

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, January 23, 2020

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.

A. School Committee Regular Meeting- Call to Order

Chair Blumstein called the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building.

1. Opening Ceremonies

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag led by Sanborn School students Andrew, Tyler and Dillon Irvin.

B. Recognitions & Communications

~ the Parent Advisory Committee for School Start Time is scheduled to meet next week.

~ The Business Office has implemented a Purchase Order Task Force with members from IT, Business Office, and Town Offices and have begun to identify the scope of work.

Joel Blumstein updates on recent meetings:

CREST (SpecEd Collaborative) is in the process of purchasing a facility on Shattuck Road in Andover to consolidate their operations and are sending out the necessary forms to area Superintendents; their next meeting will be on February 11, 2020.

Retirement Board: Tracking the consideration of possible changes to pension eligibility. No action taken this morning.

Finance Committee: Meeting held last night focused on CIP initiatives.

Chairs Meeting: Joel and Shelley attended the Chairs Meeting to discuss the budget.

C. Public Input-None

D. Response to Public Input- N/A

E. Education

1. Program of Studies – Director of Guidance, AHS Principal

AHS Director of Guidance Aixa de Kelley along with Principal Conrad provided a presentation on the Program of Studies (POS) at AHS for the 2020-2021 school year. Upon approval by the School Committee, the POS will be posted so 8th grade parents will be able to review it prior to the 8th grade orientation in March.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2020-2021 AHS Program of Studies as presented. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Class Size Analysis – Director of Guidance, AHS Principal

Aixa deKelley presented a Power Point on this year's AHS Class Size Analysis with data compiled from the October 1, 2019 enrollment showing AHS having 1,795 students, which is fairly consistent with past years. Class size has been consistent at 24 students per class overall. A review of the enrollments, in all subject areas, included the number of full-time Employees (FTE's), number of sections, number of students per section, and the number of students involved in additional enrollment opportunities.

F. New Business

1. School Committee Feedback: Revenue and Expenditure Task Force Report

As liaisons to the Revenue & Expenditure Task Force (RETFO), Joel and Shannon updated the Committee on the Task Force's report. Joel said the Task Force did not provide an opportunity for comments nor did they provide an analysis of what a structural deficit looks like or a broad-based plan to handle the Town's liabilities.

Shannon said it was a great effort by the Task Force and she appreciates Joel's letter and information he provided to help frame future discussions. Paul Mackay, a member of the Task Force, said the Task Force's charge for the first year was to look at the long-term deficit and to explore potential solutions; next year the Task Force will look at options around revenues.

Shannon Scully moved for the Committee to adopt the comments to the Revenue and Expenditure Task Force Report as prepared by Joel Blumstein. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

G. Continuing Business

1. Update: Budget FY21

The Superintendent shared the disappointing news that Andover will receive an increase of only 1.5% in Chapter 70 Aid (\$172,000) compared to the 10% increase received last year. This is due to a shift in the funding formula towards poorer, urban districts. The Town Manager assumed a 4% increase in state aid, approximately \$460,000, for FY-21 and, based on that, recommended a 3.86% budget increase for the School Department. This creates a \$300,000 shortfall in his Recommended Budget for the School Department. We have been in contact with our state delegation, and are hopeful we will see additional aid as the process continues in the State House.

Governor Baker earmarked \$362M in Special Education funding for the Circuit Breaker. It looks as if Andover will receive 75% reimbursement next year based on the new formula, resulting in an additional \$100,000 reimbursement. We may ask for supplemental relief funds due to the unexpected cost of two new students.

The FY21 level services budget is \$88.9M which is an estimated increase of 3.43%. It offers limited opportunities for additional investments. We are hopeful that the Town Manager will be able to provide the additional \$300,000. The Committee discussed the budget situation and items to consider.

Next steps: Send budget priority lists to Dr. Berman. The School Committee will meet on Thursday, January 30th to deliberate the Superintendent's recommendations.

2. West Elementary SBC Update

Several Visioning and Educational Program meetings for the new West Elementary Building have taken place over the past few months with key principles emerging that will guide the building of the school. Next steps: Schedule Visioning Meetings for Shawsheen School. Susan McCready reported on this morning's meeting where they looked at initial concept development, discussed pre-kindergarten, the ability to obtain educational goals due to the layout, and other ideas and concepts.

3. Amendment to CIP

The Superintendent provided information on changes to School-5 in the CIP and results of discussions with the Finance Committee on the need for air-conditioning in the elementary schools. Janet Nicosia reported on the cost proposals received for A/C at South School and a similar proposal from a second company for all three elementary schools; both estimates were very high. It was determined to postpone South School A/C to a later time and to rethink the order for cooling at the elementary schools. Sanborn has a better proposal that solves multiple projects for \$2.1M that includes air-conditioning, replacement of boilers and the entire heating system. Joel recommended updating the information in the CIP book to reflect this change for Sanborn. Sanborn remains in the CIP for design and installation in 2023.

Shannon Scully moved that the School Committee recommend approval of the amended CIP for School 5 and to change the description in the CIP to include Sanborn air-conditioning, replacement boilers and entire heating system. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to Andover Public Schools

2. Minutes: December 5, 2019

On a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Tracey Spruce, the Andover School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Paul Murphy was not in the room at the time of the vote.

I. Adjournment

At 8:43 P.M. on a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of Thursday, January 23, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

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Recording Secretary

Documents: AHS Program of Studies and Class Size Analysis