

**Andover School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes of October 12, 2017**

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

**Others in Attendance:** Superintendent Berman, and Assistant Superintendents Paul Szymanski and Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, and AHS Liaison, Noah Colby.

**I. Call to Order**

Susan McCready called the School Committee to order at 6:15 P.M. in the School Committee Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the School Administration Building. Present: Paul Murphy-Y, Joel Blumstein-Y, Shannon Scully-Y, Ted Teichert-Y, and Susan McCready-Y.

**II. Executive Session**

At 6:15 P.M. Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee enter into Executive Session for Purpose 7: to comply with G.L. C. 30A, Section 22 by reviewing Executive Session Minutes to determine whether release is appropriate at this time and will reconvene in Open Session for a Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. not to return to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Teichert-Y, S. Scully, and S. McCready-Y. The School Committee adjourned from Executive Session at 7:05 P.M.

**III. Open Session – Regular Meeting**

**A. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute to the Flag**

Susan McCready reconvened the School Committee to order at 7:05 P.M.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag led by Kara Stefani, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Bancroft Elementary. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Kara on behalf of The School Committee.

The Chair reported that Dr. Berman was teleconferencing into tonight's meeting due to geographical location.

**B. Recognitions/Communications**

Dr. Berman spoke about preliminary enrollment numbers and the expectation of additional students enrolling as the year goes on moving closer to the enrollment projection. The average elementary class size has moved from 21.4 to 20.8 students which is a significant accomplishment, a predominant number of classrooms have 19-20 students. However, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at High Plain Elementary currently has two classes of 26 students and one class of 27 students. To address the higher-class size additional IA support was added. Fortunately, this year's Grade 4 will move on to Grade 5 which has five teacher classrooms.

There is concern with the kindergarten class size numbers ranging closer to 22-23 per classroom, our cap is 24 students; West Elementary and Bancroft have the largest classes. Adding two additional K-teachers would change class sizes to an average of 18.7 students per kindergarten classroom. Smaller class sizes are important to the work being done in literacy. An analysis of kindergarten enrollment will be conducted for consideration in next year's budget. The School Committee will review their Class Size Policy.

A drug search was held at AHS this morning and Dr. Berman is pleased to say nothing was uncovered. ALICE drills will be held at all our schools over the next month. We are doing all we can to protect our children and to be prepared.

### School Committee announcements:

Ted Teichert asked when the review of legal representation will be placed on an agenda to discuss parameters to look at. Susan will put this item on the agenda for a future meeting. Ted also asked when the parent concerns from last May's Parent Forum will be addressed. He also noted that SEPAC does not have a Board at this time.

Susan McCready announced that the ACE Scarecrow funder-raiser has begun with some scarecrows already placed along Main St. She also recognized and thanked the Bancroft School students, and their art teachers, Jessica Scarfo and Charlotte Dunn, for the artwork in the School Committee.

The Chair said that the first reading of Chapter D in the School Committee Policy Book is being postponed until the Meeting of October 26, 2017 at which time they hope to include the first readings of Section E and Section F. She also announced that the Committee will not be taking a vote on the school calendars tonight, but they can have a discussion.

### **C. Public Input:**

Brad Weeden, 5 Summer Street, provided information to substantiate his claim that reducing the six half-day release days to 3 full days would reduce the adverse environmental and financial costs of bussing and cars. He asked the School Transportation Coordinator for information on the number of miles driven per day so more definitive information can be provided. Mr. Weeden distributed a handout to School Committee.

### **D. Response to Public Input**

The Committee thanked Mr. Weeden for his comments and said that if the six half-days were reduced to three full days, an additional three days would have to be added to the school calendar to comply with the 180 school day requirement by the Department of Education.

### **E. Education**

#### **1. New England Arts for Literacy Project (NEAL)**

Dr. Duclos introduced Ruth Tarbox, NEAL Project Director, and Beth Delforge, Director of Fine Arts.

Ruth Tarbox shared a slide presentation titled Leadership in Action 2016.17 which included presentations and activities teachers participated in and initiated in their classrooms as well as highlights from the Summer Institute held at the Springfield Museums under the Theme of: *A Place on Mulberry Street*, how place influences us, how our city/towns make us who we are, and how the artist's work relates to place. Meaningful text included Dr. Seuss's books, *And to Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street* and *A Cat in the Hat*. In addition, NEAL Returning Teachers participated in a Mini-Institute held at the Addison Gallery of American Art for two days in September. All NEAL Institutes are layered around the model of essential questions, linking text to art and connections of art to literature.

Andover has been selected to present the NEAL Project at the National Arts & Education Conference in Washington, D.C. in November. This is an honor and solidifies Andover as a leader in Arts & Education. They have built a collaboration with the Addison Gallery and were able to offer the returning NEAL teachers a private meeting with Elaine Reichek and Jeanne Silverthorne on their exhibit *Invisible Citings*.

Beth Delforge explained that NEAL is resonating with teachers because they developed a professional development model that is vibrant for the adult learner, creates conditions we imagine in the classroom with art at the core, is relevant to the teacher community, and has clear expectations around collaborating and partnering, with the expectation that the curriculum developed will be

applied to the classroom. Reading comprehension goals can be improved by assessing higher order thinking through art experiences. Through the use of the Tech platform teachers are curators of their own teacher pages reflecting in-depth documentation of their work and student work to share with each other.

## **2. AHS Athletics**

AHS Athletic Director, Bill Martin, presented information to the School Committee on the initiative for Unified Sports which is a common athletic endeavor with regular and special needs students that provides an opportunity for everyone in high school to participate. The initiative is funded by a grant received through the Massachusetts Special Olympics, to value types of options for students with disabilities and students without disabilities to partner together. North Andover will host their first competition next Friday between Andover and Haverhill. This is a great opportunity for all kids. Going forward they will be scheduling additional sports: Winter-Basketball, Spring Track and Field, and Fall Track and Field.

## **3. AHS H Block Schedule**

AHS Principal, Phil Conrad updated the Committee on the progress of the new 7 +H Block Schedule at the high school. Components of the 7+H Schedule include yearlong rotating classes of 60, 75, and 80 minutes with H-Block that includes Advisory Curriculum Personalized Support and School-wide Programs. New programs: Virtual High School, AVID Program Achievement Via Individual Determination for a cohort of 24 ninth graders in AVID elective classes to booster their academic skills. They will be offering professional development to high-school staff on AVID. The schedule is available on the website.

Benefits of the schedule: Promotes continuity of instruction, minimizes gaps in continuity, individualized personal time during the school day, time for school wide activities. Teachers have collaboration options within the school day as well.

Communication on 7+H Schedule: A guide was sent home to all AHS families on August 11<sup>th</sup> and posted on website, family meetings were held at Memorial Hall Library in August, and at the Freshman orientation on August 30<sup>th</sup>, at the September 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Class Meetings Sept 7. A Homework Survey was distributed to students during H1 in October. Next steps: Discussions about homework, assessments, and allowing greater access to Enriching Students software.

Noah Colby shared comments from student government: problems are being worked out; seniors who had old schedule for 3 years are more resistant to change; enriching student time is still a little confusing; problem with teachers having full control over where students are during H-Block-they feel it should be more in student's control; scheduling tests/assessments per day needs to be adjusted.

## **4. AHS Field Trip (Show Choir/Chamber Choir)**

AHS Show Choir Director, Chris Desjardins, would like to provide this opportunity for students to compete and perform with the other great choirs of America in Nashville, Tennessee at the Heart of America Choral Competition. Students must be a current member of Chamber Choir, Mixed Show Choir, Female & Male Show Choir, and pit band/tech crew during the 2017-18 school year. All students must have at least a 2.5 average for all grading periods.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Andover High School students to Nashville, TN on Feb. 21-25 2018 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". The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

## **G. Old Business**

### **1. 2018-2019 School Calendar (2d Reading)**

Due to the fact that the AEA has not yet made a decision, this agenda item will be rescheduled.

Kerry Costello said the subject of the school calendar was discussed at their AEA meeting last week. If the AEA votes to waive the calendar, they vote on their options and the numbers of each given to the School Committee and the School Committee gets to choose the option. If they are come back before Labor Day, teachers would like to have the Friday of Labor Day Weekend off; If Option A is still an option, it is unlikely that the AEA will vote to waive the contractual provision to start before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Their next Board meeting is November 2, 2017. They will take a vote to waive, and a vote on which calendar option to support. Kerry's recommendation is to take Option A off of the table. Shelley said the administrators prefer starting school prior to Labor Day. B is a late start.

On a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Ted Teichert. the School Committee voted 5-0 to remove Option A from the list of calendar considerations.

### **2. Capital Improvement Projects**

#### **a. Sch-4A Andover HS Addition-Design - Withdrawn**

CIP Project SCH4-A narrowly passed on a 3-2 vote at the 9/28 SC meeting. The Chair placed this article on the agenda in case members wanted to revisit for further discussion through a debt-exclusion for design funds. Shannon Scully was hesitant to withdraw; however, it was her understanding, when they met with the Town Manager to discuss construction costs and funds needed, it was decided if additional funds were needed a debt exclusion does not make sense. It would be safe to take this project off the table.

Shannon Scully moved to withdraw the Andover School Committee vote that added SCH-4A to the FY-2018 CIP. Motion seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to withdraw.

#### **b. SCH -6 School Master Paving Plan - Deferred**

Dr. Berman spoke with the Town Manager about this article, and reported that the belief is that the Schools have a lot of capital items on the warrant for 2018, and it would be prudent to defer this article until FY-20.

#### **c. IT-4 Dept. Specific IT Requests – No Action Taken**

##### **1. Legal Expenditures**

Joel Blumstein appreciates the information provided on legal expenditures which allows the public to realize the time and expense that goes into responding to public requests and shows an upward trending of how much is being spent to respond to these requests. Communication should easily be available on the APS website. There were four separate requests for Special Education Settlement Agreements which contain confidential information that required a thorough review and redaction by legal counsel to make sure no confidential information was released.

Ted Teichert reported on the Secretary of the Commonwealth Public Records site which shows the number of requests and the decisions; which in his opinion, shows that we are not transparent enough.

The School Committee discussed the process of the requests, responses and financial implications.

## 2. Draft Superintendent's Goals for 2017-2018 School Year

Ted Teichert would like the Superintendent's goals to be more measureable and include SMART goals. The Superintendent's goals don't show how much or how the goals are going to be accomplished and wants to discuss the goals in more detail. Ted distributed examples of Aligned SMART Goals from DESE, and samples of District and Superintendent SMART Goals.

The Committee discussed the Superintendent's goals and what Ted is presenting, and would like to have more specific proposals to change the goals. Paul Murphy suggested that the Committee have a conversation about an amendment to the goals, but he is ready to approve the Superintendent's Proposed Goals as presented.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Superintendent's proposed goals for the 2017-2018 school year as presented. The motion was seconded by Shannon Scully and voted 4-1 to approve. Ted Teichert opposed.

A workshop will be scheduled to discuss how to fit rankings into the goals.

## **H. Consent Agenda**

1. Warrants: In order
2. Minutes:

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

Shannon Scully reported that she has arranged to hold the informal meetings at the Memorial Hall Library with the first one scheduled for Saturday, November 04, from 9-11 AM. She will send the dates out to the Committee.

## **I. Adjournment**

At 10:07 P.M. Shannon Scully moved that the School Committee adjourn the meeting of October 12, 2017. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo  
Recording Secretary

Documents:    Enrollment Chart  
                  CIP Articles  
                  Handout from Brad Weeden  
                  SMART Goals