

Andover School Committee

Minutes of April 13, 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, and Vishvah Kaul, AHS Student Government Liaison to the School Committee.

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag by Kerry Manuel.

B. Recognition/Communications

1. Highlights from around the District

Sean Devane of Prudential Financial awarded Kerry Manuel, AHS Senior, the Prudential Spirit of Community Distinguished Bronze Medallion for her community service project and in recognition of her numerous contributions to the community. This award is given to students who volunteer in their community and although many names are submitted, only one finalist is selected.

Joel Blumstein thanked the students and faculty from Andover High School for the art work hanging in the School Administration Building this month.

Chairman Blumstein said changes in tonight's agenda include a new field trip request for AHS students competing in a Regional Competition, and the CAPstone presentation has been rescheduled to a meeting in May.

Shelley Berman announced that the Green Schools Andover Initiative received additional awards for their green practices from: MassRecycle 22nd Annual Recycling Award for the K-12 Category; The Best Green Schools Practices, by Project Green Schools, Walmart and Bruins Foundations; and a Special Recognition Award, from the NH Northeast Resource Recovery Association to add to their collection of recognitions for their innovative recycling program at the schools in addition to parents, custodians, staff, and students.

Other recognitions include:

- Sanborn School – Innovation Day design challenge using cardboard recycled materials, showcased in the evening to parents and families.
- Andover Middle Schools: Regional Middle School Science & Engineering Fair: 20 projects with 39 students from Andover Middle Schools advancing to the Regional Fair scheduled for Friday, April 28th at UMass-Lowell.
- High Plain Elementary: Recipient of \$4,340 Grant from the Biogen Foundation.
- South School – Champion Night raised over \$10,000 for the school library update.
- The Andover Coalition for Education raised \$36,000 at their March Madness fundraiser.

- AHS Robotic Team won the Regional Tournament.
- Susan McCready, announced that the AHS PAC is sponsoring a meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 P.M. to talk about the Warrant Articles that affect Andover Schools.
- Shannon Scully recognized all the outstanding musicians that participated in Andover Jazz Night at West Middle School.
- Joel Blumstein reminded everyone to sign up to volunteer for Senior Safari (parents of seniors are exempt from attending).

C. Public Input

Keith Saxon, Wethersfield Drive asked if the Andover Public Schools email notifications system should be used by private groups and feels it should be used by the School Department only.

D. Response to Public Input

Dr. Berman said in general, we don't allow any private groups to use our emails.

E. Education

1. Presentation by AHS Innovation Lab China Team

Steve Chinosi, Director of Innovation, Shelagh St. Laurent, AHS Teacher, and three members of the AHS Innovation Lab China Team, Julia Jaime-Rodriguez, Andrew Imrie, Cory Koslovsky, presented an overview of the Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition they attended at the Beijing Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.

The AHS students won a Gold Medal in the Computer Science Category for their Food Computer Project. The students thanked the School Committee for their approval to attend the competition.

2. Presentation by Senior Year CAPstone Students: *postponed until May 11th*

3. Dascomb Road Project

Paul Salafia, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and Liaison to the Zoning and Planning Board explained the warrant article affecting four parcels of land being proposed for zoning changes from an ID-2 to an ID-3 Zoning which adds a residential component to the article. Sal Lupoli is proposing to offer 75 studios, 75 one-bedroom, and 75 age restricted (55+ for renter and no one younger than age 18 living in the unit) apartments, for a total of 225 units having little impact on the schools, at the Dascomb Road site. Very stringent restrictions have been proposed in the article for the entire zone.

Mr. Lupoli, owner of the property, provided clarity to questions from the Committee on the restrictions on the parcels, surrounding residential units as 1 bedroom or studio apartments into perpetuity, and reserving 33% for senior housing. Mr. Lupoli estimates an annual revenue of \$3.8M for Andover based on information provided by the town.

Paul Salafia reported on the MassWorks Grant the Town applied for to assist with traffic mitigation, sewer lines, etc. Without the residential portion, the return on investment for

the State is not as high as it would be with residents in the community after stores close. Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said the project has positive and negative impacts. Long-range plan shows a significant structural deficit that will come before the Town in the near future, starting with a \$1M deficit next year and compounding going forward. This project would provide \$1.1M in permitting process, \$3.8M tax revenues, a transit option, investment in downtown amenities, installation of sewer on Dascomb Road, (funded through the Mass Works Grant), addresses housing units for seniors, and providing tax relief in the form of other ways to fund the services the Town is going to need to provide.

Dr. Berman foresees a revitalization of growth in the Andover Community and is supportive of the project that will have little or no effect on school enrollments. Dr. Berman suggested that rarely do we have an opportunity to provide employment and residences for adults with disabilities to live and work in one location independently. Mr. Lupoli agreed that this would be a great opportunity to incorporate into this project.

Mike Roli, College Circle, said this is a wonderful project for the Town with all the components needed to work.

Joel Blumstein said if the projections are on target, the impact on the schools will be minimal at best, and hopes that the revenue can be used to generate educational growth in the Andover Schools. Shannon Scully hopes that the resources projected will be used to support school and town-wide projects. Susan McCready wants to make sure the Town is support for the schools going forward, and doesn't want to battle over needed funds for investment in schools and support of new school age residents coming in with new developments.

Mr. Lupoli said dates/time/location of informational meetings to be held can be found on the website, Dascomb Road Project.com .

4. Annual School Choice Vote

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote not to participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program other than for employees of the school district for Grades PK-12 for the 2017-2018 school year. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready, and voted 5-0 to approve.

5. WMS Field Trip to Mexico: February 16-23, 2018

Lauren Hayes, a WMS Teacher, with the support Principal Franks, has proposed an international trip to Mexico and the Yucatan on February 16-23, 2018. Students will not miss any school time since they will leave after school on February vacation. The trip is not a part of the school curriculum and it is open to 8th graders enrolled in the 9th grade Spanish course at WMS.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for West Middle School students to Mexico from February 16-23, 2018 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”. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

6. National Sea Perch Challenge: May 19-21, 2017

Steve Sanborn, K-12 Science Program Coordinator, with the support of Principal Conrad, proposed that the Sea Perch Competition Team (4 AHS students) make the trip to Atlanta, Georgia on May 19-21, 2017. The trip is part of the school curriculum and it is open to those students who were involved in the original competition and have now advanced to the Regionals. Steve Chinosi said five Andover teams participated in the Regional Competition and one Andover Team has been moved forward to the National Sea Perch Competition. The Navy will create real life scenarios with underwater rovers and the school teams will work together with their robots to solve the problems. It is a high achievement to make it to this competition.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Andover High School students to Atlanta, Georgia from May 19-21, 2017 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”. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Old Business

1. Afterschool Program Update

Joe Connolly updated the School Committee on the progress of the pilot Afterschool Program. He met with the elementary school principals and principals from South, West Elementary, and Bancroft expressed an interest in being the pilot school. The recommendation is to start the pilot program at Bancroft School because of the available dedicated space, prior experience of the Bancroft Principal with afterschool programs, ability to isolate the rooms for heating/cooling, and proximity to the Town/School Offices. The expectation is to start the program in October and expected to charge \$6.00 per hour, and offer scholarship opportunities. Human Resources will advertise for a site director, group leaders, and assistant group leaders, with background checks run by the State.

Dr. Berman said the financial arrangements and staffing plan will be presented to the School Committee. The School Committee will take action after reviewing the plans.

2. FY18 Revised Budget

Joel Blumstein reviewed the status of the FY18 school budget. At its last meeting, the School Committee voted the FY-18 operating budget of \$79,717,098, moving textbooks to the Operating Budget and not in the CIP. The School Committee also approved a second motion to adopt a budget of \$79,337,598 if the Board of Selectmen also approve this number. This budget is a compromise and shows the School Committee’s desire to work with other elected officials. If this number is not recommended by the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee will revert to their first motion.

The Finance Committee voted against the School Committee’s Budget, instead

recommending the Town Manager's budget number. The Town Manager proposed to meet the \$194,000 budget gap using overlay funds. No decision has been made by the Board of Selectmen.

Shannon Scully has conducted an analysis of previous year's projected and actual Town revenues for new growth, state aid, and Chapter 70. Projections have been consistently less than actual revenues received.

3. Financials

Dr. Berman said they are expecting an available end of year balance of \$76,0000 in the operating budget and will place \$200,000 into the Circuit Breaker Account to be used for 2018. If there are any savings that can be held over to the following year we will do that and he provided information on where end of year savings occurred.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: In order
2. Minutes: Minutes of March 23, 2017

On a motion by Susan and seconded by Ted, The Andover School Committee moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

F. Adjournment

At 9:42 P.M. on a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Susan McCready, the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of Thursday, April 13, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: 2017 Year-to-Date Budget Report
Warrant Article to amend Zoning Bylaw – Dascomb Road