

Andover School Committee
Minutes of May 11, 2017

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski, and Vishvah Kaul, AHS Student Government Liaison to the School Committee.

I. Regular Meeting

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

Chair, Susan McCready 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.

B. Recognitions/Communications

1. Highlights from around the District

Dr. Berman made the following acknowledgements and announcements:

- AHS Science Teacher, Dan Donovan received the award for Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year by the Northshore Science Supervisors Association.
- Brian McNally, District PE/Health Coordinator, received the Rotary Educator of the Year Award.
- Kerry Emanuel received the Rotary Student of the Year Award.
- On behalf of Nurses' Week, Dr. Berman recognized the Andover School District Nurses for their dedication and commitment to the students and staff in Andover.
- The Credit for Life Fair will be held on May 12th at the Collins Center at 8:00 A.M.
- The AHS Senior Showcase will be held at the Youth Services Center at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, May 22nd.

Joel Blumstein attended Diversity Night at High Plain Elementary/Wood Hill Middle last week; It was a great event featuring all different cultures and well attended.

Shannon Scully congratulated Alkenly Ortiz, a senior at the Greater Lawrence Technical School, and one of four Massachusetts students to receive the U.S. Presidential Scholarship Award. Alkenly is the only student in the State of Massachusetts from the Career and Technical Education Category and one of twenty technical students across the United States nominated for the US Presidential Scholarship award.

Ted Teichert reported on last night's SEPAC Meeting the topic of which was Transition for Kids age 22 and Beyond. He also announced that a Blood Drive is being held at WHMS on May 18 in memory of Laurie Ferrell.

Susan McCready thanked all the residents who attended the Annual Town Meeting and for supporting the school budget. Thanks also to our School Administrators, and to Joel Blumstein for his leadership as Chair especially throughout the budget season and for helping to navigate through the many issues exhibited throughout the year.

Steve Chinosi, Director of Strategic Innovation and Rebecca D'Alise, AHS teacher, provided information on the Capstone Senior Year Project which offers students the freedom to think about a particular strength and passion and provides them the time to conduct research and pursue their passion. Eighteen students participated in the Capstone Senior Project this year; five of those students, Emma Koral, Maria Medina-Martinez, Katie Holden, Layal Srouji, Emai Lai, gave a presentation to the School Committee on the process and approach they followed for their projects.

D. Public Input

E. Response to Public Input

F. Education

1. Update on AHS Schedule

AHS Principal, Phil Conrad, provided an update on the status of the 2017-2018 AHS schedule and current activities in progress at AHS. They have been working on the 7+H Schedule, talking with students on homework practices and with teachers on assessment practices, organizing hiring committees, scheduling classes for next year, taking AP and MCAS exams, holding underclass events, on-going senior events and planning for graduation which will be held on June 5th at the Tsongas Center in Lowell at 5:00 P.M. all while trying to complete the current school year.

They have also developed a new iteration of the schedule and created a calendar for the next school year showing all of the days for each semester of 10 cycles, plus 3 days in the first semester, with half days to be used as the equalizer; XYZ will become a flexible day and the schedule for delayed openings.

Mr. Conrad announced that AHS was listed by Washington Post as #18 of America's most challenging high schools, and US News placed AHS at #17 in the nation. Additionally, Patty Croteau, AHS Food Service Employee was selected as the Lunch Hero for the State of Massachusetts, and the AHS sales students joined the Learn to Work Program with Pfizer where they will have an opportunity to become Pfizer employees.

2. All Day Kindergarten Tuition Rates

Mr. Szymanski reviewed the fee change for All-day Kindergarten Tuition rates which will become effective immediately for the 2017.2018 school year.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the All-Day Kindergarten tuition rates as presented for the 2017-2018 school year. The motion was seconded by Shannon Scully and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Transportation Contracts

Paul Szymanski and Mary Lu Walsh met with John McCarthy, President of North Reading Transportation and Trombly Bus Transportation to negotiate one-year extensions for seven transportation contracts. FY17 is the last of a three-year contract. Per M.G.L. C30b the contractor can hold the unit pricing initially bid but cannot increase. The vendor can also offer lower pricing at his discretion. All contracts outside of the school day were able to

provide savings and we were able to use the savings towards unanticipated costs. Each contract must be voted separately.

1. Regular Education and Mid-Day Kindergarten Transportation

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to extend, for one additional year, an existing transportation contract for regular route buses, and mid-day Kindergarten effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 to Trombly Motor Coach Services, Inc. of Dracut, Massachusetts. Pricing per bid dated May 8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Extracurricular, Field Trips and Athletic Transportation

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to extend, for one additional year, an existing Transportation Contract for Extracurricular, Field and Athletic Transportation effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 to Trombly Motor Coach Services, Inc. of Dracut, Massachusetts pricing per bid dated May 8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. In-Town Special Needs Student Transportation Services-School Year

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to extend, for one additional year, an existing Transportation Contract for In-Town Special Needs Student Transportation Services for our School Year Program effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 to NRT Bus, Inc. of Methuen, Massachusetts pricing per bid dated May 8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Pal Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

4. In-Town Special Needs Student Transportation Services-Summer Programs

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to extend, for one additional year, an existing Transportation Contract for In-Town Special Needs Student Transportation Services-Summer Programs effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 to NRT Bus, Inc. of Methuen, Massachusetts pricing per bid dated May 8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

**5. Out-of-District (OOD) Special Needs Student Transportation Services
-School Year**

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to extend, for one additional year, an existing Transportation Contract for Out-of-District Special Needs Student Transportation Services for our School Year Program effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 to NRT Bus, Inc. of Methuen, Massachusetts pricing per bid dated May 8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

**6. Out-of-District (OOD) Special Needs Student Transportation Services
-Summer Programs**

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to extend, for one additional year, an existing Transportation Contract for Out-of-District Special Needs Student Transportation Services Summer Programs effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 to NRT Bus, Inc. of Methuen, Massachusetts pricing per bid dated May 8, 2017. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

A. Old Business

1. Update from AHS Facility Study Committee

A. Recommendation: Proposal Study of Enrollment Analysis:

The High School Facility Study Committee spoke with Dr. Berman about contracting with

Cropper GIS Consulting Firm to conduct an enrollment analysis providing a per student, per grade look at our district. The total cost of the proposal is \$9,900.00 with results to be provided by the end of June. The vote on the analysis by the High School Facility Study Committee was unanimous. Factors used in the previous enrollment analysis by MSBA, NESDEC, and MGT, resulted in a striking difference between the outcomes.

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the recommendation for the AHS Facility Study Committee for a proposal study of enrollment analysis by the Cropper GIS Consulting Firm as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. FY17 Financial Report

Paul Szymanski said the Committee should applaud themselves because out of a \$70-million-dollar budget there is an unencumbered balance of \$90,000 and he recognized the School Committee for their oversight of the budget. We are within the budget expectations.

3. Special Ed Forum Update

The Committee discussed guidelines and agenda for the upcoming Special Ed Forum scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017 from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room. Paul Murphy expects the meeting to be very constructive meeting in a more comfortable setting, with the expectation that this will be a listening session for the School Committee providing an opportunity for parents to talk about their experience. The Committee discussed the facilitation of the meeting, discouraging discussions of individual cases but hoping to get feedback on programs that have been put in place since Dr. Stetson has been here. Paul Murphy reviewed a draft of the agenda that he and Ted Teichert composed. Joel Blumstein suggested the School Committee look at their policy that says the Chair presides at School Committee Meetings.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense: SW172 and SW1729B, SW1729A Payroll: 17S045 and 17S044
2. Minutes: March 30, 2017; April 13, 2017

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

H. Adjournment

At 9:50 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of Thursday, May 11, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: Cropper GIS Consulting Firm Proposal
Year-to-Date Financial Reports