

Mayor Chris Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Agawam Junior High School Auditorium.

Roll Call of Attendance Present: 7; Absent: 0

Citizen's Speak Time: - No one from the public came forward to address the Committee.

HighLights on Education: Therapy Dog Update

Jamie Podworski and Bailey, the therapy dog, attended the School Committee Meeting. Jamie reviewed Bailey's First year in the district.

- Bailey started working for the district on November 3, 2026. She started with ½ days and then went onto 3 full days and 2 ½ days after Thanksgiving. Full time was when we returned to school in January 2026.
- Bailey usually has a morning routine. Greetings students from appx. 7:05 am to 7:20 am every morning. Then it is off to her morning walk visiting the guidance department and meeting with any students if needed.
- As a new handler, the surprises:
 - How quickly she supported the Special Education community.
 - Her temperament and calmness within the school.
 - How much food (after lunch) and gum is on the floor.
- Bailey has other roles in the school.
 - Bailey met with higher-risk and high anxiety students during flex period.
 - She supported students and staff in multiple crisis situations.
 - We walked into the testing rooms for MCAS and AP tests in the morning before the test began.
- How is Training Going???
 - Bailey has completed puppy Kindergarten.
 - She will begin her basic obedience class this Thursday night through the summer.

Questions/Discussions:

AJ Christopher - This is a great presentation - Great to see Bailey at the High School - It is helpful to a lot of kids, especially my own daughter.

Shelley Reed - I was on the fence when you first introduced the idea of a therapy dog, but it has turned out to be a great idea. How does this work daily?

Jamie Podworski - She is with me most of the day. I have a crate for her in my office and I have a camera on her when we are outside. She lays and watches the kids. She usually has the 2nd and 3rd period off. She does a great job. Doesn't chase the ball when students are throwing it around. She knows when she is working when she has the vest on.

Wendy Rua - Thank you for bringing Bailey tonight and all of the time you have devoted to this. Thank you for going above and beyond. I smile when I see her. I was so impressed at the pep-rally with all of the commotion and she just layed there.

Michael Perry - I agree with everyone. Seeing Bailey at the pep-rally - so impressed with her calmness. I have a kid at the high school and Bailey has been part of the norm every day at the school. Even at the Senior walkthrough, the kids

would walk up to her before they got on the bus. This return on this investment has been immense. This has been very rewarding. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Jamie Podworski - This year, Bailey and I have been with a student at Clark at least 5 times. Bailey has done very well with this student and knows when we arrive at Clark. She will pop her head up when they arrive at the school.

Mayor Johnson - Commented that we never saw Ms. Zielenski so calm at a meeting before - as she sat next to Bailey petting her while Jamie gave his presentation to the School Committee.

Superintendent Notes:

- Congratulations to Mrs. Roy, the new principal of Granger Elementary School. We are excited to have her as a valuable addition to our administrator team.

Superintendent Martin - introduced Alyse Roy and gave a bio about her.

"Alyse has proudly served the students and families of Agawam Public Schools for the past ten years, beginning her career as an occupational therapist before transitioning into school leadership as lead teacher at Clark School. Throughout her career, she has been committed to supporting the academic, social, and emotional growth of all students while building strong partnerships with families and the community.

Alyse is passionate about creating schools where every child feels seen, valued, and inspired to reach their full potential. She believes that strong relationships are the foundation of a successful school and looks forward to getting to know the students, staff, and families that make Granger such a special place.

Beyond her role as an educator, Alyse has served as a Girls on the Run coach, helping young girls build confidence, resilience, and leadership skills. Originally from North Carolina, she is an avid runner and a proud Clemson Tigers fan who can often be found cheering on her Tigers during football season. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, supporting local community events, and starting her day with a cup of coffee from Java Stop. She believes some of the best conversations happen over a good cup of coffee and looks forward to connecting with Granger families, staff, and community members in the months ahead."

