

**Andover School Committee**  
**Minutes of June 15, 2017**

**Members in Attendance:** Chair, Susan McCready, Vice-Chair, Shannon Scully, Joel Blumstein, Ted Teichert, and Paul Murphy

**Others in Attendance:** Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman skyped into the meeting. Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski

**I. Call to Order**

Susan McCready called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building. She said there is one amendment to the agenda tonight. The ABC presentation will be rescheduled.

**II. Regular Meeting**

**A. Opening Ceremonies: Moment of Silence/Salute to the Flag**

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag.

**B. Recognitions/Communications**

**1. Highlights from around the District**

Dr. Berman talked about the celebrations of learning across the district as the closing of the 2016.17 Schol Year nears. He extended an invitation to the School Committee to attend the District End-of-Year Celebration at the Collins Center on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Paul Murphy and Nancy Duclos attended South School's Celebration of Learning this morning. The Celebration was very well done and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were terrific.

Shannon Scully attended the Superhero Training at the Cormier Youth Center which was a wonderful event for rising Grade 4 Bancroft students who learned what characteristics they will need to be role models, there was a lot of team building, great effort.

Susan McCready notified the School Committee members of the request from the Business Office to sign the warrants on the upcoming dates: Thursday, June 22, Thursday, June 29, and another date to be named in July. Joel, Shannon and Paul said they would be available to sign the warrants on both of those dates.

Ted Teichert asked if there is a centralized log of bullying incidents. Dr. Berman replied that a list of suspensions is kept because that has to be reported to State; bullying data is kept at the schools. There is an appeal process if a parent does not concur with the outcome.

Susan McCready reported that the final Town-wide PTO meeting with Dr. Berman was held last week for this school year. The PTO presidents were asked to provide a list of items supplied to the schools from the funds they raise. Susan also reported that information on the status of the School Building Committee, the Carroll School Presentation, and the SOI for West Elementary were shared, strategic plan, and end of year debrief. It was a positive close to the year. On behalf of the School Committee Susan wished everyone in the District a happy and healthy summer.

### **C. Public Input**

Kerry Costello, Advisor to AHS Student Government, introduced Noah Colby, who will be the new AHS Student Government-School Committee Liaison. Noah is very involved in several activities at AHS, very committed to public policy and student government, and writes for the Andover High newspaper, the *Andover Political Review*.

### **D. Response to Public Input- None**

### **E. Education**

#### **1. WMS Field Trip**

Kelly McDonald, WMS Science Teacher, is taking five grade 5 science students to Leesburg, Virginia from June 25-30, 2017 to participate in the e-Cybermission National Finalist Team. eCybermission is paying for the travel costs for team members only.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed Extracurricular Trip for West Middle School students to Leesburg, Virginia from June 25-30, 2017 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled "APS School-Sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy". Joel Blumstein seconded the motion and the Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

#### **2. Student Services Home Visits Presentation**

Joe Yarid, , Robin Wilson, Lauren King, , Dr. Jorge Allen, Nancy Modlish, , and guest Roberta Hanson, presented information on Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV), which is a fast and inexpensive replicable strategy for engaging families, educators and students as a team.

Research shows families are essential to student and school success but some parents are hesitant to come into the school. Teachers are trained to go into the home to connect with families, which is a high-impact way to connect family, build relationships, and build family-school student engagement, resulting in an increase in reading scores, a decrease in absences positive aspects of building trust and communication. The PTHV Model is built on two educators visiting the home. It is a professional appointment with the focus on getting to know children and family and sharing their successes, dreams and hopes.

Non-negotiable Core Practices - Visits are voluntary for all, educators are trained to participate and compensated, we don't target students, we share hopes, dreams, goals, educators go in pairs and reflect. Research based participation outcomes for staff and families include increased trust and empathy for co-educators, increased capacity to better engage students in academics and for students, increased attendance, academic success, an increase in applications to 2 and 4 year colleges, and a decrease in suspensions and expulsions. Teacher training consists of a 3 hour session where they learn and discuss barriers, how to make phone calls, and role play what the visit looks like etc.

Dr. Berman said it is a very successful program in making relationships and a wonderful way to bridge cultures and provide a sense of belonging.

Kerry Costello said the Home Visit Program is sponsored by the NTA and the members of the AEA support this program. The AEA will make a fundraising contribution to get the program off the ground.

### **3. Elementary Health**

Health and Physical Education Director Brian McNally, Health Teachers Cheryl Todisco and Trisha Graham provided information on the Comprehensive Elementary Health Education Program which they originally developed the curriculum for. Unfortunately, the budget cuts of 2003-2005 eliminated the elementary health program.

Their goal is to prioritize the elementary health program because of the many benefits that result from early learning, improves student health, wellness and school performance, and targets the Mass DOE Core Strategies. Review of the Program, what it is, and what it would address, Andovers Theory of Action, Social & Emotional Learning, strengthen standards and curriculum, and fosters home school community relationships. The program has to be based on National Standards. The CDC model is based on the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child concept.

The reallocation of resources from 2009 to 2017 for elementary specialists, and the possibility of bringing health education back to the level it was in 2009 was discussed.

### **4. School Improvement Plans**

The School Improvement Plans were submitted to Dr. Berman and provided to the School Committee via the Dropbox. There is no approval needed from the School Committee and the SIP's are on the website for the community to view. No action required.

## **F. Old Business**

Per the Superintendent's contract: with the consent of the School Committee, the Superintendent may carry over a maximum of ten (10) vacation days from one contract year to the next, so that at any one time the maximum number of vacation days which are available shall not exceed forty (40). The Committee will vote on the number of vacation days that may carry over into the next Fiscal Year. At this time, the Superintendent has 18 remaining vacation days and has requested to carry over 10 along with an approval to use the remaining eight by August 31, 2017.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to allow Superintendent Berman to carry over ten (10) vacation days as presented in the Superintendent's contract and be given until August 31, 2017 to take the remaining eight days. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

## **G. New Business**

### **1. School Committee 2016-2017 Reflections- Highlights of the past year**

Joel Blumstein:

The important decisions made to move forward with improving/replacing West Elementary and AHS and building community support for these projects going forward into the next school year.

- Receiving information on dyslexia and programs put forth across the District;
- Math – The School Committee hasn't received any negative communications this year so that's a positive.
- Budgetary support for AHS Schedule
- Reduction in the cost of full-day kindergarten.

Next Year: Focus on communications, continued support for special education parents, and improving the budget process.

Paul Murphy:

- Appreciation for learning, reaffirmation that our kids deserve the best education we can afford, the whole child, and the skills needed.
- Support and develop best staff, continue to partner with parents, provide clean healthy safe spaces for learning and growing, and inclusivity – lots of schools welcoming new families and little things like getting names correct.
- Facilities: keep it front and center, biggest problem of our time is to sit in a room and take dollars away.
- Special Education: regret that we will always have kids we can't serve in our district, aim to keep as many in district as possible. Teachers should have a voice in this conversation. Parents must also feel like they have a voice - Communication is important.
- Curriculum: Classical, Innovational. Challenging year on the National scene, anxiety that trickles into our schools. Goodness without knowledge is weak, but knowledge without goodness is dangerous.
- Encourages parents to write/email the School Committee.

Ted Teichert:

- Appreciates energy and effort put forward for special education, important to get the right service for kids. Enjoyed the forum, learned a lot from prents and what their concerns are, academic ranking – how can we improve rankings, suggests they hold forums few times a year, look at special ed expenses. Look at what we can do, make sure kids feel safe, and parents getting the correct servies they need.

Susan McCready:

- Shares a lot of the same sentiments, communication is near and dear to heart but has not progressed as far as she would like due to budget constraints.
- There are many things we have done as a District – facilities, language based learning, etc., and she is very proud to be part of a team that has put their all into it More to do and room to grow. Home visits as a level of communication we need to pursue.

#### H. Consent Agenda

1. **Warrants:** In order

2. **Minutes** April 27, May 11, and May 18, School Committee Minutes

On a motion by Shannon and seconded by Paul the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**E. Adjournment**

At 8:52 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0- to adjourn the June 15, 2017 School Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo,  
Recording Secretary