

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting
Minute of January 18, 2018

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Berman, and Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Nancy A. Duclos, and Noah Colby, AH Student Government Liaison to the School Committee.

I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute to the Flag

Susan McCready called the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room located on the 2nd floor of the School Administration Building. Present: Paul Murphy-Y, Joel Blumstein-Y, Shannon Scully-Y, and Susan McCready-Y.

II. Regular Meeting

A. Recognitions & Communications

Dr. Berman announced that the due to the additional storm day on January 17th, the new end of school date is January 28, 2018.

Paul Szymanski reported that a notice has been sent to school principals and custodians to be as diligent as possible in addressing the snow and ice in walkways around the schools and to make sure they are cleared.

Ted Teichert asked if budget number handouts could be provided before the School Committee meetings. Paul Szymanski said once public presentations are made the information is posted within a day or so unless directed differently by the School Committee.

Joel Blumstein spoke with representative from Senator L'Italien' s Office regarding securing additional Circuit Breaker Funds to cover shortages. State Senator L'Italien has submitted a letter addressed to the State Senate, and Representative Benson will present the letter on the House side, asking for \$36.6M in additional circuit breaker funds for school districts.

On Saturday morning January 20 from 9:00 AM-10:30 AM, Paul Murphy and Shannon Scully will hold an informal meeting of the School Committee at Memorial Hall Library. Every Monday the Andover High School Facility Study Group holds a public meeting from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 am in the School Committee Room. The meeting is open to the public.

B. Public Input - None

C. Education

1. APS Calendar

The AEA, on an overwhelming vote by the full membership approved to start the 2018.2019 school year prior to Labor Day Weekend. Peter Otis, 56 Maple Avenue, North Andover, and VP of the AEA, informed the School Committee a survey, that included all three calendars (Calendar 1, Calendar 2, and Calendar 3) for the start date of the 2018-2019 school year and out of 875 members, over 500 voted to endorse Calendar 1 and to waive the contract starting date.

The School Committee received over 100 emails the results of which were summarized and reported by Shannon Scully and who noted that the comments were very thoughtful and insightful. Based on feedback from emails on the three calendar options provided, the majority of parents favored students starting school on the Wednesday, August 29th (before Labor Day). Students would also attend school on Thursday, August 30th and there would be no school on the Friday of Labor Day Weekend. Dr. Berman said they received a notice from the Town Clerk to inform us that the State Primary Date has been set for September 4th with voting being held in two of our schools (AHS and High Plain). Having the first day of School and the State Primary on September 4th would be extremely disruptive.

Joel Blumstein is troubled by the process with the AEA and the School Committee's change of vote. It should be made clear that students who are absent due to the School Committee's decision and parents having made plans, not be charged with a loss of School Day. Ted is troubled that we made a decision and now we are going back and changing the date – we have to be consistent. Ted is in favor of starting on the fourth of September.

Paul Murphy is closer to the Sept 4th option, but starting before Labor Day is the best idea for kids; however, changing the calendar after it was set, puts parents who have made plans in a difficult position, and proposed that those families should be allowed an excused absence. Susan likes starting school before Labor Day; however, the State Primary on September 4th is a problem. Joel strongly recommends an early discussion for the 2019-2020 calendar.

On a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 3-2 to approve Version 1 as the final version of the APS School Calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. With teachers returning Monday, August 27th and August 28th for Teacher Workshop Days and students returning Wednesday, August 29, 2018. Ted Teichert and Joel Blumstein opposed.

2. Field Trip: DMS Students to Italy – April 11-21, 2019

DMS Teachers Tom Keane, Steve Bessette and Jane Baldwin along with former faculty member, John Givens with the support of Robin Wilson, Principal would like to provide this opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to travel to Italy during April vacation of 2019. It will be a trip of art, history and culture experiences.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Doherty Middle School students to Italy on April 11-19, 2019 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 Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0.

3. Field Trip: AHS Field Trip (International travel for 10-12th graders) April 11-20, 2019

AHS English Teacher, Brian Shea, with the support of Program Advisor, Joanna Ganci and Principal Phil Conrad, would like to provide this opportunity for students to offer this international trip to Berlin, Prague, Krakow and Budapest over the April 2019 school vacation. The purpose of the trip is to offer an all-inclusive international travel experience to students in

the 10th, 11th and 12th grades at a reasonable cost. This is a cultural tour with an emphasis on history, culture, and art as well as an in-depth study on current issues facing the region.

