

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of November 21, 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, Assist. Superintendent for Finance & Administration, Sandra Trach, Asst. Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Sara Stetson, Asst. Superintendent for Student Services, and Ben Roldan, AHS Liaison

I. SC Regular Open Session Meeting

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair announced a change in the order of agenda items. The meeting began with the Edulog Transportation Report (See E.3. below) and then resumed the Regular Agenda.

B. Recognitions & Communications

The Superintendent communicated the following:

- ACE sponsored a reception for the Teacher Innovation Fund Grant recipients which was a wonderful honor for the students with a wealth of innovative projects.
- Attended Bancroft School's Heritage Night which was an amazing event.
- Six Andover High School Athletes signed letters of intent for college.
- AHS hosted the MIAA North Sectional Unified Basketball Jamboree last week with the Unified Athletic Teams from Lowell, No.Andover, Tewksbury, Billerica, Lawrence, Methuen and Haverhill playing against faculty.
- The Student Opportunity Act passed the State Legislature and bodes well for additional funding of \$1.5M and enhances the Circuit Breaker by adding transportation assistance and increases MSBA funding from \$600M-\$800M per year with inflation index added on top of that.
- The MSBA West Elementary Kickoff for the new School Building Project was held today.
- Congratulations to the AHS Girl's Swim & Dive Team on winning MIAA Division 1 Championship and their 19th State Championship Swim Title.

Sandy Trach recognized:

All of the students and faculty honored at the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

The district faculty and staff for their participation in professional learning work on the full release day. The Teachers who participated in professional learning offered over the past two weeks that included Benchmark Assessment Training, Readers Workshop (K), and NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress for grades 3-9).

Sandy also reported that she emailed a letter to parents regarding the implementation of the Panorama Survey the week of December 2-6 2019. The results will be used to set benchmarks and goals.

Paul Szymanski thanked the Committee for supporting the price increase for school lunches that helped with an emergency situation of an unexpected failure of large cooler at AHS. He applauded Taylor Pirog and Gail Koutroubas for remedying the situation in a cost-effective way.

Susan McCready said the Owners Project Manager (OPM) and SMMA architectural firm were introduced at the West Elementary Building Project Kick-off and talked about the next phase of the project. Tracey Spruce added that one of the benefits of being in the MSBA program is that 40% of eligible costs are reimbursed.

Shannon Scully thanked the parents who organized last week's Read-Along at Bancroft School. Shannon, Joel and Dr. Berman attended a meeting of the Finance Committee last week and presented the plan for tuition-free Full Day Kindergarten beginning in the fall of 2020. It was a positive discussion. The plan will be presented to the Select Board on Monday, December 2nd.

Ben Roldan announced that the AHS Track Team and Student Government are holding a fundraiser to support the Lazarus House.

Joel Blumstein participated in Read-along at Shawsheen and Bancroft Schools last week which was a special opportunity. Additionally, he attended a CREST Board Meeting where they voted to return to the participating towns (based on the number of students) an excess cumulative surplus of \$139,000, conditionally approved the sale of their property on Broadway in Methuen and the purchase of a property on Shattuck Road in Andover where all CREST operations would be consolidated.

At today's Retirement Board Meeting, which Joel Blumstein attended, there was a discussion on changing the eligibility rule for employees to participate in the Town's Pension Program (working more than 20 hours). This change would affect many of Andover's part-time workers making it more difficult for us to attract quality people.

The new SEPAC group held their first meeting last night and they seem to be off to a good start. Their next meeting will be held on December 2nd and is open to everyone.

C. Public Input: None

D. Response to Public Input: None

E. Education

1. Field Trips: WHMS Students to France April 15 – 23, 2021

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Wood Hill Middle School students to France on April 15-23, 2021 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”. Motion seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Field Trips: AHS Students to Laos February 14 – 22, 2021

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Andover High School students to Luang Prabang, Laos on February 14-22, 2021 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”. Motion seconded by Shannon Scully and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Presentation: Skype w/Education Logistics Inc. (Edulog) representative Andy Leibenguth, Senior Consultant

The Chair reported on the undertaking of the School Start Time Study (SST) and options looked at. They were surprised to learn the impact the transportation of private school students has on our busing schedule. The Chair asked that everyone keep in mind that there is not one perfect option for everyone and we will do our best to find a solution that works best for the most number of students.

The District has been working with Edulog Logistics on an In-District Student Transportation Routing Analysis over the past three months, looking at optimization of the bus routes and development of best case scenarios. The RFP was issued by the Town on behalf of APS and Edulog was the most qualified respondent.

Sandy Trach welcomed Andy Leibenguth, Senior Consultant and his associate Spencer Jenko from Edulog Logistics who are participating remotely. The School Start Time (SST) Working Team has met with Edulog several times. Andover already has a highly efficient student transportation system, but the SST working group had questions on bell schedules and asked them to evaluate various scenarios. The study has yielded complex situations and solutions which Edulog addressed in their presentation.

Click here for the SST presentation:

http://www.aps1.net/DocumentCenter/View/10205/DRAFT-Andover_presentation_11-20-19?bidId=

Questions from School Committee:

The School Committee asked Edulog questions on various bus runs and options presented, including the benefits of preserving the double runs and adding/reducing buses and their effects. There also were questions about moving away from mirroring and whether that opens up other options.

Run optimization at AHS could not do any better than it already is. It didn't really change the solution, because the private school bell times could not change.

The Committee discussed separating out private school students that would allow more options to shift start time for public school students. Consider separate transportation for private school students.

Clarifying questions to Edulog from audience

- *No change to bell times on 4C1 but would change bus pickup time. Will have an impact on public but not private.*
 - *Leasing a smaller size bus instead of a larger one has a cost impact - Not much difference in cost.*
 - *Do any scenarios adding sidewalks so we can cut down on the runs to get more spaces on busses. Not part of the charge, increasing sidewalks would likely reduce the ridership and save money.*
 - *Clarify what it means if there is an uncertainty of what might be possible vs what the algorithms pickup up on. If there is a change in bell time, additional students may ride the bus. Will be a question for every level.*
 - *Is there really no other option except status quo that won't cost over \$120,000?*
- Majority of scenarios required additional bussing.

The Committee thanked Andy Leibenguth and Spencer Jenko & Spencer for their time. At 8:30 PM moved back to the regular meeting (See B., above).

F. Continuing Business

1. School Start Times (Continuing the discussion on School Start Times)

Three issues: Establishing a parent advisory group, setting parameters around school start times, and next steps.

After discussions with school principals and Sandy Trach, Dr. Berman said it was decided to keep the Parent Advisory Committee manageable with 11 parents, one representative from each school, two from AHS and one from Shawsheen. The process will include an application that interested parents would return to the school principal who would make a recommendation. Parents selected as a delegate will make autonomous decisions based on the conversations that take place, agree on consensus and next steps and report back to the SST working group. If parents applying have children in two different schools, they can only represent one school. School Committee is all in favor of forming the Parent advisory meeting.

Joel Blumstein suggested setting parameters to start narrowing the range of options that would be studied and helpful to the working group. He cited as possibilities no student pickups before 7:00 AM and not asking for private schools to make major changes in their start times. Tracey Spruce said it is important to set parameters for middle/high school start time.

Public comment:

Michael Melvin, 2 Landeau Lane, recommend that a pre-school parent be placed on the advisory committee.

Brianna Rowley of 17 Old Schoolhouse Road read a statement from the School Committee Policy Manual stating that it is the School Committee's responsibility to the people for whose benefit the school system has been established.

The Committee's current decisions will influence the course of education in our schools for years to come. The Committee and each of its members must look to the future and

to the needs of all people more than the average citizen finds necessary. This requires a comprehensive perspective and long-range planning. More work needs to be done collaboratively, they need to re-survey specific groups about specific options, review more communities, gather more feedback, and hold staff and faculty forums. She encourages the Committee to slow down, shift gears and focus on parent communication. The community will invest in change if they are involved and informed.

Lauren Kinney of Scotland Road, requested the website on SST be updated with new information.

Shelley Penna, 3 Sandybrook Circle, distributed pictures of her children to the Committee so that they can think about their vote. She suggested the parent advisory group include representatives of the small business community, the Athletic Department, SEPAC, private schools, and Shawsheen Preschool.

Erin Adams, 72 Princeton Avenue, requested that the extreme flip schedule be taken off the table. She has great concerns of what this schedule would do to elementary children and to keep revisiting the studies that show effects on elementary students.

Andrew Adams, 72 Princeton Avenue, said the shift options of 8:45 and 9:15 AM could be more manageable for families, recommended working with families whose children need to go to therapy, updating IEPs to allow for early dismissal and maintaining 8:15AM drop off for elementary students.

Matt Bach, AEA President, said the Association cannot support anything except the status quo. Elementary students should not subject to anything detrimental. Changing start times levels would have significant costs.

Lindy Olds, recommended flexibility and raised issues related to the timing of the budget.

Meg McLaughlin, 5 Greenbriar Circle, has children at all three levels. She appreciates the research and also has great concerns about what happens with elementary school children. There is an inequity in the current busing situation with double bussing and suggested they take a 2-tiered approach by switching elementary by an additional half hour and eliminate double bussing across the district to level the playing field.

School Committee comments:

Paul Murphy cannot imagine, if we are going to make a change, that we would be able to institute a change for the next school year (Sept 2020) and believes more time is needed to research changing school start times.

Joel Blumstein agreed that updating the FAQs on the website is a good idea and reiterated his view that the extreme flip option was not under consideration.

Susan McCready said a number of teachers support a change in school start time for students. The Committee hopes the Association will join them in doing the right thing by kids.

2. FY21 Budget

The Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent of Finance/Administration will bring to the Committee information on the FY21 budget. Dr. Berman said they have begun the

process of assembling data for the budget. The Committee has expressed an interest in having two budget hearings which they will attempt to schedule.

G. New Business

1. Policy IHBF – Homebound Instruction (first reading)

Policy IHBF for Homebound Instruction needs to be updated to meet DESE requirements. Sandra Trach met with Policy Subcommittee members Joel and Susan, to explain the reason for her request to update the policy by early December. A copy of both policies, current and proposed, are in the School Committee drop box. Sandy said they are undergoing a tiered review process with DESE and one of the items in our preparation is to update the Committee’s Homebound Instruction Policy to be in compliance with DESE’s policy. There is much more specificity in the revised policy and includes the physician’s affirmation for home hospital instruction. The Policy Sub-committee recommends approval. No action taken.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to Andover Public Schools

West Elem: Andona Society	\$1,500
Shawsheen: Andona Society	\$1,000
AHS : Corning Foundation for volunteer hours/Dollars for Doers	<u>\$1,050</u>
Total:	\$3,550

2. Minutes – October 10 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Paul Murphy seconded by Susan McCready, the School Committee vote 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

I. Adjournment

At 10:02 P.M. on a motion by Susan McCready seconded by Tracey Spruce, the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of November 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Documents: Statement from Brianna Rowley on behalf of the APAC
Edulog Presentation of Findings of Transportation Optimization Study