

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of April 28, 2016**

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Nancy Duclos, and Tim Chen AHS Student Government Liaison to the Andover School Committee.

I. Regular Meeting

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

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by AHS Senior, Arman Koul.

Joel Blumstein reported that the School Committee Agenda has been amended to include a discussion on the School Improvement Policy under Old Business Item F-3.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to amend the agenda to include a second reading on the School Improvement Policy under Old Business. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

B. Recognitions/Communications – Highlights from the District

Dr. Berman announced that the Andover Rotary Club is holding their 19th Annual Andover Citizens Who Care, and Educator and Student of the Year Awards Gala on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the Andover Wyndham Hotel ballroom from 6-9 pm. Martha Giguere, Music Teacher at High Plain Elementary School, was nominated and chosen as the 2016 Educator of the Year by the Selection Committee. Congratulations to Martha on being selected to receive this honor.

The Sanborn Zero-Waste Team, Carina Schusterman, Claire Stocker, Selen Ozarslan, and Brad Weeden, and students at Sanborn Elementary have been selected to receive the 2016 Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy & Environmental Education in recognition of the Food Rescue Initiative and Recycling Program at Sanborn School. The Awards Ceremony will be held at the Massachusetts State House on Monday, May 2nd.

Dr. Duclos reported on the Math Olympiad Program, in which 27 students from Sanborn School under the guidance of teachers Christine Baldwin and Carol Gianopoulos participated in the program for the year which included five monthly contests. As a result, Andover students received the Gold Pin Award given to students scoring in the top 98% (top 2% internationally); and three students received silver pins.

Dr. Berman introduced the Community Support Coordinator Sohban Namvar, MSW, LICSW to the School Committee members. Police Chief Keefe advocated for this position and supported by the Board of Selectmen to help with the opiate addiction problem in the community. Sohban talked about his role and vision and has reached out to all community stakeholders and met with School District and High School personnel. He talked about the goals he is committed to which include educating the community on mental health and prevention needs. Sohban is looking to engage

young people and community leaders to work collaboratively around subjects related to mental health and substance abuse.

2. Andona Society President: Melissa Litton

Susan McCready introduced Melissa Litton, President of the Andona Society who spoke to the School Committee about the background of Andona and their contributions to the Andover School System. They are celebrating the 60th year of Clown Town, which is their largest fundraising endeavor, this May. Andona is moving to a new fall fundraising endeavor, 'Shine the light on Andover'. Andona has the goal of raising \$45,000 to \$50,000 per year to support the youth of Andover through donations to all-town cultural programs, APS, Memorial Hall, DCS, and private camps. Andona offers each elementary school \$1,250, middle schools \$1,500, and the High School is allotted \$500 per curricular department for assistance in various programs. Andona supported the new Science Curriculum by purchasing science notebooks this year, in addition to supporting the curriculum program with the Andover Historical Society, \$10,000 in college scholarships, and campership scholarships to send kids to camp and many other programs across the district.

Dr. Berman attended Challenge Day at AHS this week, which was a very beneficial experience for all those who participated. He also announced that PARCC testing began this week across the district and Joanne Najarian has been working on the data shared at the Triboard Meeting on SAT scores, college acceptances, and graduation rates. The information will be available on the APS website.

Paul Murphy spoke about the Andover Cares Facebook page that has a lot of information. Susan McCready announced the Step-Up for Colleen Ritzer Scholarship Walk would be held on Sunday, May 1st, a great event and a wonderful way to support her family and friends.

Joel Blumstein and Ted Teichert attended the dedication of the Rick Harrison Press Box at the AHS Peter Aumais Varsity Baseball Field. We are fortunate to have Andover residents who are dedicated to supporting our Athletic Department.

In light of the mental health and opiate struggles facing Andover, Tim Chen said the Student Government is working on a Mental Health Awareness Day to communicate awareness and provide information on relieving and resolving issues. They are making plans and reaching out to many different clubs at the high school to help out.

Joel Blumstein talked about Town Meeting process and that School Committee Meetings have been posted for Monday and Tuesday at 6:15 P.M. in case any last minute issues arise that need to be voted on. Joel also commented on the CREST Collaborative meeting he attended yesterday, it is a good organization supporting high needs students.

A School Committee Work Session will be held on Friday, May 13th to address a number of issues, such as working together, communication amongst members and the community, working agreements, ground rules, defining roles, etc. Tony Bent, prior Superintendent of Shrewsbury and current School Committee member in Wellesley, will facilitate the workshop.

C. Public Input - None

D. Response to Public Input - N/A

E. Education

1. Gift to Schools (AHS) – Alex’s Team Foundation

Don Doucette, AHS Athletic Directors sent a letter to the School Committee about lack of space in the gymnasium to hang banners (currently there are 3 different styles of championship banners on display). Recently Alex’s Team Foundation offered to donate \$10,000 to AHS towards replacement of the current banners in the Dunn Gymnasium with a more uniformed updated look and provide extra space to add more championship banners. In addition, Alex’s Team foundation wants to create a long-term partnership with AHS by providing a paid internship for a student-athlete who demonstrates courage, caring and commitment; the three core values of their foundation. Alex’s Team Foundation is named after Alex Miliotis who was a student athlete at AHS when she passed away from brain cancer.

