

Andover School Committee
Minutes of June 6, 2019

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Sara Stetson, Sandy Trach, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and AHS Liaison Ben Roldan.

I. SC Regular Open Session Meeting- Call to Order

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

II. Executive Session

At 6:02 P.M. Tracey Spruce moved for the School Committee to meet in Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) under Purpose 2, to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, specifically the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents. Roll call: S. Scully-Y. P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y. At 7:02 P.M. on a motion duly made and seconded, the School Committee adjourned from Executive Session and reconvened in Open Session.

III. SC Regular Meeting Resumes

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

The Chair reconvened the School Committee to order at 7:15 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag.

B. Recognitions & Communications

Dr. Berman recognized and congratulated:

- AHS Boys Basketball Coach Dave Fazio on receiving the 2019 MIAA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year Award for his excellence of character, impact upon students and community and coaching credentials.
- Introduced and welcomed Tim Corkery, the newly appointed Principal of West Middle School.
- Welcomed Sean Walsh, the new K-12 Visual Arts Program Coordinator for the Andover Public Schools.
- Reported that MAPLE acknowledged Andover Public Schools as a MAPLE Catalyst District and profiled Andover as the feature District in their first publication Bright Spot. (available on APS website).

In addition, there have been many events over the past several weeks as the school year comes to a close including: Special Olympics with North Andover, Global Awards, Senior Awards, AHS Graduation, and the unveiling of the mural at Andover High School to name a few.

Sandy Trach congratulated the elementary teachers who summarized a year of reading

instruction today which has been enormously successful. There are a number of professional development summer courses being taught by our teachers this summer, along with curriculum workshops, and courses on innovation and design thinking.

Sara Stetson said the Special Olympics was a wonderful event and she is looking forward to attending an event at High Plain Elementary tomorrow. She also reported that some of our TOPS students will enter into degree programs at Northern Essex Community College, and she congratulated all of the Instructional Assistants who completed the MGH Micro-credentials Program.

Susan McCreedy recognized West Middle School Social Studies Teacher, Emily Thompson who has been holding classes on the Shawsheen River and conducting a waste study on reducing water bottles. Congratulations to Janet Nicosia, Director of Plant and Facilities for working with the students.

Joel Blumstein thanked AHS Principal Phil Conrad and his team for the numerous activities provided for graduating students, especially Senior Safari which is a big effort.

C. Public Input

Frank McNally, 5 York Street, spoke in opposition of the One Community One Nation (OCON) curriculum and read from a prepared statement the reasons why he is not in support of this curriculum program. His concerns are with some of the community projects they are engaged in and does not feel the program is worth developing.

Kerry Costello, AEA President, said teachers received a lot of positive feedback on the innovative ideas surrounding graduation and end of year activities. The AEA offered three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors, and formed an ADHOC Technology Committee to look at concerns with technology resulting in a report by the Andover Education Association, *Educational Technology Report, A Critical Analysis of Ed Tech in the Classroom*, which Kerry provided copies of to the School Committee to review.

D. Response to Public Input

None.

D. Education

1. Field Trips: WMS Field Trip: Cybermission/Science Group to Leesburgh, VA
Susan McCreedy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for West Middle School Students to the Cybermission Challenge in Leesburgh, Virginia on June 16th through June 19th 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 Tracey Spruce and voted 4-0 to approve. (Paul Murphy was not present at time of the vote).

E. New Business

1. School Improvement Plans

West Elementary Principal, Liz Roos and Bancroft Principal Michelle Costa provided information on the Elementary School Improvement Plans submitted by each elementary school. The plans developed are each a little different but follow much of the same format. The reports include the District's Theory of Action and the goals, actions and assessments for each school.

Robin Wilson reported on the Middle School Plan (one plan for all three middle schools). The Middle Schools have been focusing on Social Emotional Learning. It is something they try to embed in all of their curriculum. Progress monitoring is used to determine how the students are doing, and they are getting students ready to transition from middle to high school.

