

**Andover School Committee Regular Meeting
Minutes of October 8, 2015**

Members in Attendance: Annie Gilbert, Paula Colby-Clements, Joel Blumstein, Susan McCready, and Ted Teichert

Others in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos and Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Paul Szymanski, AHS Liaison Tim Chen

I. Executive Session

At 6:14 P.M. School Committee Chair Annie Gilbert called the School Committee Meeting to order in the School Committee Room. The School Committee, on a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Joel Blumstein, moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters for the purpose of discussing a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and to return to Open Session. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, and S. McCready-Y, and T. Teichert-Y. At 5:55 P.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Paula Colby-Clements, the School Committee voted to adjourn from Executive Session and not to return. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, and T. Teichert-Y.

II. Regular Meeting

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

Annie Gilbert called the Regular Meeting of the Andover School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bancroft Students Olivia Correia-Branco and Madelyn Blanchette. On behalf of the School Committee the students were presented with a certificate of appreciation.

B. Recognition/Communications

Dr. Berman had the opportunity to visit several schools recently; including over 20 classrooms at AHS, all of the classrooms at West Elementary and had a delightful visit at Shawsheen Pre-school in addition to speaking with many staff members. It was wonderful to see the student's engagement and involvement.

Nancy Duclos talked about the status of the high school schedule, course offerings, and possible changes. They plan to run a mock schedule to look at how to design the H-Block and collaborate with all parties to make sure they are well prepared for when the scheduled is actually implemented.

1. APS Educators Report on Ed Leader 21 Conference in Dallas

The EdLeader21 Conference held in Dallas the last week in September was attended by Dr. Berman, Dr. Duclos, Kerry Costello, Dr. Jorge Allen, Steve Sanborn, and Steve Chinosi. The conference was very productive and provided many quality and valuable sessions, conversations, and plans to bring back to Andover that could impact our district. The conference was an opportunity to collaborate with other districts that have made educational changes, how they accomplished those changes, and the use of Edleader21 mechanisms to engage collective learning.

The two 'take-aways' from the conference included: Utilizing Stanford Design System as a Leadership Model and the presentation of the Information Summit on innovation projects that can inspire a community by the Mintaka School District in Minnesota. Dr. Allen spoke about the large number of teachers across the country that uses the 'Four C's' and how having the opportunity to see how other districts are implementing this and how they support systemic change was inspiring.

In addition, Dr. Duclos spoke about the other professional development opportunities teachers participated in this summer including the week long professional development for Integrating Arts into Literacy supported by the New England Arts in Literacy Grant (NEAL) in collaboration with Quaboag and Salem school systems, as well as the Buck Institute's Project Based Learning Workshops held in late August attended by Andover teachers and administrators.

Preliminary October 1 Enrollment Report

Dr. Berman reported on the October 1 preliminary enrollment numbers. In 2014-15 the total district enrollment was 6,159 students compared to the 2015-2016 preliminary October 1 enrollment numbers of 6,180 students. In 2014-2015 the elementary school enrollment was 2,764 students and this year it is 2,788. The Middle School level shows a decline of 40 students while Andover High School has an increase of 37 students. Dr. Berman believes one of the reasons for the increased enrollment at the elementary level is due to the new developments in Town. The Annual Enrollment Report will be sent to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) at the end of October.

Policy Sub-Committee Update

Joel Blumstein and Paula Colby-Clements said they are waiting for guidance from the Department of Education on changes to the Physical Restraint Policy that is expected to go into effect in early 2016. In addition, a new Social Media Policy is in the preliminary stages of development.

C. Public Input

Brad Weeden, 5 Summer Street, spoke about the recycling and waste diversion station at Bancroft School that he and Cole Spenser, intern from Andover High School, set up to reduce the amount of food being thrown out. Working with Keith Saxon they came up with ideas to intercept and reuse food that could be saved. Food Services Director, Gail Koutroubas distributed a letter on the guidelines to recycling food to food pantries and others in need. Two additional interns from Melanie Cutler's class at AHS helped setup a program to divert edible food at AHS. They would like to continue the program at another elementary school and would like to know to whom they should submit their request to. Dr. Berman said they should give him their proposal and he will present it to the school principals.

Bob Pokkress, Cherrywood Circle, is concerned about the academic decline in SAT scores at AHS while at the same time the cost of education is rising. He wants to know if a plan has been put into place to reverse the negative trend. The plan should be concrete with measurable goals. Dr. Berman said an intern has been hired to review reports, look at comparisons to other communities, take an initial look at MCAS results and conduct an analysis of the information on the DESE website over time and how it compares to state trends and other districts.

Jean Teichert, 5 Dufton Road, inquired about the procedure to receive reports on agenda items prior to School Committee meetings so that anyone watching from home or attending a meeting can more easily follow along. Annie Gilbert said documents on the agenda will be publically posted going forward except for those that have not yet been distributed or made available to School Committee members prior to the start of the meeting.

D. Education

1. Community Substance Abuse Response Letter

Dr. Berman introduced Substance Abuse Task Force members, Physical Education and Health Program Coordinator Brian McNally, Director of Nursing, Rita Casper, and Joe Yarid, Coordinator of School Social Workers, who have been incredible leaders in working in collaboration with the Town and Community to provide extra effort to help our young people. This is a larger community issue than a school issue but the Andover Public Schools need to be the first line of prevention.

