AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2026

Present were Mayor Kassandra Gove, Ian Gillis, Chris Hunt (arrived during agenda item III), Abigail Jurist Levy, Deb Manseau, Greg Noyes, Brock Omohundro, Addison Snow

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here:
https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/amesbury/video/6a219ee877e7ed0002182230?page=PLAYLIST

I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Manseau read the mission statement and led the committee in the pledge.

II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (1:45)

- Hillary Fraize on behalf of Jessica Laughner, Whitehill Road - She is the parent of a 3rd grade special education student that now attends an out-of-district placement. She experienced a series of incidents of her son returning home from school with injuries and was concerned with how these incidents occurred and why he would be injured multiple times during behavioral escalations. These incidents happened during the use of quiet rooms and she has concerns about the practices employed in these settings. She encouraged significant training for staff to ensure safe practices while working within these settings.
- Heather Lull, Macy Street - Her son is a special education student who is placed out of district. She read a statement regarding the new regulations around restraint and seclusion and how she has personally been affected by the exclusion students face. She urged the school committee to create a policy that goes beyond the minimum requirements, clearly defines time out, prohibits seclusion, requires parent notification, provides trauma-informed care for all staff, and prevents exclusion.

III. Recognitions (9:41)

A. Spotlight Awards, presented by Mayor Gove and Mr. Omohundro
    - Doug Nebel, Middle School Principal, was recognized for the positive impact he has had on the school community.
    - The Zach Fields Drum and Music Foundation was recognized for their support of music and cultural education for Amesbury Public Schools students.
    - Liam Lombodard (student), was recognized by his friend Charles for being a great friend and having a positive impact on the school community.

- Patrick Foley, high school history teacher, was recognized for his outstanding work in educating his students and building a positive culture.

B. Retiree Recognition, presented by Mayor Gove and Superintendent McAndrews
   - Karen Greenfield, 32 years
   - Barbara Lions Manson, 11 years
   - Patty Schaffer, 3 years
   - James Montonari, 5 years
   - Joan Liporto, 10 years
   - Candace Maclean, 10 years
   - Rebecca Bailey, 15 years
   - Jim Furmas, 33 years
   - Glen Gearin, 15 years
   - Barbara Leary, 57 years
   - Anne Nadeau, 28 years
   - James Queenan, 32 years
   - Becky Schalk, 24.5 years
   - Dee Vachon, 36 years
   - Lisa Wile, 15 years
   - James Galante, 9 years
   - Elizabeth McAndrews, 20 years

C. Athlete Recognition was postponed because many teams were still in playoffs.

IV. Student Showcases (27:08)

- Students from each of the schools showcased some of the highlights from their experiences with Amesbury Public Schools, including students from Shay, CES, AMS, AHS, and AIHS.

5-minute recess

V. New Business (1:32:05)

1. Policy JKAA/JKAA-R: Physical Restraint of Students (First Read)
   - Dr. Jurist Levy provided an overview of the policy that is being considered due to additional guidance and support from the national- and statelevel. By August, the district is expected to update local policies, adjust procedures, provide required staff training within the first month of the school year and within one month for new employees, and update data collection and reporting systems. A draft policy was presented followed by discussion beginning with Mr. Hunt's clarification of the timeline for when they will be voting on this policy. He emphasized that implementation may be difficult and the training for staff is key along with voicing a concern with the notification timeline. Superintendent McAndrews

clarified the work done to create this policy and the collaboration between her offices and SEPAC. She clarified that the policy presented was created by the district lawyer, Michael Joyce. Mr. Omohundro asked if the process and rollout would change depending on the adoption of the lawyer's policy and the MASC policy. Mr. Noyes asked how the constituents will be made aware of the procedures and whether they will address the regulatory gap. Mr. Noyes asked if there will be different procedures at each campus. Mr. Hunt emphasized that staff training and tools will be key to successful implementation. Martha Robinson explained that the leadership team will be focusing on this topic at their summer retreat and continuing to evaluate. Superintendent McAndrews shared that Michael Joyce would be happy to meet with the committee. Mr. Omohundro asked if the regulatory gap was outlined in the MASC policy and if there would be any difference in procedures between the draft from Michael Joyce or the policy from MASC. Dr. Jurist Levy recommended moving on from the conversation because this is a first reading and suggests scheduling a dedicated meeting to further discuss. Mayor Gove suggested adopting an exhibit with the definitions in conjunction with the policy. Mr. Hunt asked if suspension should be included in this policy and Mayor Gove agreed that there is a connection because of the time out of learning.

2. Approval of Lease of Space at Amesbury Middle School for On-Site Daycare Services
    - Superintendent McAndrews gave a presentation about the impetus for creating this program, the interest and need, and the work done to move this project forward. An RFP was posted for lease of space at AMS for onsite daycare services for FY27-29 with additional requirements around reduced staff rates and allowing high school students to work in the daycare. The only bid received was from the YMCA. Dr. Jurist Levy asked what is the difference between year 3 and years 1 and 2, what the liability would be for students working in the daycare, and what concerns Superintendent McAndrews has. Mr. Noyes asked if this would accommodate infants and whether students would receive certifications after going through the program. Mr. Hunt expressed concern regarding obligating public school facilities and the use of the facilities by an outside organization. He will be sending a list of specific questions to Superintendent McAndrews and Ms. Liporto. Mr. Gillis asked for details regarding the program of study and how this would look to students. Dr. Manseau asked if there would be outdoor space. Mr. Omohundro asked if the middle school principal is on board with this, whether they need to consult the union, and what transportation would look like. Mr. Gillis asked what the age range for the daycare will be, and if there would be any use of shared space within the building they used. Mayor Gove asked for additional details for access and flow and the build-out of the program. Dr. Jurist Levy asked what the best-case scenario timeline would be.

- *Mr. Omohundro motioned to suspend Policy BDD, seconded by Mr. Noyes, approved unanimously.* Mayor Gove asked if the new superintendent has been involved in these conversations. Mr. Hunt asked about the cars and parking lot capacity.

3. Approval of Transfers: $999,952.00
    - Ms. Liporto presented the transfers needed. *Mr. Noyes motioned to approve the transfers for the amount of $999,952.00, seconded by Mr. Gillis. Approved unanimously.*

Mr. Gillis moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hunt. Passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the School Committee will be held on Monday June 15, 2026 at 7pm.