

**Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of December 4, 2014
School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

Members in Attendance: Annie Gilbert, Paula Colby-Clements, Barbara L'Italien, David Birnbach, and Joel Blumstein

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Finance and Administration, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Nancy A. Duclos, and AHS Liaison Jason Gross.

I. Regular Meeting

At 7:06 P.M. School Committee Chair Annie Gilbert called the School Committee Meeting to Order.

A. Opening Ceremonies

School Committee Chair Annie Gilbert led the meeting in a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag led by Drew Pulsifer, a second grade student at South Elementary School. On behalf of the School Committee, Drew was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Barbara L'Italien.

B. Recognition / Communications

Superintendent McGrath said that during the week of December 5-12, students at all of Andover's ten schools will be participating in an "Hour of Code" organized by AHS Math Teacher, Minda Reidy. Students will participate in an activity on writing code on different days and times of the week. The activities will be conducted under the direction of Minda Reidy, Digital Media Specialists, Digital Learning Staff and other staff.

Dr. McGrath recently engaged in a discussion with the School Committee and others at AHS on ideas to renovate the AHS library space. In addition, she will be meeting with several high school teachers to talk about ideas for a satellite school and engaging David Steven, an architect and educator, to assist them.

Assistant Superintendent Duclos recognized the family of Peggy Corbett for their continued support of the Andover Public Schools by awarding grant funds of \$4,900 this year for requests submitted by our secondary science teachers for supplies and materials.

Joel Blumstein reported that as the School Committee Liaison to the Audit Committee, he will be attending an Audit Meeting on December 10th and will report back on the results of the meeting.

Barbara L'Italien thanked everyone for their support during her time on the School Committee. She will be stepping down at the end of the month to begin her newly elected position as State Senator.

Annie Gilbert reported on the Triboard meeting of November 24th at which time the budget process was reviewed, along with available revenue and anticipated expenditures, assessments and projections for OPEB liabilities and a Summary Report from the OPEB Sub-committee. They talked about the next steps for the PRE-K Program, plans to renovate the AHS Library, and investigation of leasing space to create satellite high school classrooms. The new ideas were well received by the members of the Triboard. Another Triboard Meeting is scheduled for December 8th at which time the Town Manager will present the CIP Report.

C. Public Input

Bob Pokkress of Cherrywood Circle inquired if there is a faculty member at Andover High School who does not have a license to practice in the State of Massachusetts. Dr. McGrath said they would have to look into that.

D. Old Business

1. Second Reading and Vote – Draft School Calendars: 2015-16 and 2016-17

Members of the Calendar Sub-Committee developed a set of recommendations on a new school calendar to put forth and asked Dr. McGrath to provide model calendars from the recommendations which she did and they were put on the school website for community input. The School Committee received 400 emails prompting them to revisit their recommendations. Joel Blumstein said the change in vacation dates for February and April were an issue since most communities are on a February/April vacation schedule and it would be a hardship for many families, especially our teachers who live in other communities and residents who live here but teach in other communities. The School Committee expressed an interest in discussing with other communities in the area, whether they would support a move to a March vacation. At this point, they don't know what the PARCC Testing Schedule will be for 2016-17, and what changes the new Governor might make, so they are updating their recommendation for tonight is to vote on the 2015-2016 Calendar as presented and to look at the 2016.2017 calendar at a future date.

It was suggested by members in the audience that the School Committee conduct an in-depth study before changing from a February/April vacation to a one vacation week in March.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2015-2016 school calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to approve. The start date of the

2015-16 school year is August 31, 2015 and contingent upon the favorable vote of the members of the Andover Educator's Association. Students would report to school on September 2, and the School Year would end on June 17 (which is 180 days, not including snow days).

E. Education

1. October 1 2014 Enrollment and Class Size Report

Superintendent McGrath reported on the October 1, 2014 Enrollment and Class Size Report which reveals a total student enrollment of 6,077 in-district students at the following levels: Elementary 2,757 students; Middle 1,560 students, and 1,760 students at Andover High School. There are 82 out-of-district students bringing the total student enrollment to 6,159 students. Last year's total enrollment as of October 1st was 6,016. Enrollment is fluid but the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires an Enrollment Report to be submitted as of October 1st each year.

