

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

Present were Mayor Kassandra Gove, Ian Gillis, Chris Hunt, Abigail Jurist Levy, Deb Manseau, Greg Noyes, Brock Omohundro

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/amesbury/video/6a0f29624553ef000277d111?page=PLAYLIST>

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 (1:25) - *No Comments*

- Evan Melanson, California Street - Principal of Amesbury Innovation High School (AIHS), noted that, despite his name being on the report, he does not agree with the Long Range Planning report's findings to move AIHS to another school.

III. District/School Committee Goals Check-in (5:25)

- Mayor Gove gave an overview of the district and school committee goals to open a discussion around the progress made on these goals.

IV. Presentations & Reports – Long Range Planning Presentation (29:35) Dr. Jurist Levy

- Abigail Jurist Levy presented an overview of the Long-Range Planning Committee, its purpose, and the committee's recommendations. Discussion occurred around the various avenues available to improve the long-term financial stability of the district.

5 minute recess to distribute additional materials prior to New Business

V. New Business (58:54)

1. Vote to authorize the spending of up to \$52,720 from the School Choice Revolving Account for AHS Diamond Field Improvements
 - Joan Liporto shared the need for sand injections and a retaining wall to be purchased for the field project. She emphasized that this is key because the project cannot move forward without the sand injections. Excess capital funding can support part of this expense. Mr. Gillis asked when this came up because they

were not informed at the previous meeting. Mr. Noyes asked how much has been spent outside of the original contract. Mr. Hunt asked for clarification of where the money is coming from for this project, and if the use of these funds would take away from any other education-based line items. Mr. Noyes asked how much was in the school choice account.

Mr. Noyes motioned to authorize the spending of up to \$52,720 from the School Choice Revolving Account for AHS Diamond Field Improvements, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Brief discussion where Mr. Noyes and Mayor Gove voiced support for this expense. Mr. Hunt voiced concern that the cost is going up while there are other fields to be renovated. Dr. Manseau voiced support, and that issues like this should be addressed as they come up. Mr. Omohundro voiced concerns on what we are not spending this money on by using this money for this. Mr. Hunt asked if CPA funds could be used for this project. *Vote: Yes (5) No (2)*

2. Approval of Contract between Stephen Zdravec and the Amesbury Public Schools

- Mayor Gove presented the contract between APS and Dr. Zdravec as the new Superintendent of Schools. *Mr. Omohundro motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Gillis.* Dr. Jurist Levy requested the mayor walk through the dates around assessment for clarification. Dr. Jurist Levy asked if Superintendent McAndrews did a summative self-assessment and if that should be included in Dr. Zdravec's contract. *Vote: Yes, unanimous.*

VI. Requests of Committee (1:30:13)

- Mr. Noyes requested the Athletic Director attend a school committee meeting.
- Dr. Jurist Levy requested an update on the regionalization feasibility study.
- Mr. Noyes requested an update on the possibility of the early childcare center opening at the middle school. Mayor Gove requested a copy of the bid.
- Mr. Omohundro requested adding discussion of the JKAA policy.
- Mr. Gillis requested the superintendent provide an update on the external surveillance cameras.

Mr. Gillis moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Jurist Levy. Passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the School Committee will be held on Monday June 1, 2026.