

School Committee Meeting
Minutes of Thursday, April 26, 2018

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

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

I. Regular Meeting/Call to Order

Susan McCready called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room located on the 2nd floor of the School Administration Building.

II. Executive Session

Joel Blumstein moved for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session for Purpose 3: to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the school district's litigating position and to return to Executive Session at the conclusion of Open Session. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce. The Chair so declared that an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the school district's litigation position.

Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, and S. McCready-Y.

Return to Regular Meeting:

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

Susan McCready reconvened the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag.

B. Recognitions & Communications

Town Moderator Sheila Doherty explained the proposed change to the process of the presentation of Article 4 (the budget) at Town Meeting. There would be one report by the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee and an overview of specific budgets. If there is a question or item to be addressed, the item would be held and returned to for discussion.

Dr. Berman communicated the following:

- An apology for the letter he inadvertently released regarding Coach Perry, it was his error and he is sorry about that.
- School will be held this Saturday; it will be a productive day with many interesting activities.
- Friday, April 27th the Student Art Expo for the Wall Mural will be displayed at Old Town Hall from 10:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. The Portal will also be at Old Town Hall during this time.
- On May 17th from 4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M. Founders' Day will be held at the Indian Ridge Country Club and also on May 17th the Rotary will present the Citizens Who Care Awards, Educator of the Year Award, and Student of the Year Award at the Double Tree by Hilton Head at 123 Old River Road at 7:00 P.M.

Dr. Duclos shared information on the N.E. Arts for Literacy Symposium held today at the Addison Art Gallery. The teachers shared information on the results of their year-long participation in the NEAL Program and various student projects.

Findings by the Report Card Task Force final presentation to the School Committee on May 10, 2018 and an update on the Literacy Program to be provided at the May 24th School Committee Meeting.

Joel Blumstein attended the AHS PAC meeting last night to brief parents on the school related warrant articles. He also proposed that the School Committee hold a meeting/workshop to weigh in on broader issues, i.e. policy on expectations for students/parents/coaches/etc., and issues across the athletic spectrum and invite Phil Conrad, Bill Martin, coaches, etc. and anyone who has a stake in our Athletic Program.

The Annual Town Meeting begins on Monday, April 30. There is a meeting scheduled/posted prior to if needed.

C. Public Input

Donal Coleman: conduct of public officials can be discussed in open session. He has concerns about the letter released and calls for the resignation of the Superintendent.

Ursula Perry: the atmosphere at Monday's Volleyball Game was one of positivity, and mutual respect.

Teresa Schirmer: when can we expect to have information on the results of the Carroll School presentation from last year. Also, it is difficult to delineate what the legal expenses are for special education/contracted services, etc. in the budget.

Sam Washburn, 39 Oriole Drive, and Richard Streeter, 36 Williams Street, voiced their displeasure with the Superintendent and the School Committee on the accidental public release of personnel information. What active steps will be taken to undo the damage done.

D. Response to Public Input

1. Dr. Berman said a report on legal costs has been compiled and information will be provided once the year is closed out.
2. He deeply regrets his mistake. There were several other letters he sent that had gone to parents and he thought he had attached the same letter.
3. Dr. Berman agrees that we have critical work to do with athletics.
4. Susan McCready said the School Committee's primary responsibility is the students, and it is a terrible position to put a child in a position where they don't feel safe to speak up.

E. Education

1. Mental & Behavioral Health SAT Sprint Team Presentation

Children with mental and behavioral health issues need relationships within schools, and a relevant connection to the community using the whole child approach. This group of children often feel disengaged from school, community, and family, and are the highest group to be placed in out of district placements. Currently, Andover is looking at existing resources and how we can restructure in-district programs, build foundation structures to intentionally support children with different kinds of behavioral problems, and build more Tier 3 interventions into the system. The mental health supports being rolled out at AHS were explained, and they are looking to pilot a model at the middle and elementary levels. The collective thinking of the Mental & Behavioral Health SAT Sprint Team is one of a comprehensive approach.

F. New Business

1. Discussion on Kindergarten enrollment for 2018-2019

An elementary enrollment sheet, comparing information for the current 2017.2018 school year and the upcoming 2018.2019 school year, was distributed by Dr. Berman who noted that the 2018.2019 kindergarten enrollment numbers far exceed the enrollment at this time in previous years. This is our first year of online registration which may be driving the increase. The current enrollment numbers do not include the new apartment complex opening in May and located in the High Plain area.

2. Town Meeting Preparation/Script Report

Susan McCready reported that today's Script Meeting went well. The Board of Selectmen will vote to take no action on Articles 65 and 66 (Dascomb Road Articles) and Sheila Doherty has explained the process for the meeting. The School Budget presentation includes 9 slides and some slides for the Articles for a Feasibility Study for West Elementary and Andover High School.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Warrants are in order

2. Minutes: March 15 2018 Triboard, March 29, 2018 Regular Meeting

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

H. Adjournment

At 9:25 P.M. on a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Joel Blumstein, the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn from Open Session and enter into Executive Session for Purpose 1: to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual and not return to Open Session. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y.

Respectfully submitted:

Dee DeLorenzo

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Handouts: Kindergarten Enrollment Information
APS Staffing Summary Totals FY-09 through FY 18
FTE's by Function and Bargaining Unit