

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 30, 2026

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

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://imd0mxanj2.execute-api.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ssr/watch/69cd54cf05a5050002ed2b97>

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (0:10)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (2:00)
- Cindy Yetman, Newton Rd – Ms. Yetman spoke about her recent testimony on Beacon Hill and thanked the committee for their diligence throughout the budget process.
 - Letters from Cinthia Collins and Robert Fraise were read into the record.
Mayor Gove clarified that the FY26 budget did include an increase in funding for the schools.
- III. Executive Session - Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to negotiations with non-union personnel, being the Interim Director of Finance & Operations (11:30)
Mr. Omohundro moved to enter executive session, seconded by Mr. Gillis. Approved unanimously.
- IV. New Business (12:25)
1. Appointment of Interim Director of Finance & Operations – Mayor Gove summarized the hiring process that had led to the recommendation to hire Daniel Grayton as Interim Director of Finance & Operations.
Dr. Jurist Levy moved to appoint Daniel Grayton as Interim Director of Finance & Operations, seconded by Mr. Gillis. Approved unanimously.
 2. FY27 Budget Discussion and Vote
 - The mayor recognized the superintendent to summarize the FY27 budget development process. The superintendent summarized the process and updated the committee on several changes made to proposed “add back” lists based upon several funding updates the district had received. The committee asked questions about the proposed budget, add back lists, and effects of the proposed reductions.
The mayor then read each cost center total and asked for any objections. The following cost centers were objected to for further discussion: District Admin, Shay, AMS, AHS, and Special Education.
The committee then discussed the objected cost centers.
 - District Admin: The superintendent is not recommending any administration cuts
 - Shay: *Mr. Noyes moved to fund at \$6,346,438. No second.*

Mr. Omohundro moved to add back a grade 1 teacher and fund the Shay budget in the amount of \$6,196,438.00, second by Mr. Gillis. Mr. Noyes noted that he felt the committee had an obligation to advocate for level services at minimum. Vote: 3 Yes, 1 No (Noyes), 1 abstention (Gove). Passes.

- *AMS: Mr. Noyes moved to fund the AMS budget at \$5,710,802. No second. Mr. Gillis moved to fund the AMS budget at \$5,635,802, second by Mr. Noyes. The committee briefly discussed the AMS budget and what would be funded based on this budget amount. Vote: 2 Yes, 1 No (Noyes), 2 Abstentions (Gove, Omohundro). Passes.*
- *AHS: Mr. Noyes moved to fund the AHS budget at \$6,065,255, second by Mr. Gillis. Vote: 1 Yes (Noyes), 3 No, 1 Abstention (Gove). Fails. Mr. Omohundro moved to fund the AHS budget in the amount of \$5,933,621, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 3 Yes, 1 No (Noyes), 1 abstention (Gove). Passes.*
- *Special Education: Mr. Omohundro moved to fund the special education budget in the amount of \$4,385,973, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*

The committee then considered cost centers that had not been objected to:

- *Mr. Noyes moved to approve the district admin budget in the amount of \$1,794,046, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 3 Yes, 1 No (Gillis), 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
 - *Mr. Noyes moved to approve the transportation budget in the amount of \$760,850, second by Mr. Gillis. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
 - *Mr. Gillis moved to approve the CES budget in the amount of \$4,240,147, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
 - *Mr. Omohundro moved to approve the AIHS budget in the amount of \$846,601, second by Mr. Gillis. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
 - *Mr. Gillis moved to approve the technology budget in the amount of \$210,384, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
 - *Mr. Noyes moved to approve the maintenance budget in the amount of \$2,666,453, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
 - *Mr. Gillis moved to approve the curriculum budget in the amount of \$438,784, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
 - *Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the employee benefits budget in the amount of \$7,296,649, second by Mr. Noyes. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.*
- Mr. Gillis then moved to approve a district budget in the amount of \$40,405,748, second by Dr. Jurist Levy.*

The committee discussed the proposed budget and the rationale for approving this number over a higher number. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Gove). Passes.

V. Requests of Committee (59:20)

- *Mr. Omohundro asked for an update on the prospect of a child care program at the middle school.*
- *Mr. Noyes asked for an update on union negotiations and a meeting with the athletic director.*

Mr. Gillis moved to adjourn, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Passes unanimously