There are 279 students in full-day Kindergarten and 96 students in the half-day program; class size in both programs is within class size policy. A presentation on costs and space to implement a full-day kindergarten program across the district will be presented to the School Committee at a future date.

Enrollment at the three middle schools is fairly distributed with class sizes ranging from 24 to 25 students per class with an increase of 49 students over last year. The 2015 graduating class at AHS has 415 students and enrollment shows a decrease of 39 students over last year.

Director of Guidance, Aixa de Kelley reviewed the AHS Class Enrollment Analysis as of October 1, 2014 with the average class size of 22.3 which is a decrease over previous school years. An additional 65 courses have been added since 2010 and 9 new courses offered for this year. Ms. de Kelley reported on the course sections which showed: English Language Arts has 105 sections with class size of 21.5; Science has 109 sections with class size of 23.1; Math/Engineering: 107 sections with class size of 22.7 with two new classes offered-AP Java and a pilot program for Code.org. Social Studies has an average class size of 21.3 students with 89 sections and a new course offering on the Modern Middle East; World Language has 72 sections with class size of 21.9; Health has 42 sections with class size of 24.2; Physical Education has an average class size of 27.7 with 58 sections; Visual Arts has 54 sections with class size of 19.1 and Performing Arts has 22 sections with class sizes of 17.0. Digital Learning and Business classes have 29 sections with an average class size of 22.1. There are 48 sections of Directed Study with 166 students participating in Community Service Projects, 21 students in a dual enrollment program(usually upper classmen), 55 teaching assistants, 16 students participating in an independent study, 10 students doing senior exhibition, and 11 students in the Innovation Lab.

2. 2014 Coordinated Program Review & Corrective Action Plan

A Coordinated Program Review is conducted every six years which looks at three areas: Special Education, Civil Rights, and English Language Learners (ELL). The review informs us if procedures and systems are properly in place. The findings of the Department of Education's Coordinated Program Review (CPR), which took place in March of 2014, found 24 areas requiring corrective action. A review of the CPR and Corrective Action Plan were presented by Amy Reese, Interim Student Services Director and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Nancy Duclos. The report encompasses special education, civil rights and other general education requirements such as Section 504, Title IX, English Language Learners, etc. The Corrective Action Plan provides the measures necessary to correct areas identified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Many of the corrections have been implemented with the remaining items being acted upon. A full report is available on the APS website.

Theresa Sherman distributed a hand-out she prepared showing the list of CPR violations of comparable communities including Andover and a bar graph with numbers of most recent and prior (5-6 years) CPR violations numbers by comparable communities.

F. New Business

1. Policy Updates

a. APS Instructional Philosophy: The original Instructional Philosophy was prepared in 1997 and has been updated to reflect changes in language and skills requiring the vote of the School Committee.

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the revised APS Policy IA entitled "APS Instructional Philosophy" as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

b. APS Residency Policies: The APS Residency Policies have been updated to provide clarity on residency requirements, school admissions, and entrance age, and requires a vote of the School Committee to approve.

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the revised APS Policies (1) Policy JF- "Residency, School Admissions, and Entrance Age", (2) Policy JFA – "Admission Procedures/Residency Requirements, and (3) Policy JFA-A "Admission of Potential Resident" as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to approve.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Paul Szymanski said the warrants are in order.
2. School Committee Minutes: SC Workshop – October 15 and SC Business Meeting Nov 6, 2014

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

H. Adjournment

At 10:14 P.M. on a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Joel Blumstein, the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn. Roll call: D. Birnbach-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, B. L'Italien-Y, and A. Gilbert-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: AHS Class Enrollment Analysis Update – October 1, 2014
APS 2014-2015 Enrollment Chart
APS 2015-2016 School Calendar(s)
APS Policies: JF, JFA, JFA-A
Chart distributed by Theresa Sherman