Alyse Roy - Thank you for having me here tonight. I'm so excited to move into this role at Granger. I have been able to go over to Granger and visit. I was able to attend their field day and I even jumped into a game of tug of war.

Mayor - Welcome on board - we look forward to working with you.

- Tomorrow is the last day of school and it will be a half-day.
- As we close another school year, please join me in thanking our wonderful staff for all their hard work this year. We are truly lucky in Agawam to have people we are so dedicated to our students. To our amazing students, congratulations on all your achievements this year. And to our School Committee, thank you for your time, support and commitment to Agawam Public Schools. It is a pleasure to work together. I wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer! See you in September!

Student Advisory Committee Representative Update: Devin Soucy (new for 2026-2027 SY)

- None - Devin was unable to attend the meeting tonight - he is attending a leadership conference.

Unfinished Business:

- **SCR 26-47** - Approval of the Job Description for "Inclusion Facilitator"
 - On a motion made by *AJ Christopher* and seconded by *Michael Perry* the committee via roll call, voted to take the the Job Description for "Inclusion Facilitator" back on the table.
 - **Vote : 7 to 0**
 - On a motion made by *AJ Christopher* and seconded by *Shelley Reed* the committee via roll call, voted to approve the Job Description for "Inclusion Facilitator."
 - **Vote : 7 to 0**
- **SCR 26-49** - Approval of Clerical Settlement dated April 16, 2026.
 - On a motion made by *Shelley Reed* and seconded by *Wendy Rua* the committee via roll call, voted to approve the Clerical Settlement dated April 16, 2026.
 - **Vote : 7 to 0**
- **SCR 26-50** - Approval of MOU - PLC - High School
 - On a motion made by *AJ Christopher* and seconded by *Dawn DeMatteo* the committee via roll call, voted to approve the MOU - PLC - High School
 - **Vote : 7 to 0**
- **SCR 26-51** - Approval of Proposal from Class of 2027 - Parking Spots

On a motion made by *Shelley Reed* and seconded by *Wendy Rua* the committee, via roll call, voted to approve the proposal from the Class of 2027 - Parking Spots.

 - **Vote : 7 to 0**
- **SCR 26-52** - Approval of First Amendment to Contract of Employment - Superintendent

On a motion made by *Shelley Reed* and seconded by *AJ Christopher* the committee via roll call, voted to approve the approval of the First Amendment to Contract of Employment - Superintendent

 - **Vote : 7 to 0**

Business Meeting:

- **Routine Matters**
 - Approval of Minutes - On a motion made by *Wendy Rua* and seconded by *Michael Perry* the committee via roll call, voted to approve the **June 9, 2026**, regular meeting minutes.
 - **Vote : 7 to 0**
- **Warrants/Transfers**
 - On a motion made by *AJ Christopher* and seconded by *Shelley Reed & Dawn DeMatteo*, the committee via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read:
 - **Vote : 7 to 0 absent.**
 - *SW 26-134* **\$54,724.66**
 - *SW 26-135* **\$13,095.57**
 - *SW 26-136* **\$21,731.45**
 - *SW 26-137* **\$17,304.77**
 - *SW 26-138* **\$89,146.88**
 - *SW 26-139* **\$40,647.32**
 - *SW 26-140* **\$253,330.59**

