

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, Paul Szymanski Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Administration, and Ben Roldan, AHS Liaison

I. SC Regular Open Session Meeting

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building.

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag

WHMS Art Teacher Zee Saffron was recognized for the artwork displayed in the School Committee Room.

The Chair reported that a communication was sent out announcing that the Transportation Study by Edulog is not complete so the presentation will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

B. Recognitions & Communications

Dr. Berman reported the following:

~attended the Broadway Cabaret at AHS and was amazed by the talent of the students, which was truly impressive.

~The Mother Connection is hosting a pre-school fair at Memorial Hall Library on Thursday, November 7th

~Thank you to Nicole Kieser, Director of Communications, for developing a notification to Preschools on school start times.

The Capital Improvement Plan is out and available on the Town website. The School 5 Major Projects include: AHS Field House Floor Replacement, design of elevator at DMS, replacement of the Sanborn School Roof, Air-Conditioning Design at Sanborn, installation of Air-Conditioning at South WMS auditorium renovations, and WHMS/HPE playgrounds renovation and resurfacing. In addition, two IT articles are included for Staff Device Refresh and Student Device Refresh.

Sandy Trach reported that the Elementary Literacy Benchmark Assessment training is in progress and the NWEA Assessment Training for 120 teachers will be held on November 19th and 20th in the School Committee Room. This Friday our Elementary Parent Conferences are scheduled and it will be a full Professional Day for all teachers. We are looking to advance the offer to Middle School parents to voluntarily have their child's device put on the IT Management System during the school day which will allow us to use the Chromebook for MCAS along with providing other safety features.

AHS Production of 'Legally Blonde' opens on November 21st at the Collins Center. Tracey Spruce encouraged everyone to attend and enjoy the students' performances.

Susan McCready and Shannon Scully reported on the Informal SC Forum recently held. There was a good turnout with three areas of focus: withholding recess concerns, opinions on middle and high school guidance counseling, and school start time including elementary level research and the anticipated transportation report from Edulog.

Joel Blumstein announced that Tracey Spruce, Shannon Scully and Andrew Flanagan will be the members of the Negotiation Sub-Committee for the upcoming negotiations with the Andover Education Association.

Last week's Chairs meeting touched on the CIP, funds for AHS if accepted into MSBA, elimination of full-day kindergarten tuition (on agenda for Finance Committee to present), and a follow-up on unexpected Out-of-District expenses and supplemental budget appropriation for the current fiscal year if needed. The meeting also included a discussion on changes in school start times and the potential need for additional busses.

C. Public Input: None

D. Response to Public Input: None

E. Education

1. Presentation: Skype w/Education Logistics Inc (Edulog) representative Andy Leibenguth, Sr. Consultant: Delayed until a future date

F. Continuing Business

1. School Start Times

Sandy Trach reported on the status of the School Start Time Study. The working group had questions about the bell time scenarios, bussing, and if they can be compressed. There were three responses to the Request for Proposals and Edulog Transportation was chosen to analyze bussing scenarios and identify viable solutions. The scope of work included six different tasks. The charge is to conduct routing analysis in various scenarios in a timely and efficient manner, drop offs, traffic patterns, etc. The Andover Team has met with Andy Leibenguth of Edulog and his team several times to discuss the analysis that included double run values, exploring how to add better service without adding costs, the importance of timing for our private schools and their impact, and various scenarios including flip and switch.

Sandy appreciates the School Committee allowing additional time to further explore the options and the anticipated outcomes including a presentation to help determine next viable steps.

Joel Blumstein said there is a lot of work left to be done. We still need to receive final report and presentation by Edulog and identify what the most viable options are and analyzing the impacts. It was a surprise to many the role the private schools play in

making this a more complicated issue than we thought. There are a number of steps that need to take place before the School Committee can announce a decision date. Once the report is received from Edulog, they hope to establish a Parent Advisory Group for further collaboration.

Shannon Scully said the general sense is that we need to get it right, not quick. The Transportation Study is a critical component before coming out with responses and she looks forward to seeing the results.

Tracey Spruce agrees with Joel and Shannon on waiting until we have the analysis. Paul Murphy said the process involves more stakeholders than we understood in the beginning. There is a lot going on in the District and the Committee needs to use their energy wisely. Susan McCready is very much in favor of having all of our stakeholders represented in an Advisory Group.

Public Comments:

~ Concern with health effects on elementary students using the flip model and information from sleep study experts who believe the shift occurs in ages of children from 5- 7 years old.

~ How was the survey conducted and how many families was it sent to. A lot of attention has been given to the middle and high school level but little to elementary school children and their parents. Take it slower, examine the information more closely

~ If the Committee is considering how long it takes the kids to get to school by bus, figure out how to make bus routes more compact, reduce homework so kids can go to bed earlier or leave things the way they are.

Dr. Berman said they have asked Edulog to look at efficiencies, and the Administration is having conversations on meaningful homework.

2. APS School Calendar 2020-2021 – Second Reading

Two Calendars under consideration; one with Yom Kippur and Good Friday as no school days, and one without. The AEA, by a slim margin, favored Version 2 with no school on Good Friday and Yom Kippur. A study of teacher and student attendance showed an average attendance of 94% for students, and 95% student attendance on Rosh Hashanah and 93% student attendance on Yom Kippur. Teacher attendance was slightly lower than average.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the APS School Calendar 2020-2021 Version 1 and students will be in school on Yom Kippur and Good Friday. Tracey Spruce seconded the motion as presented. The Committee voted 4-1 to approve. Joel Blumstein opposed.

3. SEPAC Conditional Recognition

The Chair reported that after a presentation by Lesley Lesley on October 8th arranged by the School Committee, eight parents have stepped forward to establish a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) and are inviting other parents and

guardians to join them. The School Committee will vote on whether to recognize these parents as the Andover SEPAC, conditioned on their adopting bylaws and electing officers at a properly noticed public meeting. The School Committee is happy to help with logistics; and Dr. Sara Stetson will be one of the primary contacts.

Tracey Spruce moved that at the request of Melissa Irvin, Georgeann Keer, Maureen Khoury, Lauren Kinney, Sherry Kirby, Rhonda Musikar-Rosner, Nicki Pelus and Katie Smith, the Andover School Committee establish a SEPAC pursuant to G.L. Sec.3., conditional on such SEPAC as represented by the eight requesting parents convening a meeting to adopt by-laws and elect officers. The motion was seconded by Shannon Scully and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to District N/A
2. Minutes N/A

G. Adjournment

On a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of November 5, 2019 at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: 2020-2021 Andover Public School Calendars