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the gift of \$10,000 from Alex Team Foundation to the Andover Public Schools for Andover High School to be used in the Dunn Gymnasium and for a student-athlete to be a paid internship with the Foundation. The motion was seconded by Shannon Scully and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. 2015-2016 School Year: Last Official Day for Students & Teachers

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote Wednesday, June 22, 2016 as the Official Last Day of Classes for students and Thursday, June 23, 2016 as the last day for teachers, barring any emergency situations or inclement weather. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Annual School Choice Vote

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote not to participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program for Grades PK-12 for the 2016-2017 school year. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

4. Goal 3 – Teaching and Leading (Rescheduled to May 4, 2016)

5. Appoint: CREST Collaborative Representative for 2016-2017

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to appoint School Committee Member Joel Blumstein as the Andover Representative to the Collaborative for Regional Education Services and Training (CREST) Collaborative Board for the remainder of the 2015-2016 School Year and for the 2016-2017 School Year. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Old Business

1. FY-17 Budget Update

Joel Blumstein said the original budget compromise agreement was ultimately rejected by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee; subsequent to that Dr. Berman and the Town Manager worked out a new compromise budget number of \$76,099,203, which the Board of Selectmen approved on unanimous vote, and the Finance Committee approved on a vote of 7-0.

Dr. Berman said the budget gap of approximately \$1.8M between the Town Manager’s recommendation and the School Committee’s budget recommendation has been closed through an increase in funds of \$618,374 for the school from the Town, a reduction of \$639,871 in the School Department budget, and spending down the Circuit Breaker Reserve. We will

continue to look for funding alternatives for special education needs. Dr. Berman reviewed the list of items where the reductions in the school accounts will come from.

A net savings of \$19,300 was gained through reorganizing and replacing Evaluation Team Facilitators and a Program Head with one Program Coordinator at each of the middle schools. Val Flynn, Interim Director of Student Services, said it is a better model to have one person with supervisory duties who supports the new evaluation program at each school to coordinate and talk about issues within the department, and can provide support for staff and parents, and interact with teachers on a day-to-day basis.

Reductions in transportation costs and supplies and materials for the second half of the full-day K program will come out of the revolving account and cutbacks in the High School Schedule make-up the final piece of the reductions. The increase in State Aid from the Chapter 70 Fund, and reductions in State Assessments totaling \$252K, left a remaining budget gap of about \$159K that the Town is covering through a combination of revising estimates in new growth and local receipts.

Shannon Scully said there is a lot of up side of going to Town Meeting with a unified budget but we should not lose track of the fact that the School Department has done more than their part to close the gap. She appreciates the steps to work collaboratively with the Town, but if this agreement wasn't struck she is confident we could have gotten more on the floor of Town Meeting if we needed it. The compromised budget is not without risk, particularly bringing the Circuit Breaker down to zero.

Joel Blumstein thanked Dr. Berman and School Department Staff who have worked together to bring the budget to where it is today. It is a tight budget with little flexibility and he will vote for the compromised budget number.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adopt the FY-2017 Operating budget of \$76,099,203 (3.82%). The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0-1 to approve. Ted Teichert abstained as a close relative of his works in the school system and thus he cannot vote on the salary portion within the total budget number as presented.

Paul Murphy commented that we should not lose sight of the fact that all our faculty and staff are working with our kids every day and who do a great job, day in and day out.

Dr. Berman thanked the School Committee, as this has been an intense process with a lot of discussion with a tremendous amount of detail. Paul Szymanski and School Accountant Janet Wright carry a lot of the responsibility and he recognized them for putting together a budget with a lot of credibility. The entire administrative team has been involved including Val Flynn and Amy Reese who have spent countless hours with the Special Education Community. He hopes the trust and credibility built this year will make the process easier in the future.

2. Amendment to Contract Scoring

The Chair provided the Committee an update of Warrant Article 54-Contract Scoring.

Dr. Berman recommends the School Committee not approve the amendment and that their vote to not approve the original article as well will stand. Paul Szymanski said this article is an additional

administrative burden, and the timeliness and reporting is inappropriate. The information we provide now is accurate and efficient and transparent. The impacts of the contracts are known and this would be an additional burden that will not produce any information than we already have.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote not to approve the amendment to Warrant Article 54 entitled "General Law Amendment -Contract Scoring". The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to not approve.

3. Amendment of date on School Improvement Plan Policy- second reading

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to amend Policy BDFA-E-2 named "Submission and Approval of School Improvement Plans" and to change the due date for submission from February 1 to June 1. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense Warrants SW1622 and SW1622A
Payroll Warrants 16S042, 16S043, and 16S044
2. Minutes Minutes of March 31, 2016

Susan McCready moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

H. Adjournment

At 9:38 P.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Paul Murphy, the School Committee adjourned the meeting of April 28, 2016. Roll call: Ted Teichert-Y, Shannon Scully-Y, Paul Murphy-Y, Vice Chair Susan McCready-Y, and Chair Joel Blumstein-Y.

Respectfully submitted

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary