

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2026

Present were Mayor Gove, Abigail Jurist Levy, Kate Slater, Greg Noyes, Ian Gillis,
and Brock Omohundro

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://imd0mxanj2.execute-api.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ssr/watch/68e7cb7be62d80000227352a>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Omohundro read the mission statement and led the committee in the pledge.
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (2:30) – No Comments
- III. New Business (4:00)
 1. Field Trip Approval – AHS STUCO Trip – STUCO Advisor Kaitlin Johnston summarized the plan to bring twelve students to the annual MASC conference on the cape. AHS has been sending students to the conference since 1995.
Mr. Omohundro moved to approve the field trip, seconded by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.
 2. School Calendar Approval – The calendar was presented for a second read. A small change had been made due to a holiday.
Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the calendar as presented, seconded by Dr. Slater.
Mr. Noyes asked about the possibility of negotiating a shorter year to save money in a tough budget year. *Vote passes unanimously.*
 3. Establish a new revolving account in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, § 26C – Ms. Liporto summarized the request for a new account in light of the implementation of the before/after school program. Mayor Gove questioned the MGL in relation to the receipt of federal funds vs funds from the before/after school program. Ms. Liporto indicated she would look into the law and report back to the committee at a later meeting.
 4. Mayor Gove stated she was appointing members to the following committees:
 - Finance & Facilities: Mr. Omohundro (Chair), Mr. Noyes, Mr. Gillis
 - Policy, Personnel, & Strategy: Dr. Juist Levy (Chair), Dr. Slater
 - Curriculum, Inclusion, & Community Engagement: Dr. Slater (Chair), Mr. Gillis
 - Joint Education: Dr. Jurist Levy, Mr. Omohundro, Mr. Noyes
 - Government Liaison(s): Mayor Gove, Dr. Jurist Levy
 - Liaison to Business Manger Search Committee: Mr. OmohundroThe committee briefly discussed the appointments as proposed.
Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the appointments, seconded by Mr. Omohundro. Vote: 5 Yes, 1 Abstention (Noyes).

IV. Communications & Reports (18:50)

A. Educational Leadership

1. Q2 Budget Report – Ms. Liporto provided a quarter 2 budget report to the committee summarized as follows:

☐ Overall Budget Status: The district is currently on target at 54.3% committed, slightly higher than the 52.2% reported during the same period in FY25.

Operating Budget Highlights:

- Special Education: Tuition accounts have leveled off due to reduced out-of-district tuitions, but transportation contracted services remain overspent. Legal services for special education are projected to be overspent by \$50,000.
- Other Accounts: Overages were noted in School Committee Contract Services (regionalization study) and Maintenance of Grounds (baseball field project).

Utility Updates:

- Electricity: Expenses are currently running lower than in the first half of the year.
- Heating: Costs are trending higher than last year, attributed to cold weather in December.

Revolving Accounts:

- Most accounts are considered healthy, including School Choice and Circuit Breaker.
- Deficits are projected for the Innovation High School, South Hampton Tuition, and Transportation accounts, which may require coverage from district appropriations if additional revenue is not collected.
- A new student is expected to start at the Innovation High School soon, which will provide additional tuition revenue.

Mr. Noyes asked about the possibility of using money that was authorized to be borrowed for the roof project for the AMS auditorium. The committee also discussed the overages in the school legal budget.

2. School Improvement Plans – Shay & Cashman – Principals Montanari & Mitchell shared their school improvement plans with the committee. The plans consist of strategic objectives focusing on academic excellence, building relationships, equity & inclusion, and communication. The committee discussed the proposed plans and how success would be measured.

B. Liaisons

1. Superintendent Search Update – Dr. Jurist Levy updated the committee on the ongoing search. Reference calls have been completed in anticipation of upcoming finalist interviews.

Mr. Omohundro moved to adjourn, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Approved unanimously.