

**Andover School Committee  
Minutes of March 9, 2017**

**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 Vishvah Kaul, AHS Student Government Liaison to the School Committee.

**1. Regular Meeting**

**A. Call to Order – Opening Ceremonies**

Chair Blumstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag led by Brett Yaffee, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student from High Plain Elementary School. Brett was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee. Chairman Blumstein announced that two agenda items, MCAS/PARCC update, and Literacy update will be rescheduled to the next School Committee Meeting.

**B. Recognitions/Communications/Highlights from the District**

Dr. Berman: Steve Sanborn, K-12 Science Program Coordinator, has recreated the Middle School Science Fair which will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM currently with over 90 projects to be displayed from all grades.

Ted Teichert announced that the South School play ‘The Little Mermaid’ is being held this weekend at South School. He also reminded the Committee about scheduling a meeting with Special Education parents.

Susan McCready reported that the Communications Task Force met this week with a representative from Pike School and it was a very productive meeting.

Chairman Blumstein said all School Committee members need to be in attendance for the next School Committee Meeting on the School Budget scheduled for March 23, starting at 5:00 P.M. The formal Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and will be advertised in the newspapers. Votes on the West Elementary Statement of Interest, and various school related warrant articles are still to be scheduled.

**C. Public Comment**

Pat D’Ambrosio provided an update on recent SEPAC meetings and reported the Parents Rights Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at 10:00 A.M. and on Wednesday, March 29 they are holding a workshop at St. Augustine’s. They will be working with the Shawsheen River Group over April vacation and appreciate the efforts of the School Administrators. SEPAC would like to work collaboratively with the School Committee and School Administration on the Special Education budget. They are also requesting to be placed as a permanent agenda item on all future School Committee meetings.

Sarah Henchy, 12 Fossen Way, attended last night's meeting at AHS for parents of incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Principal Conrad gave a great presentation followed by a discussion on the new school schedule. She learned today that there were issues raised about the implementation of the schedule at last night's Triboard Meeting. Speaking as a voice for many parents, they are very much concerned that the new schedule may not go into effect.

Jeanne Teichert, Dufton Road, spoke about last night's SEPAC meeting and the meeting to be scheduled with parents, School Committee members and Dr. Berman, which should be a very open and transparent meeting with all parents invited. Trends will only change when parents are invited in to talk.

Krista DiNapoli, 95 Summer Street, was also impressed with the presentation given at AHS last night and the many opportunities available for kids. She is a proponent of full year courses that give students/teachers more of an opportunity to know each other, and she supports the budget for the high school; the high school has been ignored for way too long.

Steve Fink, 26 Bateson Drive, has been invited to several political action meetings and parents are asking for stronger communication from the schools.

#### **D. Response to Public Comment**

None

#### **E. Education**

##### **1. Accelerated Math/Summer School Update**

Math Program Coordinator Katherine Richard updated the Committee on the Accelerated Math Pathway which has gone very smoothly, although not without challenges. She distributed a handout that included criteria for placement for next year. In terms of unintended results, class dynamics have changed, and teachers are thinking more of how to meet the needs of all students. There has been some increased anxiety experienced by students and we should continue to have conversations supporting them. The Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test will be given at the end of March with similar opt-out options as last year if parents don't want their children to participate. A letter will be going home to parents soon with information to be posted on the website.

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade who would like to move up to Accelerated Math in Grade 8, can attend a Boot Camp being offered to students this summer. As was the case last year, summer courses will be offered in Algebra I and Geometry.

#### **F. New Business**

##### **1. Appointment of School Committee Members to Negotiating Unions**

Members of the School Committee will be negotiating with the various school unions during the next several months and assigned to various units. Chairman Blumstein presented the following assignment chart.

| UNION/UNIT                     | Administrators            | SC MEMBERS                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Administrators Union           | Nancy Duclos              | Paul Murphy                      |
| Custodial Union                | Paul Szymanski            | Joel Blumstein                   |
| Food Services Union            | Paul Szymanski            | Ted Teichert                     |
| Instructional Assistants Union | Sara Stetson/Candace Hall | Shannon Scully                   |
| Secretarial Union              | Candace Hall              | Susan McCready                   |
| LPNs Unit                      | Candace Hall              | N/A                              |
| AEA Teacher Union              | Shelley Berman            | Joel Blumstein<br>Susan McCready |
| School Independents Unit       | Paul Szymanski/Candace    | N/A                              |

### **G. Old Business**

#### **1. Frederick Drive – request for Temporary Permit**

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a temporary Grading and Construction License Agreement, in the form attached to Attorney Donald Bornstein’s letter to the Committee dated December 7, 2016, for the purpose of allowing entry and grading on land located at the end of Frederick Drive in connection with the construction of Frederick Drive, as shown on a Plan entitled “Preliminary Site Grading Plan”, dated December 23, 2015, also attached to Attorney Borenstein’ s letter. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

#### **2. School Committee Policy Manual, Chapter C – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the revised version of Section C of the Policy Manual by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

#### **3. FY-2018 Budget Update**

Last night’s Triboard meeting was one of spirited discussion on the FY-18 budget that did not end with an agreed upon amount for the School Committee’s budget. Tonight’s meeting is to discuss possible options for reducing the school budget.

Dr. Berman said much work was done today on options for how to close a \$1.3M budget gap. He received information today, not previously known to APS managers (although other departments knew), that the Town is now receiving solar credits for energy; we previously were told to keep our energy budgets as is for FY-18. We have now been informed that energy credits have been applied in the amount of \$220,000. Dr. Berman met with the Town Manager this morning. Dr. Berman has arrived at a number of ideas to close the gap through budget reductions. We should end this year with a \$200K balance that could be used to fund a larger percentage of the Out of District placements in FY18. Other possibilities include moving the \$519K for textbooks back to the CIP and out of the school operating budget. Additionally, we could remove the request for a custodial supervisor, which the Town isn’t funding either, along with reductions in technology software, individual school allocations, the 5<sup>th</sup> utility, and miscellaneous accounts for a total reduction of \$1,127,186 leaving a projected gap of \$194,427.

Textbooks moved to CIP:

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Textbook proposal                  | \$519,300        |
| Reduction in Expenses:             | <u>\$139,800</u> |
| Total reduction to CIP SCH 1 and 2 | \$379,500        |

Dr. Berman believes we should not pit textbooks against maintenance but by recommending this solution he realizes he is offering what we were trying to avoid. Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos shared information on the list of texts selected to be deferred to the following year.

They will work with Chris Cronin and Ed Ataide to determine a list of maintenance items to reduce and what the impact will be. Paul Szymanski said there is a penalty for deferred maintenance and shared a document listing the proposed expense adjustments (non-salary). School Committee members shared their thoughts on the proposed budget reductions, and their feelings and disappointment with the way they were treated by the other boards at last night's Triboard meeting. The School Committee members are appreciative that the high school schedule will remain intact and appreciates the work the School Leadership Team did to arrive at the proposed reductions in such a short amount of time.

Public Input:

Steve Fink is deeply disappointed with what happened at the Triboard meeting last night, it was troubling. Kerry Costello, AEA President, said last night was clearly not a dialogue and it has always been the Town vs the Schools in Andover. Unlike Andover, the schools we want to compare to prioritize and support the needs of their schools.

Janie Moffitt, Finance Committee Liaison to the School Committee, is sorry we are all disappointed and thinks we do look at ourselves as one, Town and School. However, the Finance Committee thinks the School does not consider other items in the Town budget, the \$80M school budget is substantial. Enrollment has not really changed over the years but the budget grows every year. The Schools needed to scrub their budget – textbooks should be a priority but it sounds like most of the textbooks are for pilot programs. There has been shifts in the use of Free Cash, the Town Manager's plan is to keep town projects within Prop 2 ½. There have been years of community input on the Municipal Town Facility and the Ballardvale Fire Substation both in the FY-18 Budget. There is a lot of tension on the budget, it is not one side against the other and we can work together. It's fine to have spirited discussions, but we can't live outside of our means.

Mike Roli, 2 College Circle said the problem is money; taxes, revenues and need. The Finance Committee is trying to take a budget that consists of Town Revenue and for the School Committee to understand there is only so much money to go around and the disconnect of the revenues that exist causing conflict. Ted Teichert said we need a discussion on revenues and options to bring revenue back into our budget.

4. Revised Status of AHS Facility Study Committee

Town Counsel is requiring both Ted Teichert and Shannon Scully to be liaisons to the AHS

Facility Study Committee rather than voting members due to interpretation of the Town Charter. Shannon is concerned about Town Counsel's interpretation to not include a school person in the planning of the school facility.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to amend the motion passed at the February 15, 2017 School Committee meeting and approve the membership of the AHS Facility Study Committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 4-0-1 to approve. Shannon Scully abstained.

#### 5. Statement of Interest Update

Paul Szymanski updated the Board on the status of the West Elementary Statement of Interest to MSBA verifying that language and the vote of both the School Committee and Board of Selectmen have been uploaded and submitted to MSBA and we will be embellishing the language in the SOI and expanding priority five. The SOI has to be submitted to MSBA by April 7, 2017. Comments or questions on the next draft of the SOI should be sent directly to Mr. Szymanski or Dr. Berman.

#### 6. Public Input Forum

Rules for the Public Input Forums will be exactly the same as those used in the public participation portion of regular School Committee meetings. Susan McCready will work with the Superintendent's Executive Assistant on creating a schedule. Paul Murphy and Ted Teichert will work with Sarah Stetson, Director of Student Services, to organize a meeting with Special Education parents for April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room.

The next Informal Forum will be held on March 15, 2017 at 10:30 A.M. with Susan McCready and Shannon Scully in attendance. A meeting place will be announced and a communication sent to parents.

### H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense SW1724 and Payroll 17S03 Warrants are in order  
On a motion by Ted Teichert and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

### I. Adjournment

At 10:12 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Susan McCready the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of March 9, 2017. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Teichert-Y, S. McCready-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo  
Recording Secretary

Documents: FY-18 Budget Updates  
Accelerated Math Pathway information  
Letter from Johnson & Borenstein, LLC  
School Committee Policy updates – Section C