

Mayor Chris Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm 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: First Day of School - Mayor Johnson turned over to Sheila Martin.

Sheila Martin - Devin, our student representative put together a video using pictures taken throughout the district during the first few days of school. He did a great job!

Mayor Johnson - Great job Devin!

Questions/Discussions: None

Superintendent Notes:

- Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. You saw our opening day video earlier as our highlight and our report later this meeting will show you the projects that happened over the summer to update our facilities. Overall, it was a smooth opening, and we welcome back all our returning staff and students in addition to our new families.
- Our current student enrollment is 3368. This includes 236 EL students with 42 different languages spoken. 685 students with disabilities, including our youngest learners at the Early Childhood Center and students in our 18-21 programming.
- Agawam Day at the Big E will be Wednesday, September 30th. Students ages 6 to 18 years old will receive a free voucher to attend the Big E on Agawam day. The free vouchers will not be given to students until the end of the school day and are not valid until after 2:00pm on September 30th.
- Thank you to all of our students who participated at our Convocation. What better way to welcome back our staff!

Student Advisory Committee Representative Update: - Devin Soucy

- **Early Childhood Center** - The ECC preschool program is off to a successful start, including students participating in the full-day fours pilot program. The first Parent Volunteer Meeting will be held on September 28th at 6:00 pm at the Perry Lane location. The ECC apparel order has also been shared with families.
- **Granger** - The school welcomed its new kindergarten students and launched a fourth-grade Student Council through PBIS to strengthen student voice and leadership. Granger will hold Back-to-School Night on September 24th and its PBIS Kickoff on October 2nd.
- **James Clark** - Back-to-School Night will be held on September 24th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The Scholastic Book Fair will run from October 5th through October 9th, followed by the Harvest Festival on October 7th.
- **Phelps** - Back-to-School Night will be held on September 24th. Parents will also have the opportunity to participate in volunteer training. PBIS Spirit Week will run from September 28th through October 2nd, followed by the annual PBIS Kickoff on October 2nd.

- **Sapelli** - The school welcomed a new lead teacher, art teacher, first-grade teacher, and occupational therapist, and has had a strong start to the school year.
- **Doering** - Students have settled into their routines and are beginning grade-level learning. Their Back-to-School Night was held on September 10th and was well attended by families.
- **Agawam Junior High School** - Students have adjusted to the new schedule, including hour-long periods and grade-level lunches. Back-to-School Night will be held on September 17th. Intramurals and Show Choir are also beginning soon. The PTO is currently holding its Mum Sale fundraiser, which supports yearbooks, field trips, and extracurricular activities. A social night is also being planned for October.
- **Agawam High School** - Back-to-School Night will be held on September 23rd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This year, the event will have a different format designed to be more unique and engaging for students and families. There have also been several fundraisers taking place to support different sports teams and activities.

Unfinished Business: - None

Business Meeting:

- **Routine Matters**
 - Approval of Minutes - On a motion made by *Shelley Reed* and seconded by *AJ Christopher /Heather Zielenski* the committee via roll call, voted to approve the **June 23, 2026**, regular meeting minutes.
 - **Vote: 7 to 0**
 - **Warrants/Transfers**
 - On a motion made by *Wendy Rua* and seconded by *Michael Perry & Shelley Reed*, the committee via roll call, voted to approve the following warrants as read:
 - **Vote: 7 to 0 absent.**
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| ○ <i>SW 26- 141</i> | <i>\$4,091.03</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 26-142</i> | <i>\$54,078.97</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 26-143</i> | <i>\$14,202.99</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 26-144</i> | <i>\$207,860.08</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 26-145</i> | <i>\$188,936.47</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 26-146</i> | <i>\$115,797.31</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-001</i> | <i>\$182,360.91</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-002</i> | <i>\$273,584.49</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-003</i> | <i>\$103,314.68</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-004</i> | <i>\$106,907.41</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-005</i> | <i>\$183,748.67</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-006</i> | <i>\$119,624.88</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-007</i> | <i>\$18,435.96</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-008</i> | <i>\$28,020.83</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-009</i> | <i>\$34,907.42</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-010</i> | <i>\$41,743.76</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-011</i> | <i>\$91,617.73</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-012</i> | <i>\$249,325.12</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-013</i> | <i>\$55,990.07</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-014</i> | <i>\$21,546.80</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-015</i> | <i>\$4,890.59</i> |
| ○ <i>SW 27-016</i> | <i>\$1,103,149.37</i> |

○ <i>SW 27-017</i>	<i>\$14,641.75</i>
○ <i>PW 26-13</i>	<i>\$4,279,371.12</i>
○ <i>PW 26-14</i>	<i>\$872,814.77</i>
○ <i>PW 26-15</i>	<i>\$2,457,040.10</i>
○ <i>PW 27-01</i>	<i>\$549,636.75</i>
○ <i>PW 27-02</i>	<i>\$507,051.10</i>

- AJ Christopher turned on his microphone and asked to speak during the routine matters portion of the meeting. It was acknowledged after the warrants/transfers were read.
- Mayor Johnson did let AJ Christopher speak.
 - AJ Christopher was recognized by the Chair (Mayor Johnson) before speaking.
 - AJ Christopher wrote a letter to the Chair (Mayor Johnson) on August 25th about wanting a workshop to discuss the traditional Agawam Indian Head imagery being phased out in favor of the Block A.
 - AJ Christopher asked the Chair (Mayor Johnson) if he would like to read the letter. The Chair said, since you wrote the letter, you can read it.
 - AJ Christopher then proceeded to read the letter -

Dear Chairman Johnson,

I understand that this is a sensitive topic, but I believe it is important to discuss so that we can maintain a united message and properly represent the students who stand for Agawam at events. Recently, it appears that the traditional Indian head imagery is being phased out in favor of the block "A". When community members ask we can not provide a clear answer why this change is occurring, as no clear answer has been provided to us, which is concerning. Many members of our community grew up here and remain proud to have the original logo represent Agawam.

Could we please schedule a workshop to discuss this matter?

Best regards,

AJ Christopher

● Reports

- Operation & Maintenance Update: Summer Projects & FY 27 Upgrades Outlook - Rob Clickstein
 - Went through summer projects
 - Projects funded by MSBA/Town of Agawam
 - Projects funded by the Town
 - Projects funded by ASAC Program
 - Summer Maintenance Projects included:
 - Installed CO detectors for ASAC, all school locations
 - Door and door frame replacement at Granger
 - Painting, plumbing electrical and HVAC maintenance on existing equipment
 - Phelps front green upgrades, including a new gazebo and updated landscape lighting.
 - Doering Media Center - Upgrade

- Round Collaborative Tables
- Versatile Seating Options
- New Floor updated to luxury vinyl tile
- Phelps Driveway repavement
- Gym Upgrades
 - Traverse Indoor Climbing Wall at Sapelli
 - Adjustable Basketball Systems at Granger, Sapelli, Clark and Doering
 - Protective Wall Padding at Phelps
- FY'27 School Year Projects
 - The Town was awarded a Green Communities Grant to upgrade the lighting systems at Sapelli School.
 - Work is currently in progress to replace the heating boiler system at Phelps.
 - As part of the High School building project, two sets of AHS bleachers are scheduled to be relocated to the Junior High gym this December.
 - Currently transitioning school safety systems: including fire alarm, security, elevators, and 911 emergency lines from traditional landlines to cellular communicators.
 - Evaluating the potential replacement of approximately 8,000 square feet of aging epoxy flooring at the Junior High.
 - Four elementary school roofs are scheduled for replacement through the MSBA program with potential solar panel add-ons.
- A video was also shown of the latest progress of the new high school.
- Rob gave a shout out to Brian Pagella, Jen Bonfiglio & Mayor Johnson for all they did to help with the summer projects.

Questions & Discussion -

Shelley Reed - I have been on the School Committee for a long time and I don't think I ever saw you at the podium. Great video!

Mike Perry - Great job, I know how much you love public speaking. You do a lot for our district behind the scenes and I think that a lot of it goes unnoticed. You are usually known as the money guy. We appreciate all that you do.

Mayor Johnson - As part of the high school team, Rob is an integral part of the team. Thank you Rob for all that you do - Great Presentation!

Subcommittee Updates

Wendy Rua - The policy Sub Committee met on September 8th. We had the Policy Sub Committee in attendance with addition of other School Committee members. We reviewed the New Policy ACL - Interacting with Law Enforcement Officer Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (Protect Act) - On August 5, 2026, the Governor signed the PROTECT Act into law. As part of the legislation and the guidance issued by DESE on August 21, 2026, districts are required to adopt a policy and develop companion procedures to align with the new law. The act requires that school committees, collaborative schools and charter schools ensure that every school under their jurisdiction has a written policy that addresses student and staff relating to interactions with law enforcement agents engaged in civil law enforcement. A yes vote would be following guidance of the law and would not reflect any particular views on it.

New Business

- **SCR 26-55** Acceptance of Gift/Donation from the Family of Raymond C. Francis in the amount of \$1,574.00.
- **SCR 26-56** Acceptance of Gift/Donation from the Agawam XC Booster Club in the amount of \$500.00.
- **SCR 26-57** Acceptance of Gift/Donation from the Agawam High School Golf Booster Club in the amount of \$6,000.00.
- **SCR 26-58** - Acceptance of Gift/Donation from the Agawam Girls Volleyball Booster Club in the amount of \$1,050.00.
- **SCR 26-59** Approval of the Robert Bruno Memorial Scholarship.
- **SCR-26-60** Approval of the Agawam Junior High School 2027 Field Trip to Washington, DC.
- **SCR 26-61** - Approval of the revised Network Support Technician Job Description

All will move to unfinished business.

AJ Christopher - I would like to bring this up again. Can I ask a School Committee member for a motion to be made to have a workshop to discuss the traditional Indian head imagery being phased out in the favor of the Block "A".

Mayor Johnson - If you ask for a motion to be made, you will be considered out of order.

Policy Review

- a. **Policy ACL** - Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (Protect Act) - first and second reading

Michael Perry - Can the law be made public to the people? Mrs Rua did a great job explaining it. Can we find a link that we can add to our website?

Wendy Rua - I believe in our Policy meeting we discussed having procedures and guidance.

Superintendent Martin - I believe that Mr. Perry wants the law included too.

Michael Perry - Yes, that would be good.

Mayor Johnson - Did DESE put out the language on the law?

Mike Perry - Can we put the policy out there to have the public review?

Wendy Rua - Would it be ok if I read some of the procedures?

Mayor Johnson - I believe that all of this information could be posted.

On a motion made by *Wendy Rua* and seconded by Dawn DeMatteo, the committee via roll call, will approve the first and second readings of Policy ACL.

Vote 7 to 0.

Any Other Items That May Legally come before the Committee

Heather Zielenski - I'm excited for our new school year. As a parent we get backpacks and new clothes for our kids to start school and we have to remember how hard the teachers work preparing for the new school year. The teachers are working hard to make the students feel welcome. They put so much time and effort into getting their classrooms ready.

Wendy Rua - AJ - I will work with Collen to put that on the next sub policy committee agenda. Welcome back - I was lucky to tour the new high school. Thank you to Mayor Johnson for the storage for Robotics, we appreciate all of your efforts to make sure that we had the storage space.

Michael Perry - I was also going to mention the tour. Thank you for the guided tour by Mayor Johnson. I think that the parents and students will be impressed with the design. The only concern that I had is the gym floor will be different and the school logo will not be there. I also believe that the banners won't be moving - I think that traditions are very important. Finally just a few days past 911 on the 25th Anniversary, my daughter came home with a history project and she had to interview me, to see where I was during that day. I have thought about this the last few days and I am so happy to see that 25 years later that this is still being discussed in our classrooms.

Shelley Reed - I had the privilege of walking through all of the schools on the first day of school with Superintendent Martin. I hope to see everyone at the Big E.

Dawn DeMatteo - I want to welcome everyone back to school.

AJ Christopher - Welcome back! A lot of exciting things happen in our schools. Great pictures. I would also like to submit a policy to the policy subcommittee chair about school traditions. Let's have a great school year!

Mayor Johnson - Welcome back everyone!

Devin Soucy - I am very excited to work with all of you and for my Senior year. Like Mr. Perry said, I think that it is interesting that in every history course I have been in that 911 has been incorporated into the curriculum.

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting on a motion made by Shelley Reed and seconded by Michael Perry 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 - 7:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Collen DeGeorge
Executive Assistant to the School Committee



Wendy Rua
Committee Secretary