

**Andover School Committee Meeting  
Minutes of Thursday, October 18, 2018  
Regular Session**

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**Members in Attendance:** Chair Shannon Scully, Vice-Chair Paul Murphy, Tracey Spruce, Susan McCready, and Joel Blumstein.

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Information Paul Syzmanski, Assistant Superintendent Student Services, Dr. Sara Stetson and Ben Roldan, AHS Student Rep.

**I. Call to Order**

The Chair called the School Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building.

**II. Executive Session**

Tracey Spruce moved for the School Committee to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for the following purposes: **Purpose 3:** to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Secretaries Unit; and **Purpose 7:** To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law); specifically, to perform a review of executive session minutes dated June 27, 2018, Aug. 30, 2018 and Oct. 4, 2018 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A s. 22(g) (1) and (2) to determine whether all or portions thereof may be publicly released and that the Chair so declare that an Open Meeting would be detrimental to collective bargaining strategy. The Chair so declared. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call. J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, and S. Scully-Y. At 7:02 P.M. the School Committee adjourned from Executive Session and moved to Open Session, not to return to Executive Session. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, and S. Scully-Y.

**III. Regular Meeting:**

The Chair reconvened the School Committee to order at 7:08 P.M.

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

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

**B. Recognitions & Communications**

Last year on behalf of their school, Wood Hill Middle School students, Simran Bajaj and Isabel Tu, entered a video contest offered by the Massachusetts Foreign Language Assoc. (MFLA) themed, Expand Your Mind, Expand Your Heart, Expand Your World. The students were the designated as the Middle School Winners for the Year and also chosen as the State-wide Winners in the Middle School Category.

Christine Jee, Education Associate for School and Community Collaborations at the Addison Gallery, is the recipient of the Museum Education Art Education-Art Educator of the Year Award. Christine has collaborated with the N.E. Arts for Education Grant (NEAL) working with Project Director, Ruth Zaimes, in welcoming Andover students and teachers to the Addison Gallery participating in teacher institutes, symposiums, and student visits.

Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> is an Early Release Day and Dr. Berman reported that everyone is engaged in professional development opportunities around Literacy. Dr. Berman said that he, Paul Syzmanski, Paul Colby-Clements, and Shannon Scully will be traveling to MSBA for a meeting on West Elementary enrollment. Student Services Staff will continue their work in Report Form for older children with language-based disabilities on Friday.

Paul Syzmanski announced that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the facility assessment of Doherty Middle School went out on August 22, 2018 with three firms responding. The firm ranked most highly and chosen for the assessment is Dinisco Design. Additionally, audio enhancements, including microphones and amplifiers, will be installed in the School Committee Room creating a new environment to engage the community and audience.

Joel Blumstein accompanied AHS Social Studies Teacher Ruth Masters and forty AHS seniors to the Edward M. Kennedy Institution where the students participated in the creation of a Senate debate.

Susan McCready, Liaison to the Town-wide PTO, reported on last week's meeting. A report on MCAS was shared by Sandy Trach and Sara Stetson talked about the literacy work Student Services is conducting across the District. In addition, the AHS Feasibility presentation was well supported, and the information on the upcoming School Start Time presentation was shared so that PTOs and PACs can encourage parent attendance at this event.

Tracey Spruce commented on the amazing talent of the students who performed in last night's Cabaret at AHS. Tracey asked the Committee if they would consider looking at the School Committee Policy on Sexual Harassment to include sexual assault, making sure our students know where to go for help and displaying posters with information on how to get help. Ben Roldan said it is important that their peers know how to speak up peers if something happens to them.

Shannon Sully announced that the kick off of the budget season started at this week's Chair's Meeting with a discussion on the Budget Calendar. The Board of Selectmen has called for a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> with a Warrant Article related to the Ballardvale Fire Station.

### **C. Public Input**

Keith Saxon, 15 Wethersfield Drive, read a statement about the upcoming election (November 6, 2018) and the code-of-ethics teachers should follow, welcoming all student viewpoints, and consistent with the AEA Code of Ethics and School Committee Policy. Betsy Streeter, 36 Williams Street, is also concerned with political bias by teachers and supports Keith Saxon's remarks. Ms. Streeter shared her interpretation of the 2016.2017 Culture Climate Survey given to Andover students, the results of which were made public only because of a public records request.