AHS's plan includes three goals: Cultural Awareness; Civics; and, Social and Emotional Learning. Principal Conrad also reported on the 7+H Schedule. Mr. Conrad said AHS will continue to work on H-1 and include Executive Functioning into their curriculum.

Heather Farro, 12 Alonesos Way, commented on the AHS goals. In her opinion, there are no academics related to the SEL goal, and that two of the goals are dealing with same thing. Professional development has been offered to staff, but there have been no parent meetings. AHS needs to offer Executive Functioning Skills (that should start in 7th grade). There needs to be a plan in place to catch kids who are silently failing. Phil Conrad said he has been communicating with Mrs. Farro.

2. Andover High School: Student and Athletic Handbook

Scott Darlington, Assistant Principal at AHS, who oversees the Student and Athletic Handbook, shared with the Committee the substantive changes made to the handbook and the School Committee offered input into the changes presented and additional language to be considered. The AHS Student and Athletic Handbook will be presented for approval at the June 20th School Committee Meeting

3. Update on H-Block

AHS Assistant Principal Caitlin Brown and AHS Principal Phil Conrad reported on the results of the H-Block Survey sent to parents, students, and teachers. The survey responses reflect that H-Block has resulted in improvement on homework, make-up work, student support, student teacher relationships, reduction in academic stress, and student progress. Overall, H-Block has had a positive effect. Responses from the survey are posted on the AHS website.

4. Update on Start Times

Sandy Trach provided an update on the School Start Time work group. The group began

exploring later school start times at the secondary level earlier this year with the charge to develop potential options and to provide information on the benefits and drawbacks to the School Committee and stakeholders.

The District contracted with an independent school transportation expert to examine ways to optimize our current bus routes and, combined with our own continued study, will hopefully provide ways to identify costs options to possibly eliminate B runs, shorten bus routes and or compress interval time between tiers of bussing. Additional information can be found on the APS webpage at SchoolStartTimes@andoverma.us

5. Proposal: Food Services Fees Hold

6. Transportation Contract for Regular/Special Education

Regular Ed., Mid-day Kindergarten and Extracurricular

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to award one three-Year contract to cover regular route buses, Mid-day Kindergarten Buses, and as needed Buses for extracurricular, Field Trips, and Athletic Team Trips, covering the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 with two (2) additional one-year renewals, solely at the discretion of the School Committee to Trombly Motor Coach Services, Inc. of Dracut, MA. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

In-Town Special Needs Student Transportation Services

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to award one Five-Year Contract to cover In-Town Special Needs Student Transportation Services for Summer Programs for the period beginning Jul 2019 and ending August 2024 and In-Town Special Needs Student Transportation Services for the School Year Program for the Period Beginning August 2019 and ending June 30, 202 to NRT Bus, Inc. of Methuen, MA. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 5-0 to approve.

Out-of District (OOD) Special Needs Student Transportation Services

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to award one Three-Year Contract to cover Out-of-District Special Needs Student Transportation Services for the District's Summer Program for the period beginning June 30, 2019 and ending August 31, 2021 and Out-of-District Transportation Services for the School Year Program for the period beginning August 2019 and ending June 30, 2022 with two (2) additional one-year renewals, solely at the discretion of the School Committee to NRT Bus, Inc., of Methuen, Mass. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Continuing Business

1. iAndover at Middle Schools

Shannon Scully moved for the School Committee to agree to contribute \$20,000 in “One Time” funds to support the acquisition of 500 new Chromebooks, carts and related technology if FY-19 unencumbered funds are available. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Professional Staff Holidays (Policy GCD) – Second Reading

On a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Tracey Spruce, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Professional Staff Holidays, Policy GCD, as presented.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants Expense: SW1928, SW1928A Payroll: 19S049, 19S048

2. Minutes

3. Grants/Donations to District

Susan McCready moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

IV. Adjournment

On a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Tracy Spruce, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn from the June 6, 2019 School Committee Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: AHS Improvement Plan 2018-2020
Transportation Bid Summary
AHS Athletics Dates 2019-2020
AHS Student Handbook 2019-2020
AHS H-Block Survey Results