Shannon Scully Moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Andover High School Students to Europe-Berlin, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest on April 11-20, 2019 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 Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

D. New Business

1. AHS Program of Studies (P. Conrad, A. de Kelley)

AHS Guidance Director Aixa de Kelley and AHS Principal

Phil Conrad provided updates of the AHS Program of Studies for the 2018.2019 school year.

- Virtual High Program 25 slots per semester, have allowed 50 slots and all filled
- AVID Program-College Readiness Program for 9th grade students to receive organization and time-management skills and be ready for college adding a 10th grade elective.
- Adding English Writing Seminar Course to support and monitor success of ELL students.
- Performing & Visual Arts, adding films in the 20th Century American Cultures.
- Social Studies Dept. will open some upper level electives to sophomores for a ½ credit elective.
- Special Education, bringing back the Team Taught Language-based Instruction, starting with the Freshman Class next year. Teachers will receive training with Landmark.

Ted Teichert asked what the strategies in the Landmark Teaching Strategies are. Phil assumes they are the strategies Landmark uses in the Landmark School. Nancy reported that Ann Larsen from Landmark has been working with our teachers and if Ted would like, she will share the information with him. Noah asked if they have thought about integrating psychology into social studies, Aixa said possibly in the future as an AP Class.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2018-2019 New High School Schedule AHS Program of Studies as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 4-1 to approve. Ted Teichert opposed until he has all the information he requested.

2. Contracts: Approval for LPNs, Administrators, Food Service, Custodians

Susan McCready reported that several of the contracts have been ratified by their units and the School Committee met in several Executive Sessions to be briefed on the status and outcomes of each agreement.

Candace Hall provided a summation of the changes to the LPN’s contract that is the smallest unit with only 2 LPN’s in the system and whose requests were quite modest.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the contracts with the Licensed Practical Nurses Association for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the period from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

Joel Blumstein provided a summation of the changes to the Service Employees contract and moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the contract with the Service Employees International Union, Local 888, School Custodians for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

Ted Teichert provided highlights of the changes to the Andover Food Service Union's agreement. Paul Szymanski appreciated the collaboration with the custodians negotiating the agreement.

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the contract with the Andover School Food Service Union for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

Paul Murphy provided a summation on the changes to the contract for the Andover Administrators' and moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the contract with the Andover Administrators Association Service for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Financials FY19 Budget:

Shelley Berman reported on the meeting with Town Manager who has recommended a targeted budget increase of 4% which would include moving half of the cost of textbooks into the budget this year and the other half next year. Shelley shared the proposal he is putting forward to the School Committee for their consideration that includes additions in personnel (TOPS Teacher, LEAP Teacher, AVID Teacher, and a Communications/RAO person), moving the textbook transfer of \$380,000 to General Expense, and increasing the Athletic Budget approximately \$60,000 while decreasing approximately the same amount in personnel and equipment. Using \$50,000 from the Full-day Kindergarten Revolving Account to reduce the Full Day Tuition Fee to \$3,975.

The Superintendent is asking the School Committee to recommend approval of \$82,510,658 for the FY-19 Budget which includes the budget additions and using the available funds of \$180,246 and textbook transfer from CIP of \$483,256 for a total of \$663,502 in additional resources.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adopt the FY-19 Operating Budget at \$ 82,510,658. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

Ted Teichert moved to instruct the Superintendent and Athletic Director to form a committee to seek and explore other alternatives of revenue. There was no second to the motion.

Dr. Berman will need clarification from the School Committee on the budget additions and available resources in order to prepare the budget book. Discussions will be held regarding the Athletic Budget.

E. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense SW1817 and Payroll 18S029
2. Minutes: November 30, 2017 Regular Session, December 6 Triboard, December 14 2017 Workshop and December 14, 2017 Regular Session Minutes

On a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Ted Teichert, the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

F. Adjournment

At 9:20 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy, the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn from the meeting of January 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: 2019 Budget Update
AHS Program of Studies