The members talked about the work done in the past and present for prevention, detection, and intervention through collaboration with social work, nursing, and health and PE and are looking at the opiate epidemic as a community approach. They have established initial relationships with students and are working to identify needs early on in the first step of detection, and collaborating with teachers and parents to provide support. Nurses have been trained on the administration of Narcan and parents have been given tips and information. The social workers are well integrated into the culture of every school building helping students to build resilience and developing strong relationships with students, and addressing a host of issues. A Wellness Day was held at Andover High School on October 14th to raise awareness of the opiate issue and to provide an understanding of what a healthy life should be.

2. 2015 MCAS Report

Dr. Duclos provided information on the 2015 MCAS results for the schools. Grade 10 Math results showed that 94% of all students scored proficient or better meeting the graduation requirements, while 99% of students met the graduation requirements in Grade 10 ELA, and 58% of our Grade 8 students scored in the advanced or proficient category for Science and Technology; 69% of the Grade 5 students scored proficient or better in Science and Technology. No one failed the MCAS tests.

State level results of the PARCC test will be released in mid-late November with the District and school PARCC results and accountability reports released in late November-mid December. Parent/guardian reports will be available electronically and in print between December and January.

3. AHS Field Trip: NYC Trip on March 14-23, 2015

AHS Faculty teacher, Cynthea Givens, with the support of Program Science Coordinator, Stephen Sanborn and Principal Phil Conrad has proposed an EF trip to Iceland in March 2016 for the dates of March 14-23, 2016. Sophomores, Juniors, and Senior students will leave on Monday, March 14 at the end of the school day and return on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. This trip is part of the Global Student Leaders Summit and it is a wonderful opportunity to explore alternative energy solutions and will help students focus on energy issues, particularly in design thinking and will help the students to problem solve solutions. Scholarships are not available; however it is a great opportunity for our students.

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Joel Blumstein, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the extracurricular trip for Andover High School students to Iceland on March 14-23, 2016 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.

E. New Business

1. SEPAC Update

Members of SEPAC shared their stance on political endorsements, and read a lengthy request to overhaul the Special Education Program needs in response to needs identified by parents and staff, especially time delays that directly affect students. Teresa Schirmer talked about the liaison role between SEPAC and the School Committee to build better communication between them. They met with Interim Director of Student Services, Valarie Flynn and Dr. Berman to discuss issues and if the current model really works, and researched what other communities are doing. They agreed that an Advisory Committee that fosters consensus and working together could be one recommendation to consider as a model for Andover

Teresa Schirmer reviewed all the goals discussed at previous meetings along with current updates of each and asked that the reports/handouts from the June 10, 2015 and July 8th meeting be placed on the school website. It was also requested that Rich Robison, Executive Director for Children with Special Needs (Boston, Mass) be invited back to speak to parents. Teresa asked when the School Committee will begin the search for a Director of Student Services and School Superintendent.

A tentative date of October 22nd has been set to discuss options for a new Superintendent. Dr. Berman said the Special Education position ads will go out in January/February and SEPAC will be included on the Screening Committee.

2. Subcommittee and Liaison assignments

Chair Annie Gilbert talked about the available subcommittee and liaison assignments and the School Committee members volunteered for the following positions.

Budget:	School Committee
Facilities:	Ted Teichert and Susan McCready
Legislative:	Paula Colby-Clements
Negotiations:	Paula Colby-Clements and Joel Blumstein
Policy:	Paula Colby-Clements and Joel Blumstein
CREST	Annie Gilbert
Superfund Audit:	Susan McCready
OPEB:	Paula Colby-Clements
Town-wide PTO:	Susan McCready

3. FY15 Year End Financials & SPED Quarterly Report

Paul Szymanski provided an update on the FY15 End of Year Financials along with a review of line items and basic reasons for changes from the original budget and adjustments that were made. In addition, a summary of the Special Education Quarterly Report providing the classification of public and collaborative expenses, private programs, residential programs, collaborative and CREST, as well as the information for the Circuit Breaker Application was provided. The year ended with a carry-forward balance of \$1.219M from FY-15 to FY-16 and the expected yearly reimbursement from the State for FY-16 will be added.

4. FY17 Budget Development Timeline & Assumptions

Mr. Szymanski presented the budget development guidelines and assumptions based on prior years' information. The School Committee will not be ready with a budget number to present to the Town by December 31, 2015. Annie Gilbert asked if the cost of the All-day Kindergarten Program could be summarized to show what the investment would be to accomplish going to a free All-day Kindergarten Program.

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Ted Teichert, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the FY-17 Budget Development Guidelines and Assumptions as presented.

F. Old Business

1. CIP FY 17 - Hold

G. Consent Agenda

- 1. Surplus Inventory: Science Textbooks
- 2. Warrants: Provided and in order
- 3. Minutes: August 20, 2015, and September 3, 2015

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Sue McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

III. Adjournment

At 10:56 P.M. on a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, and T. Teichert-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: