

**Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting
Minute of February 8, 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, AHS Student Government Liaison

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

Susan McCready called the School Committee to order at 6:07 P.M. in the School Committee Room located on the 2nd floor of the School Administration Building. Present: Paul Murphy-Y, Joel Blumstein-Y, Ted Teichert -Y, Shannon Scully-Y, and Susan McCready-Y.

II. Executive Session

At 6:10 P.M. Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee enter into Executive Session for Purpose 1: To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, T. Teichert-Y. P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully, and S. McCready-Y. At 7:02 P.M. the School Committee recessed to move to Open Session and to return to Executive Session.

III. Regular Meeting

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

The School Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:08 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag led by Avanthika Suryadevara who is a 7th grade student at West Middle School.

Paul Murphy, thanked the parents for their feedback at the meeting of February 6th involving the DCF investigation.

Ted Teichert asked the Committee to reconsider using Ryan Strategies for the hockey investigation. He is concerned about the appearance of conflict. He also asked that a recap of last year's Parent Forum be placed on an agenda.

Shannon Scully reported on a communication received from Barbara L'Italien's Office on the issue of additional funds for the Circuit Breaker. A letter from Sen. L'Italien and Representative Jennifer Bentley requesting additional funding for the Circuit Breaker has been officially submitted to the Chairs of the Senate and the House Ways and Means Committees. Twenty-six other state Senators and Representatives have signed onto the letter asking for additional funds.

Susan McCready asked the Committee to consider holding the Public Hearing on the School Department Budget on either March 1st or March 15th 2018. The Hearing will be advertised in the local newspaper, and a Connect5 Message will be sent out.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Berman read a letter acknowledging Lillian Michalczyk, an Andover Crossing Guards for receipt of the Shine the Light on the Good Award.

Dr. Duclos announced that 127 math competition exams were administered to students from 23 middle schools, including Andover. Students were invited to the completion because they scored in the top 5% in the American Math Competition in December. Nancy also recognized twenty-five Andover Middle and High School students who won a combined fifty-two awards in the Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards held on Saturday, March 3, 2018. She also announced that AHS will serve as the host site for the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's Drama Festival Competition, and twenty-four students from Andover's middle and high school were chosen to participate in the Northeastern Junior Districts.

Paul Szymanski reported that work has begun on the Statement of Interest for Andover High School to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Joel Blumstein offered to take over for Ted Teichert on the School Committee facility sub-committee and as a liaison to the AHS Facilities Committee since Ted will be leaving the Committee in late March.

Susan McCready reported that due to the snow ½ day yesterday, the 8th Grade Curriculum Night was rescheduled to tonight, and Principal Conrad will join the School Committee Meeting as soon as possible to participate in the Program of Studies (LEAP Program) presentation.

DESE Chief of Staff, Helene Bettencourt responded to the School's Committee letter to about changing in student learning time regulations. Susan McCready read the letter which said it is not likely that they will take up this item this school year, but possibly next year.

C. Public Input

Jen Warren, 7 Reservation Road read a statement with questions on the Elementary Report Card Task Force, including when parents would be invited to participate and give feedback.

Bob Pokress, 3 Cherrywood Circle, asked why the letter regarding the AHS Hockey Coach written by Dr. Berman was not disclosed by the School Committee.

Kelly Sutcliffe, One Carter Lane, said concerns about Special Education Programs were presented to the School Committee five years ago, and the problems continue to exist. She is asking the School Committee to address the problem in an executive session.

D. Response to Public Input

Nancy Duclos reported that the first meeting of the Elementary Report Card Task Force was held on Tuesday and they plan to ask administrators and teachers to provide parent names to join the task force. They will then hold two parent forums before starting their work, a forum at the end to provide feedback. Parents will be alerted via connect 5 message.

E. Education

1. Update on ACE Grants and other initiatives. *(S.Chinosi, E. Pellerin, S. St. Laurent, and Lenore Price-President, ACE)*

Dr. Berman thanked Lenore Price, President of ACE for the support the Andover Coalition for Education (ACE) has given to APS, and the three grants recently awarded that will put Andover on the forefront. Lenore announced that ACE is providing \$100,000 towards these initiatives in addition to rolling out the Capstone Project at the middle school level, the next three initiatives include Teaching Innovation Fund (asking teachers to apply directly for grants), the IDEA Lab at AHS (next level of Makerstudio), and the APS Portal.

