

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, December 5, 2019

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, Paul Szymanski Assist. Superintendent Finance & Administration, Assist. Superintendent Teaching & Learning Sandra Trach, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services Dr. Sara Stetson, and AHS Liaison Ben Roldan.

I. School Committee Regular Meeting- Call to Order

Joel Blumstein called the School Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located 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 Andover Education Association Unit A and with the Andover Occupational and Physical Therapists Association because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee; 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 6/6/19, 6/20/19 (two sets), 6/26/19, 7/10/19, and 7/15/19 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A and to determine whether all or portions of such minutes may be publically released. The Committee will reconvene in Open Session at approximately 7:00 P.M. The Chair declared that an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, and to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call vote: S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, P. Murphy -Y, J. Blumstein-Y.

III. Regular Meeting resumed at 7:00 PM

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag. Chairman Blumstein recognized the South School Art Teachers for the student display of art in the School Administration Building.

B. Recognitions & Communications

Dr. Berman announced the following:

~Jennifer Pieroni, Grants Administrator, has secured a \$45K Grant from the Essex Community to work with six other communities on Culturally Safe Schools and Mental Health Problems.

~A Pep Rally was held to acknowledge our Unified Sports Teams by Special Olympics and the Special Olympics National Champion School Banner was presented to AHS.

~Gov. Baker signed the Student Opportunities Act, which our legislative delegation was intimately involved in.

~The Building Project Kick-off for the West Elementary Building Project was held last Friday with officials from MSBA in attendance.

Unfortunately, Andover High School Renovation Project was not selected for approval by MSBA. The Team put in a great effort and it is disappointing not to have received approval. We will be meeting with MSBA to discuss their decision.

Tomorrow is an Early Release Day and staff across the District will be participating in professional development opportunities. Last week over 120 educators participated in MAP training and were incredibly pleased with the training.

It is important to make sure important meetings are not scheduled on School Committee Nights. Susan McCready said recently a few meeting snafus occurred.

Shannon Scully and Shelley presented the FDK Tuition Free proposal to the Finance Committee on November 13th, Select Board on December 2nd and will be discussing the proposal at the Triboard meeting on December 11th; we are hoping for endorsement from all Boards.

Tracey Spruce acknowledged Susan Choquette, AHS Drama Teacher, for her commitment to kids for the last 20 years of her teaching career.

Chairman Blumstein reported on the discussion held at the Chairs Meeting on topics for next week's Triboard Meeting which will include a discussion of FDK.

On Monday, December 9th an Informal School Committee Forum will be held at Memorial Hall Library in the Activities Room at 7:00 P.M. SEPAC is also holding a meeting at 7:30 P.M. that night in the School Committee Room.

C. **Public Input:** None

D. **Response to Public Input:** N/A

E. **Education**

1. Field Trips Approval AHS Students to Italy/Berlin Leadership Conference – June 30/July 12, 2021

Sandy Trach reported on the request by Melanie Cutler and Seema Gupte at AHS to attend a Leadership Conference in Italy/Berlin June 30-July 12, 2021 open to 18 students.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Andover High School Students to Italy and Berlin on June 30-July 12, 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". The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. **Continuing Business**

1. School Start Times

Update on Parent Advisory Group.

The Parent Advisory Group (PAG) will be composed of twelve parents; six elementary parents, one parent from each middle, and three parents from AHS. The application for the PAG will be available next week. The PAG is meant to bring everyone together as a working group to share thoughts and ideas, with information shared on a Goggle Doc on the web.

School Principals and PAC leaders will review the applications to determine which parent(s) will best represent the school(s) who can problem-solve and are open to ideas. Applications are due back by December 19th. An announcement on parents selected will occur by January 8th and the first meeting will be held on January 14th. Meetings will be held every other week through January, February, and possibly March to provide feedback and a dialogue with parents across the district.

Dr. Berman and Sandy Trach will be meeting with the heads of the three private schools next week to provide an update on the APS evaluation of start times and discuss whether or not private schools are considering any possible start time changes.

Deliberation by the School Committee

The School Committee will establish parameters to guide the further study of school start times. Edulog's report has been received in addition to a vast amount of input from various SST forums. Each School Committee member has given school start time change a great deal of thought.

Shannon Scully moved that the School Committee direct the SST Working Group to study in more depth specific bell time options that meet the following four criteria:

1. Does not require bus-transported students to be picked up before 7:00 AM and
2. Does not require changes to private schools bell times, and
3. Sets middle & high school bell times at least a half hour later than they are now, and
4. Sets elementary bell time no earlier than the current high school bell time.

Paul Murphy seconded the motion.

Tracey Spruce moved to amend Shannon Scully's motion to add a 5th parameter that the length of the school day not change. The motion to amend was seconded by Susan McCready.

After further discussion among SC members, Shelley and Sandy, the original motion with amendment was withdrawn.

Shannon moved that the Andover School Committee direct the start time working group to study in more depth specific bell time options that meet the following five criteria:

1. Does not require bus-transported students to be picked up before 7:00 AM, and
2. Does not require changes to private schools bell times, and
3. Sets middle & high school bell times at least 20 minutes later than they are now with a target of the medically recommended time of 8:30 AM, and
4. Sets elementary bell time no earlier than the current high school bell time with a target of 8:00 AM or later, and
5. The length of the school day stays the same at all levels.

Susan McCready seconded the motion.

The Chair invited members of the public to offer comments on the criteria and the following were offered:

~Suggestion that a 20-minute delay would be a help.

~What will be the interface of educators be with the working group? Dr. Berman said they have not met with the Association to talk about that. The AEA has representation on the Start Time Working Group.

~Recommend an 8:00 A.M. start time parameter for elementary students and establishment of a parameter for elementary school drop off times. Elementary students picked up by a bus at 7:00 A.M. is unacceptable.

~Option 4C1 from the Edulog transportation report is the better option, some of the parameters hamstringing the parent working groups to come up with solutions.

~The Committee should take their time to think about not starting before 8:00 A.M.

After further discussion, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

Paul Murphy moved that, should there be a change to SST, those changes happen no earlier than the 21/22 school year. There was no second. Other Committee members expressed their view that they were not yet ready to make that decision but were open to considering it should that prove to be necessary.

Additional Public Comments re Start Times:

- ~ Parents will keep the community engaged, and the School Committee should post another forum with the complete Start Time Working Group in attendance.
- ~ A statement from APAC (Andover: Protect All Children) members asking the Committee to not change school start times was read.
- ~Consider the impact on student athletics and academics, impact on afterschool programs for adolescents and the loss of the “feeling of belonging” for middle and high school students.
- ~The Parent Advisory should include representatives from High School Athletics Department, the Fine Arts Department and an AEA Representative. The Committee should keep an open mind that change might not be the best solution. Do not implement the change if you do not have community support.
- ~Include a parent or member from SEPAC on the parent advisory group.
- ~ Feeling jolted by the decision to begin the implementation in 20/21 school year.
- ~Please do not decide until we have more information.

2. FY21 Budget

The Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent of Finance/Administration will bring to the Committee a more detailed budget list created by the Administrative team for the FY-21 budget. The School Administration Team has been working diligently on the budget and taken steps to put together an analysis of OOD costs and circuit breaker numbers to determine the impact on the budget. They also began looking at investments that would be most important to significantly move the district forward. The State has become more rigorous in allocating a proportionate amount of funds to private schools for special education (reducing dollars for APS). Public Hearings on the FY-21 Budget have been scheduled for January. The Governor’s Budget will be released in late January and the Town Manager will release his budget on the first Friday in February.

3. Update: One Community, One Nation

Adrienne Bock, K-12 Social Studies Program Coordinator, updated the Committee on One Community, One Nation (OCON) and the curriculum for the elementary schools, and training for teachers. Since 2018 they have trained over 126 teachers.

In October of this year, they offered an Institute on exploring Child Labor in the US, and exposed new teachers to OCON’s instructional approach, and integrating OCON with reading and writing workshop units. Next steps include continued training for teachers, supporting teachers, piloting, and further development of curriculum units.

Dr. Berman spoke about the opportunity to partner with other districts to engage teachers in OCON Institutes. The first Institute will be held in March 2020; this is an exciting moment for us and to assert significant leadership in the area. The intent is that at the end of 5th grade, kids will feel they can make a difference after learning from this universally designed program. Sharing with other districts in a partner institute gives us the capability to train more teachers at a much more reduced cost.

The Committee asked about the setup of a District Partnership, how it works financially, the expense of the institutes, and the need to provide further confirmation on the benefit to Andover. Next steps: Include as an agenda item for future meeting.

4. Policy IHBF – Homebound Instruction (second reading)

Asst. Superintendent, Sandra Trach, brought forward to the Policy Subcommittee the proposed MASC updated Policy IHBF in November. The Committee had its first reading of the revised policy at the Nov 21st meeting.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the revised policy IHBF as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to Andover Public Schools: none

2. Minutes: October 10, 2019, October 24, 2019, November 5, 2019

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

H. Adjourn

At 10:13 P.M. on a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Tracey Spruce, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of December 5, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary