

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING
MINUTES – August 20, 2015
School Committee Room – School Administration Building

Members in Attendance: Chair Annie Gilbert, Joel Blumstein, Paula Colby-Clements, Susan McCreedy, Ted Teichert

Others in Attendance: Dr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendents – Dr. Nancy Ducloas and Paul Szymanski.

Call to Order - Chairman Annie Gilbert called the School Committee Meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Ms. Gilbert began the meeting by stating that the concussion policy would be discussed at the meeting – although no action would be taken tonight. The concussion policy had been listed on the agenda but not on the posted agenda, therefore she just wanted to clarify that the topic would be an information only topic.

Recognition/Communications – New Administrators

Ms. Candace Hall, Director of Human Resources, introduced each new administrator and gave a brief overview of each administrator’s background. The following were introduced: Ms. Norah McCarthy, former district Principal – now Bancroft Interim Principal; Mr. Philip Conrad, Andover High School Principal, Mr. Steve Chinosi, Director of Strategic Innovation (new position in district); and Dr. Valerie A. Flynn, Interim Director of Student Services – all new administrators began in July and August 2015.

Dr. Berman told the Committee the plans for Opening Day on August 31st which will be held at AHS. He said that the plan was to hold a workshop for the faculty and mix the groups up so that everyone would get a chance to meet someone from another working sector (teachers from different levels, nurses, etc). He encouraged and welcomed any SC members to come to AHS on Opening Day. Breakfast would be served at 7:30am and the ceremonies would begin at 8:15am in the Collins Center.

Dr. Berman commended the custodial staff for all the work they have done throughout the schools in preparing them for start of school. He also thanked Ed Ataide for all his work and efforts on working on the CIP which is a topic to be discussed later in the meeting. He noted Mary Lu Walsh for working tirelessly and late – with a positive attitude --on getting all the transportation issues/passes for our students. He also noted the hard work by the Guidance Staff at AHS in preparing student schedules in time for the first day of school.

Dr. Berman continued talking about the Substance Abuse Task Force and the work that has continued over the summer. October will be the month that highlights education and prevention. More work will be done in preparation for October’s activities.

Dr. Nancy Duclos created a powerpoint named “What I did for the summer” in showcasing what staff development teachers had taken over the summer. More than 140 hours were tallied by the faculty; 200 teachers participated in house staff development; 100 in the out of district staff development which total 2/3rds of our teachers participated in some form of staff development. We will post the powerpoint on the website.

Communications

Ms. Colby-Clements informed the Committee that OPEB has been meeting during the summer; all meetings are public and also televised. More information to come with future meetings.

Chairman Gilbert stated that SEPAC would be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss some issues from the past year and also what this year would unfold over the coming months. SEPAC has new leaders in place for the school year.

Also Ms. Gilbert would like to spend some time during upcoming workshops in discussing how the SC operates and their own operating norms and operating procedures.

Brad Wheaton of 5 Summer Street asked who the point person was for the Substance Abuse Task Force from the schools, Dr. Berman said that decision had not been made yet. However, he did add that he would be looking at holding an informational parent night on this important topic.

Mr. Wheaton also requested to the Committee if there was some way that all the forms that come home at the beginning of the school year with the children could be streamlined to be all online. He thought like other parents that all the paper was a waste, Ms. Gilbert noted this and asked the SC Secretary to get information on this.

New Business – Concussion Policy

Don Doucette, Athletic Director from AHS, explained to the Committee that the Concussion Policy is mandated by the state and must be updated every two years in the odd years. The state provides the template and then the district's head nurse and school physician also have their input in it. The format is the same with some small changes. Mr. Doucette noted that he had received some questions and comments from parents – mostly about preventive measures – which he stated that all staff coaches are required to take a test in concussion certification. At the next meeting, the Committee will take up the policy as a first read.

CIP FY17

Mr. Szymanski gave the Committee a good preliminary overview of the CIP this year. He noted that he and Ed Ataide have started the process earlier than usual with the hopes that if things come up and change, they can be noted and included in the CIP. Paul noted that he posted 10 CIP items and that these would change over the next coming weeks.

School 1 – unknown maintenance – IEP compliance \$25,000 budget – acoustical upgrades – all priority 1;

School 2 – projects by building \$53,000 budget for this; high school projects have grown;

School 3 – Textbooks – Nancy projections about \$213,000 for FY17 but more information will be coming;

School 4 – Collins Center façade must be replaced. A more accurate cost would be forthcoming, but this is an item that should probably be brought as a Special Town Meeting item (\$2,500,000).

School 5 – DMS modular classrooms – need about \$250,000, includes fire regulations (MGL c 148) upgrade fire safety – sprinkler system

School 6 – West Elem school improvement

School 7 – Library Media Center – money was appropriated thru legislature (thank you Barbara L'Italien)!

School 8 & 9 – Elevator and other renovations – about \$3m estimated conversion of ramps included in this total

School 10 – Compliance issues

School 11 – Acquisition of another 12 passenger van for TOPS – costs can't be shared; only operational costs can be shared with other communities involved with TOPS

DMS Field Trip: NYC Trip on November 14-16, 2015

DMS Faculty teacher, Ms. Baldwin would like to the 7th and 8th graders on their annual NYC trip in November as she has done so in the past years. Nothing has changed in the format of the trip – same itinerary, same type of hotel, this has been a successful and enjoyable trip over the years.

Ms. Colby-Clements moved that the Andover SC vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Doherty Middle School students to NYC on November 14-16, 2015 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover SC policy entitled “APS School Sponsored trip and student travel policy. Ted Teichert seconded the motion. By a 5-0 vote, the motion was approved.

Ms. Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda – Warrants and Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein. By a 5-0 vote, the motion was approved.

Mr. Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee adjourn. Ms. McCready seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:21PM.

Respectfully,
Alison Phelan, Committee Recorder

Attachments:
A - Agenda