● **Reports**

- Mayor Johnson introduced Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Salomao who was presenting Agawam Schools Professional Development Plan for the 2026-2027 School year.
- Assistant Superintendent Salomao explained the theme for the Professional Development for the 2026-2027 School year. The theme will be Universal design for Learning (UDL). UDL is an educational framework designed to create flexible, inclusive learning environments that remove barriers and accommodate the diverse needs of all students, including those with learning differences or disabilities.
- The last three years of PD have been building upon our learning.
 - 2024-2025 - Creating a Sense of Belonging
 - 2025-2026 - Belonging that Builds Independence
 - 2026-2027 - Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Professional Development Connections to Agawam Public Schools Strategic Plan.
 - #1 Foster a Sense of Belonging.
 - #2 - Equip schools with the necessary resources, strategies and support so all students feel connected, valued and safe.
 - #4 - Increase Opportunities for Voice and Choice - Expand learning opportunities so all students meet high expectations.
- Professional Development Dates:
 - September 2, 2026 - No School
 - October 22, 2026 - ½ Day
 - November 3, 2026 - No School
 - January 28, 2027 - ½ Day
 - March 10, 2027 - ½ Day
 - April 14, 2027 - ½ Day (K-4 only)
 - May 6, 2027 - ½ PD
- Individual School PD Topics for the 2026-2027 School year.
 - Introduction to Understanding by Design
 - Unpacking Curriculum Through a UDL Lens
 - UDL Action & Representation: Curriculum Modification & Visual Supports
 - Lessons Through a UDL Lens
 - UDL Instructional Practices
 - Engagement, Access & Achievement - the UDL Advantage
 - Unpacking Assessment
 - Child Focus Instructional Opportunities
- Additional Training During the School year.
 - OpenSciEd - New Science Curriculum Training for Grades 6, 7 & 8.
 - Crisis Prevention Intervention Training (CPI) - Restraint/De-Escalation
 - New Data Warehouse Training - Open Architects

Questions & Discussion - None

Subcommittee Updates

AJ Christopher - From the financial committee - at the Town Council meeting - the Budget was passed. Thank you to everyone involved in the process.

Wendy Rua - Policy committee met on June 8th and discussed the following policies. To make things smoother for the vote, I will briefly tell you what they are about.

IMG -2 Animals in the school - This policy was created for the new therapy dog at the High School. We didn't have a current policy in place for this reason and one had to be created. Mrs. DeGeorge did a lot of research and checked with other districts to come up with this policy for us.

CC-E - Organizational Chart - This has not been updated in a while and it needed to be done.

GBEBC - Gifts to and Solicitation By Staff - The change to this policy is about raffles and how they have to be run - they can not be organized by the school as the sponsoring organization.

JJE - Student Fundraising Activities - Changed to Students- adding a paragraph about raffles - they can not organize it.

KBE - Relations with Parent Organizations - Permit at Town Hall when necessary

New Business

- **SCR 26-53** Revised Calendar for the 2026-2027 SY

On a motion made by *Dawn DeMatteo* and seconded by *Wendy Rua*, the committee via roll call, voted to suspend the rules to vote on the revised calendar for the 2026-2027 SY. "All those in favour say yea" and "All those opposed say nay."

- **Vote : 7 yea to 0 nay**

On a motion made by *Shelley Reed* and seconded by *Michael Perry*, the committee via roll call, voted to approve the revised calendar for the 2026-2027 SY.

Questions/Discussions -

Michael Perry - Can you highlight the changes on the revised calendar before we vote.

Superintendent Martin - We have added a Back to School night for the High School & two hour delay opening in November for Safety training drill

- **Vote : 7 to 0 absent.**

- **SCR 26-54 -** Approval of the Revised 2026-2027 K-8 & 9-12 Code of Conduct Books.

On a motion made by *AJ Christopher* and seconded by *Shelley Reed*, the committee via roll call, voted to approve the revised 2026-2027 K-8 & 9-12 Code of Conduct Books.

- **Vote : 7 to 0 absent.**

- **Approval of the Superintendent Evaluation - Rating**

- Mayor Johnson reviewed the areas that the Superintendent would be rated on. 5 different ratings to be given for the Step 1 portion of the evaluation.

- Step 1: Access Progress Toward Goals - the ratings were - Exceeded, Met, Significant Progress, Some Progress and Did not meet.

- Professional Practice Goal - *Met her goal*
- Student Learning Goal - *Significant progress towards her goal*
- District Improvement Goals - *Met her goal*
- Step 2: Performance on Standards - the ratings were Exemplary, Proficient, Needs Improvement and Unsatisfactory.
 - Instructional Leadership - *Proficient*
 - Management and Operations - *Proficient*
 - Family and Community Engagement - *Exemplary*
 - Professional Culture - *Proficient*
- **Overall Summative Performance - Proficient**
- *Superintendent Martin* - Thank you to the committee members. Thank you for your fair evaluation. I will use the feedback to work on goals for next year.

The chair will look for a motion to adopt the approval of all three readings.

On a motion made by *Wendy Rua* and seconded by *AJ Christopher*, the committee via roll call, voted to suspend the rules to vote on the approval of the Superintendent Evaluation - Rating.

- **Vote : 7 to 0 absent.**

On a motion made by *Wendy Rua* and seconded by *Shelley Reed*, the committee via roll call, voted to approve the Superintendent Evaluation - Rating.

- **Vote : 7 to 0 absent.**

Policy Review

a. **Policy ECAB** - Access to Building and Grounds - third reading

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the third reading of **Policy ECAB**. *Michael Perry* moved to approve the third reading of **Policy ECAB**, as presented and seconded by *Dawn DeMatteo*. The motion to approve the third reading of **Policy ECAB** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve the third reading of **Policy ECAB**.

- **Vote : 7 to 0**

b. **Policy EEAEA** - Bus Driver Examination and Training - third reading

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the third reading of **Policy EEAEA** and rescind the policy. *Shelley Reed* moved to approve the third reading of **Policy EEAEA** and rescind the policy, as presented and seconded by *Wendy Rua*. The motion to approve the third reading of **Policy EEAEA** and rescind the policy has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve the third reading of **Policy EEAEA** and to rescind the policy.

- **Vote : 7 to 0**

c. **Policy JFBB** - School Choice - third reading

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the third reading of **Policy JFBB**. *AJ Christopher* moved to approve the third reading of **Policy JFBB** as presented and seconded by *Dawn DeMatteo*. The motion to approve the third reading of **Policy JFBB** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve the third reading of **Policy JFBB**.

- **Vote : 7 to 0**

- d. New Suggested **Policy JKAA** - Time-Out, Seclusion and Physical Restraint of Students - third reading

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the third reading of **Policy JKAA**. *Wendy Rua* moved to approve the third reading of **Policy JKAA** as presented and seconded by *Michael Perry & Shelley Reed*. The motion to approve the third reading of **Policy JKAA** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve the third reading of **Policy JKAA**.

- **Vote : 7 to 0**

- e. **Policy - JKA** - Corporal Punishment - third reading

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the third reading of **Policy JKA** and to rescind the policy. *Shelley Reed* moved to approve the third reading of **Policy JKA** and to rescind the policy as presented and seconded by *Wendy Rua*. The motion to approve the third reading of **Policy JKA** and to rescind the policy has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve the third reading of **Policy JKA** and to rescind the policy.

- **Vote : 7 to 0**

- f. **Policy GCK** - Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers - third reading

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the third reading of **Policy GCK** and to rescind the policy. *AJ Christopher* moved to approve the third reading of **Policy GCK** and to rescind the policy as presented and seconded by *Wendy Rua*. The motion to approve the third reading of **Policy GCK** and to rescind the policy has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve the third reading of **Policy GCK** and to rescind the policy.

- **Vote : 7 to 0**

The Chair will entertain a motion to suspend the rules and approve all three readings of **Policies IMG-2, CC-E, GBEB, JJE and KBE**. On a motion made by *Dawn DeMatteo* and seconded by *AJ Christopher*, the committee via roll call, voted to suspend the rules to approve all three readings of **Policies IMG-2, CC-E, GBEB, JJE and KBE**.

- **Vote : 7 to 0 absent.**

- g. **Policy IMG-2** - Animals in School - Therapy Dog Policy - first & second readings & approved third reading.

