

AMESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2025

Present were Mayor Gove, Maryann Welch, Kate Slater, Abigail Jurist Levy, Greg Noyes, Kurt Mansperger, Brock Omohundro, and Superintendent McAndrews.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14goMhmBHF/>

- I. Call to Order/Mission Statement/Pledge of Allegiance (9:30)
- II. Comments by Visitors & Delegations (10:45) – No Comments
- III. Recognitions & Accomplishments (12:50)
 - A. Spotlight Award
 - Mr. Omohundro read a statement recognizing Ms. Katherine Pena as a Spotlight Award recipient. Ms. Pena is a volunteer secretary at AIHS.
 - Dr. Slater read a statement recognizing Ms. Rena Taber as a Spotlight Award recipient. Ms. Taber is a Paraprofessional at Shay.
- IV. Communications & Reports (18:20)
 1. Dr. Danielle Ricci, Amesbury High School Principal – Dr. Ricci shared an update with the committee on progress in the Redhawk Roadmap (formally Vision of the Graduate) and invited the committee to participate in a focus group at a later date. Dr. Ricci then shared a presentation with the committee on graduation requirements/competency determinations. The presentation covered the district’s graduation policy IKF, the local competency determination based on recent statewide changes to MCAS, updated graduation requirements, and updates to the student handbook. The committee discussed both the proposed competency determination as well as proposed changes to the graduation requirements which added additional math and English requirements. *Dr. Slater moved to take all items under “V – New Business” out of order, seconded by Mr. Omohundro. Vote: 7 Yes. Passes.*
- V. New Business (1:03:07)
 1. Policy IKF: Graduation Requirements – The policy changes were based on the language Dr. Ricci shared in her presentation. *Dr. Slater moved to approve, second by Ms. Welch. Vote: 7 Yes. Passes.*
 2. AHS Handbook Revision Approval – The changes proposed to the graduation requirements related to additional math and English credit requirements, and the addition of a financial literacy requirement. The committee debated the proposed changes.

Dr. Jurist Levy moved to approve the handbook changes, second by Mr. Omohundro.

The committee continued to debate the proposed changes, especially in regard to the additional math requirement. Dr. Ricci noted the changes would not affect students graduating in this current school year.

Mr. Noyes moved to amend the motion to keep the math requirements at 14 credits, second by Ms. Welch.

Debate continued on the proposal. Members expressed concerns over staffing if credit requirements increased.

On the proposed amendment the vote was 4 Yes (Jurist Levy, Slater, Omohundro, Gove) 3 No (Mansperger, Welch, Noyes). Amendment fails.

On the main motion as presented the vote was 4 Yes (Jurist Levy, Slater, Omohundro, Mansperger) 2 No (Welch, Noyes) 1 abstention (Gove). Motion passes.

3. AHS School Field Trip Approval – This is an annual trip attended by members of the student advisory council. The committee requested that the SAC share a report on their trip with the committee after attending.

Ms. Welch moved to approve the trip, second by Mr. Omohundro. Vote: 7 Yes. Passes.

[Continuing with Item “IV –A:2”.]

2. Ms. Liporto shared a report on the quarter 2 budget with the committee. The report was prepared in a new format at the request of the Finance & Facilities subcommittee. Ms. Liporto stated that transportation and energy costs continue to be areas of concern as are the revolving fund balances. The committee discussed the report as it related to revolving fund balances. Ms. Liporto then shared a brief update on vacation buyback status.
3. Superintendent’s Enrollment Presentation – Superintendent McAndrews shared her annual enrollment presentation with the committee. The presentation covered enrollment trends, building enrollments, school choice numbers, charter and tech school enrollments, and school choice survey summaries. The district’s enrollment numbers are projected to grow by 125 students over the next 10 years. The committee discussed the presentation including how to use the choice survey results to make APS a more attractive destination.

Dr. Slater moved to adjourn, second by Dr. Jurist Levy. Vote: 7 Yes. Passes.