

**Andover School Committee
Workshop
Minutes of August 31, 2017**

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, and Assistant Superintendents Paul Szymanski and Nancy Duclos.

I. A. Call to Order

Susan McCready called the School Committee to order at 5:04 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building.

Paul Puzzanghera, CIO of Technology, explained the upgrades recently made to the School Committee Room. The goal was to improve productivity and citizen access during meetings, to create a center of digital excellence highlighting technology, and to provide a training facility for staff for new technology teaching; there are 100 new features that will avail themselves in the coming weeks in a variety of ways to use the technology in the room.

I. AVID Presentation

Dr. Berman introduced Randy Bernstein, AVID District Coordinator in Eugene, Oregon who showed the School Committee a promotional video presentation of the AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) to be implemented at Andover High School this fall that will address the needs of students not addressed in the past.

AVID, a school-wide college readiness system for students to be successful in getting ready for college and accepted into college, provides solutions that systematically increase academic rigor and creates learning environments that accelerate the performance of under-represented students. The program uses Cornell Notes which becomes a learning and study system.

The AVID Program supports coherent systems, uses common language and practices. Educators are trained to make learning more effective by providing engaging and collaborative classrooms. Avid defines rigor as using inquiry based collaborative strategies to challenge and engage students in content resulting in increasingly complex levels of understanding.

Mr. Bernstein provided a handout "Tips for the Cornell Way" outlining how the focused note-taking format works for organization, generating questions, use of collaboration to create meaning in writing, and responding to essential questions.

AVID classes will be introduced in AHS this year beginning in the 9th grade as an elective class. Students were invited to apply for this elective, and participating students are expected to continue the AVID program during all four years at AHS. Students do have the option of joining or leaving the program in subsequent years. The program is geared to accelerate under-achieving students who have potential for success in more rigorous courses, teaches academic and social skills not targeted in other classes. A typical student

profile has average to high test scores, a GPA of 2.0-3.5, is college potential with support, and has the desire and determination to succeed.

AVID closes the achievement gap and helps a number of students especially with executive and organization skills.

The School Committee thanked Randy for briefing them on the AVID Program.

II. Executive Session

At 6:15 P.M. Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee go into Executive Session for Purpose 2: To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, i.e. Superintendent of Schools, and will reconvene in Open Session at 7:00 P.M., not to return to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Shannon Scully. Roll call: T. Teichert-Y, P. Murphy-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, S. Scully-Y, and S. McCready-Y.

At 7:02 P.M. the School Committee adjourned from Executive Session and reconvened in Open Session on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: T. Teichert-Y, P. Murphy-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, S. Scully-Y, and S. McCready-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: Tips for the Cornell Way, AVID handouts