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve all three readings of **Policy IMG-2**. *Shelley Reed* moved to approve all three readings of **Policy IMG-2** as presented and seconded by *Wendy Rua*. The motion to approve all three readings of **Policy IMG-2** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve all three readings of **Policy IMG-2**.

- **Vote : 7 to 0**

- h. **Policy CC-E** - Organizational Chart - first & second readings & approved third reading.

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve all three readings of **Policy CC-E**. *Wendy Rua* moved to approve all three readings of **Policy CC-E** as presented and seconded by *AJ Christopher*. The motion to approve all three readings of **Policy CC-E** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve all three readings of **Policy CC-E**.

Vote : 7 to 0

- i. **Policy GBEC** - Gifts to Solicitations by Staff - first & second readings & approved third reading.

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve all three readings of **Policy GBEC**. *Shelley Reed* moved to approve all three readings of **Policy GBEC** as presented and seconded by *Michael Perry*. The motion to approve all three readings of **Policy GBEC** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve all three readings of **Policy GBEC**.

Vote : 7 to 0

- j. **Policy JJE- Student Fund Raising Activities** - first & second readings & approved third reading.

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve all three readings of **Policy JJE**. *Wendy Rua* moved to approve all three readings of **Policy JJE** as presented and seconded by *Michael Perry*. The motion to approve all three readings of **Policy JJE** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve all three readings of **Policy JJE**.

Vote : 7 to 0

- k. **Policy KBE- Relations with Parent/Booster Organization** - first & second readings & approved third reading.

The Chair will entertain a motion to approve all three readings of **Policy KBE**. *Michael Perry* moved to approve all three readings of **Policy KBE** as presented and seconded by *Shelley Reed*. The motion to approve all three readings of **Policy KBE** has been duly moved and seconded. This is now open for discussion.

The committee via roll call, voted to approve all three readings of **Policy KBE**.

Vote : 7 to 0

Any Other Items That May Legally come before the Committee

Heather Zielenski - Welcome to Mrs. Roy. Have a happy and safe summer. It is not an easy job working in the school department. Thank you for all that you do and have a great summer. Thank you to the Committee for the last 6 months - I have had so many questions and you have all helped me.

Michael Perry - Congratulations and Welcome to Alyse. I also want to give a little kudos to Superintendent Martin to get reviewed in public is tough and you take feedback very well. Thank you to Aiden Therrien who was a great student representative this past school year. Thank you to everyone that makes our schools great including our Administrative staff and the Central Office Staff.

Wendy Rua - Same as everyone - This is an emotional year for our family, our 3rd son has graduated. Thank you to everyone that has made this a great school year. Have a Happy Summer!

Shelley Reed - Have a Happy & Safe Summer. Thank you to all of our educators and staff for everything that you do everyday for our students.

Dawn DeMatteo - Have a Happy & Safe Summer. Welcome to Alyse, I know that you will be great at Granger.

AJ Christopher - Congratulations to Alyse - looking forward to seeing the progress at Granger. Have a Happy and Safe Summer - Stay safe on the E-bikes, please be safe. Thank you to the Athletic Director, the Mayor and the Superintendent for all of their dedication this year. We had a situation with the softball team that the three of them were involved with right away - thank you for talking ownership. Ms. Gomes took the ownership right away and owned the mistake. All three did whatever they had to do to fix the situation. It showed a lot about our town standing being our students.

Mayor Johnson- Alyse - It is great to have you on board. I echo what has been said ahead of me, thank you to everyone that works at the schools. Thanks to Superintendent Martin for her leadership and dedication to the students of Agawam.

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting on a motion made by *AJ Christopher* and seconded by Dawn DeMatteo without a vote "All those in favour say yea" and "All those opposed say nay.

Vote: Yea 7 to 0 absent.

The meeting concluded at - 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Collen DeGeorge
Executive Assistant to the School Committee


Wendy Rua
Committee Secretary