The vision for the portal includes staff development for our faculty to take our students and faculty to the next level. Eric Pellerin will be the Portal curator and meet with other teachers across the country this summer to learn how to use it. Eric provided a handout of statistics and demographic trends that are shaping the world. The Portal creates a safe space for our students to connect with real people in real time from around the world. Dr. Berman said Steve Chinosi deserves enormous credit for Andover to be the first school system to acquire this program.

F. Old Business

1. After School Programs at West Elementary

Joe Connelly and Principal Liz Roos presented a proposal for an after-school program at West Elementary.

The first Andover Recreation sponsored afterschool program was launched at Bancroft in October and doing well, parents and students are very happy, they service 39 students on a daily basis and have 53 students in total. South School and High Plain continue to operate their own afterschool programs with success, and are comfortable continuing on their own again next year. They are requesting approval from the School Committee to offer an Andover Recreation sponsored program at West Elementary next year. West Elementary has the space, students, teachers, and parents who want to be involved. Joe Connelly also plans to meet with the Principal and Assistant Principal at Sanborn to discuss an after-school program if there is interest.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed After School Program at West Elementary School as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Update on Bancroft Fields

Joe Connelly received approval from the Conservation Commission to move forward with field renovations. However, there was an issue with the public hearing notice necessitating a second approval from the Conservation Commission. The School Committee asked Joe to send them updates on the status.

3. Program of Studies: AHS Leap Program:

Dr. Sara Stetson, Director of Students Services and Nancy Koch, Asst. Director of Student Services, and SPED Program Head Jean Tarricone, provided information on the proposed Leap Program for AHS for the 2018-2019 school year. This is not going to be a new program, but some very well thought out and planned changes of the existing program. In the future, they may keep their programs as 'programs' and not part of the AHS Program of Studies. Two high-school specific discussions were held with Ann Larson from Landmark on how to expand our program and provide more opportunities for students at the high school. Ann Larson will work with teachers during the next three release days.

G. New Business

1. Appointment: Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching:

After an extensive search, that included three days of interviews and a reception with faculty, parents and administrators, Dr. Berman is pleased to announce Sandra Trach as the recommended candidate to succeed Dr. Duclos. It has been a thorough and extensive process. Susan McCready thanked all the members of the administration and search committee for their time and commitment to this important task.

Paul Murphy recognized Candace Hall for organizing the process and the great way that she brought a diverse group of people together forming the Screening Committee, and he has great faith in the candidate that has been brought forward.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to appoint Sandra Trach as Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021, at the budgeted salary

of One Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars (\$147,869) for the first year of Sandra Trach's three-year contract with salary adjustments for years two and three based upon performance reviews. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Contracts-Approval for Instructional Assistants: The contract for the Instructional Assistants has been negotiated and ratified. Shannon Scully, who represented the School Committee during the IA's negotiations, provided a summary of the agreement.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the contract for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the period from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 4-0-1 to approve. Ted Teichert abstained.

3. School Building Committee-West Elementary

Dr. Berman would like to send out a solicitation for a School Building Committee for West Elementary, similar to what was done for Bancroft School, and would appreciate the School Committee to allow him to begin to solicit for applications. Once a Chair is appointed, the Chair will take the lead in the Task Force and the School Committee should consider what member or members would like to be involved.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the request of the Superintendent to solicit membership for the West Elementary School Building Committee. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

4. School Start Times:

The School Committee will begin the discussion on changing school start times.

Shannon Scully asked the Committee if there was any appetite to pursue this subject at a higher level and to engage in discussions with administrators to talk about requirements, options, interests. There is overwhelming science on the impact of sleep deprivation on adolescents and encouragement from the medical community to begin high school start time later than has been traditional.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense: SW1819 Payroll: 18S032

2. Minutes: January 16, 2018 and January 18, 2018

On a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Ted Teichert, the Andover School Committee vote to approve the consent agenda as presented

V. Adjournment

At 9:30 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Shannon Scully, the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn from Open Session to return to Executive Session, not to return to Open Session. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Teichert-Y, and J. Blumstein -Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: PEW Research Center Report on the 10 demographic trends shaping the U.S. and the World
APS Global Education Shared Studio Portals
Resume of Sandra Trach