

**Andover School Committee  
Minutes of September 12, 2019**

---

**Members in Attendance:**

Chair, Joel Blumstein, Vice-Chair, Tracey Spruce, Susan McCready, Shannon Scully. Paul Murphy absent.

**Others in Attendance:** Assistant Superintendent Sandy Trach

**I. SC Regular Open Session Meeting-**

**A. Call to Order** 9:00 A.M.

The Chair called the meeting of September 12, 2019 to order at 9:00 A.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag

**B. New Business**

**1. Contract Authorization re Transportation Route Analysis relative to School Start Times Options**

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for an alternative route analysis for Andover Public Schools relative to options for School Start Time Change was sent out with three responses received, only two of which were eligible. A three person RFP meeting was established that includes: Shannon Scully, Sandy Trach, and Dr. Berman. The work product is expected to be provided by the end of October. The Town's Purchasing Agent, Terry Penzola was very helpful with this project.

It was noted that this endeavor was not a budgeted item, but members of the School Committee feel confident that this item will be able to be funded within the existing school year budget. The School Committee needs to vote to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract for an Analysis of Transportation relative to School Start Time Options.

The company they are looking at has specialty software to look at efficiencies, sample start times, the possible need to put new routes in place, and factor in GPS data from our busses along with a number of other variables. They have bell-time optimization software that will help us determine what the optimal bell times are for Andover.

This is an important step for the community; it will help us refine options and to determine what makes the most sense for our community. With the required information, we will have a sense of what would work for Andover.

There are 6 tasks:

- Optimize routes in the current scenario (using existing bell times, same number of buses)
- Optimize bell schedule with elementary before middle/high (flip) and with same number of buses
- Optimize bell schedule with elementary before middle/high (flip) and eliminate "B runs"
- Optimize bell schedule with middle/high before elementary (status quo or shift) and eliminate "B runs"
- Optimize bell schedule sequencing elementary then middle then high (decouples bell time for middle & high)

- Compress bell time between elementary and secondary levels (45 min vs current 60 min)

Because of fiscal constraints, we can not have all elementary, middle and AHS begin at the same time.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract to analyze in-district student transportation routes and student start times at a cost for such work not to exceed \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 4-0 to approve.

The School Committee will hold a workshop on Wednesday, September 18, at 8: 00 A.M. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at Town Offices to discuss school start times.

**C. Adjournment**

At 9:20 A.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Tracey Spruce the Andover School Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo  
Recording Secretary