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

Paul Murphy supports the School Committee Policies, and as a teacher he struggles with the idea that a classroom is to be a sacred space, and that teachers engage with students on many topics, but a teacher's view of the way a student thinks should not affect how they are graded. Joel agrees that teachers should engage students to have intelligent discussions and

understand both sides of an issue, and not press their personal views upon them. Ben Roldan agrees with the parent's perspective because the makeup of a classroom favors a certain political view.

## **E. Education**

### **1. Student Services Summer School Program – Sara Stetson**

Sara Stetson gave a brief presentation on the District's Summer School Program, which was an intensive Reading Program designed to assist students who have hit a plateau in their progress. The instructional model included motivations to continue to read and offered intensive interventions. Results of the Andover summer program exceeded expectations. Sara also announced that they have been invited to work with Boston Children's Hospital Boston Early Literacy Project as part of their validation group. The purpose of the early screening app is to fight against the "Wait to Fail" paradigm.

## **F. Continuing Business**

### **1. Policy Manual Chapter J – Second Reading**

Subcommittee members Susan McCready and Joel Blumstein talked about the changes proposed for Policy JF and Policy JJE, Student Fund Raising Activities beginning next year.

Director of Nursing, Rita Casper, sent a number of suggestions for JLC, JLCA, JLCD, to tighten and clarify the language on the nursing related policies. Policy JLCB requires students entering or re-entering Andover Public Schools to present a Physician's Certificate that includes record of immunization.

Dennis Forgue, 18 Reservation Road, and Anne Graw, 33 Algonquin Avenue, spoke to the proposed changes for fundraising that will restrict the way funds are raised and the effect it may have on a number of Booster organizations who rely on fundraising to exist.

A discussion followed on fundraising through canning and door-to-door solicitation and concerns with student safety. It was suggested the School Committee postpone a vote on policy JJE-Student Fundraising Activities until a meeting can be scheduled with Booster Clubs to discuss the proposed changes.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept Policy Section J except for JJE -Student Fundraising Activities, until they have an opportunity for more discussion, as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

### **2. Update on School Start Time**

Shannon Scully announced that the presentation by sleep expert, Dr. Judy Owens, will be held on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

## **G. New Business**

### **1. Coaches Handbook – AHS Principal, Phil Conrad**

The School Committee held a workshop last spring on items they would like to see in the Coaches Handbook. AHS Principal, Phil Conrad, provided an update on their progress and

next steps that include meetings with the Athletic Director and others on his team to continue developing a draft document for the School Committee next month.

## **2. First Reading Section K & L**

Subcommittee members, Susan McCready and Joel Blumstein, presented the first reading of Section K – Community Relations & L – Educational Agency Relations. Joel Blumstein highlighted Section K changes with impacts to PACs, PTO's, Boosters regarding 501C3 (tax exempt) status, advertising, gifting, public complaints/investigations. Additionally, the Committee discussed Policy KHA on Public Solicitations in the Schools, and KHB Policy on Advertising in the Schools and allowing for advertising (currently prohibited) under guidelines to be approved by the School Committee. Finally, Joel addressed Policy KLG noting an annual requirement for an MOU between the school department and the policy department for the School Resource Officer. Susan McCready reviewed Policy Section L, noting the only change being in LDA: Student Teaching & Internships' last paragraph changing from "will devise" to "will ensure".

## **3. Review of FY2020 School Committee Budget Calendar**

A draft version of the FY-2020 School Committee Budget Calendar was provided to the School Committee to review and determine if additional meetings need to be scheduled. Dr. Berman said this year they will be purchasing 'time' to be added to the instructional day that has a cost to it and is the investment we have made and the heart of the budget. Paul said extending the school day will have implications to the budget. With the influx of new students, we are already maxing out on sustaining a level services budget and what it takes to have a level service budget, notably for transportation.

## **H. Consent Agenda**

1. **Warrants:** Expense SW1908, Payroll 19SS015 and 19S016

2. **Disposal Inventory Form**

Principal Pam Lathrop has submitted a disposal inventory form which is standard procedure when disposing of items that the school does not need at this time.

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

## **b. Adjournment**

At 9:33 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Susan McCready, the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of October 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary

Rev.Final/ddd

Documents: Policy Section J – SC feedback

Policy Section I – Education L, Education Agency Relations

FY 2020 Operating Budget Calendar

Boston Children's Hospital Literacy Screener Article