bell Cell Phone Legislation
 - a. A bill for no cell phones from bell-to-bell is moving from the House to the Senate. The Middle School (MS) is currently implementing this.
 - b. Council Feedback: Ms. Whitcomb reported that MS grades dropped when implemented there. Mr. Osgood anticipates significant pushback from parents. Mr. Genuardo noted that phones are often used when classwork is finished early, an issue that needs to be solved.
 - c. Implementation Plan: Dr. Ricci is looking to add this in Quarter 4, using a committee (staff and students) to research schools already doing this. Mr. McPherson suggested testing out implementation strategies in Q4, like keeping phones in bags.

- d. It was noted that this will likely increase requests for phones as accommodations (Hindman/Ricci).
- 4. Budget Override Vote Outcome & Next Steps
 - a. The budget override failed, and the school is confirming the budget, which will likely be confirmed by the city in January. Dr. Ricci assumes there will be cuts.
 - b. Concern over Cuts: Mr. Genualdo noted confusion across the school. Dr. Ricci confirmed that entire programs/departments could be cut, including potential cuts to the entire AIHS. Mr. Hindman stated this will impact special education's ability to meet student needs.
 - c. Mr. Fisher, part of the long-range planning committee, noted their focus is on retention (especially at the elementary level) and finances.

5. School Improvement Plan Development

- a. Dr. Ricci is developing a 2.5-year SIP (July 2025 to June 2028) with three main objectives, to be presented to the School Committee in January/February.
- b.

Previous SIP (23-25)	SIP 25-28 (Recommendations)
1. VoG 2. Curriculum (focused on mapping all courses) 3. Tech Needs (focused a lot on hardware and connectivity, but the future of tech will likely lie at the district level)	1. VoG 2. Curriculum (focused on vertical alignment/K-12 skills stacking, getting data through testing other than MCAS, dissemination/communication to the community) 3. TBD

- c. Curriculum
 - i. Students noted repetition of foundations (Genualdo, Whitcomb).
 - ii. The school is looking to create some community-facing curriculum documents (Osgood)
 - iii. Dr. Ricci is creating an assessment schedule and is considering MAP testing. Mr. Osgood noted educators are "missing data". Mr. Hindman suggested using the Special Education department as a resource for data collection.
 - iv. Other Objective Idea: Student engagement was suggested, focusing on improving instructional practices.
 - v. Next Steps: Consider what to flesh out for the SIP and the final third objective for the next meeting.

6. Future Agenda Items

- a. Budget (Ricci)
- b. School Improvement Plan (Ricci)
- c. Future of PACT and funding (Fisher)