**AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 5, 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/695d4ab4782dbd0002955b12

I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance– Daniel Grayton called the meeting to order.

II. Organizational Meeting

  A. Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
  - Mr. Grayton opened the floor for nomination for the position of Chair. *Mr. Omohundro nominated Mayor Gove for Chair, seconded by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*
  - *Mayor Gove asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Gillis nominated Mr. Omohundro for Vice Chair, seconded by Dr. Slater. Approved unanimously.*
  - *Dr. Slater moved to nominate Dr. Jurist Levy for Secretary, Second by Mr. Omohundro. Approved unanimously.*

  B. Mayor Gove highlighted the proposed meeting dates listed in the agenda as well as the tentative meeting map for the year.

  C. *The mayor asked for a motion to appoint Dr. Jurist Levy to the negotiations team. Mr. Omohundro moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Dr. Slater.* Mr. Noyes asked how many members would serve on the committee and the Mayor noted there would be 2 members from the committee. *Approved unanimously.*

  The mayor then recognized Mr. Omohundro to share the proposed subcommittees for the upcoming term. Mr. Omohundro noted the following three subcommittees would be formed: Finance & Facilities; Policy, Personnel, & Strategy; and Curriculum, Inclusion, & Community Engagement.

III. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (12:30) –
  - Maryann Welch commented via Facebook welcoming the new members.

IV. Executive Session (13:45)

  A. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the American Federation of Teachers, AFT Massachusetts, AFT Amesbury, Local 1033, AFL-CIO, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

  *Mr. Omohundro moved to enter executive session, seconded by Mr. Gillis. Approved unanimously.*

V. Communications & Reports (14:48)
   A. Educational Leadership: Superintendent's Report – Superintendent McAndrews updated the committee on current openings within the district as well as recent hires and departures. The Superintendent also updated the committee on the re-opening of the AIHS building after asbestos mitigation, and shared a summary of progress made towards implementation of the district strategy. The committee discussed the district strategy, including the implementation of AI use in the schools.
   B. Student Council – No Report
   C. Whittier Tech Report – No Report
   D. SEPAC Report – The SEPAC Co-Chairs updated the committee with an advisory overview as the year began. Recent meetings of the SECPAC included meetings with the administration to discuss SEPAC's role as well as ways to increase visibility and participation.
      Dr. Jurist Levy joined the meeting (8:08pm, Timestamp: 36:00)
   E. Superintendent Search Update – Dr. Jurist Levy updated the committee on the ongoing search and noted initial interviews had just begun.
   F. Requests of Committee
      - Mayor Gove noted the committee would be posting for a seat on the Whittier Tech School Committee
      - Mr. Noyes asked for an update on budgeting in light of the failed override. The committee discussed scheduling for upcoming budget work.

VI. New Business (45:18)
   1. 2026-2027 School Year Calendar – Superintendent McAndrews summarized the proposed calendar to the committee which was being presented as a first read. The committee discussed ways to maximize efficiency of professional development days.
   2. Acceptance of Resignation & Declaration of Vacancy – Mayor Gove noted Ms. Welch has resigned to take her seat on the city council.
      *Dr. Slater moved to declare the seat vacant, seconded by Mr. Noyes. Approved unanimously.*
      Mayor Gove noted the timeline for appointment is being worked out with city council.
   3. Approval of Superintendent's Goals – Superintendent McAndrews noted a few dates had changed but no other substantive changes had been made.
      *Dr. Slater moved to approve the goals, seconded by Mr. Omohundro.* Mr. Noyes asked for clarification on District Improvement Goal #1. *Vote: 4 Yes, 1 no (Noyes). Passes.*

VII. Consent Agenda (1:01:45)
   *A. Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the following warrants: Nov 28 $656,307.18, Dec 4 $563,099.85, Dec 11 $157,356.81, Dec 12 $766,680.53, Jan 2 $576,688.38. Dr. Slater seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.*

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