

School Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes of Thursday, August 30, 2018

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, and Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, and Assistant Superintendent Sandra Trach. Ben Roldan, AHS Liaison to the School Committee.

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Scully called the School Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building.

II. Executive Session

Susan McCready moved that the School Committee enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) purpose 7: to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant in-aid requirements, specifically to perform a review of executive session minutes dated 07/18/208 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A s. 22(g) (2) to determine whether all or portions thereof may be publicly released; Purpose 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Superintendent of Schools), and to reconvene in Open Session for a Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. not to return to executive session, and that the Chair so declare that an open meeting would be detrimental to negotiation strategy. The Chair so declared. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully- Y, S. McCready-Y.

III. Regular Meeting Resumes

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

Shannon Scully reconvened the School Committee to order at 7:05 P.M.

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

B. Recognitions & Communications

1. Opening Day Highlights/Enrollment

The School Committee acknowledged Loraine Finnegan, Project Manager of SMMA, designer of the new Bancroft School, which has won numerous awards (2017 Ed Kirk Bride Award, 2017 Citation of Excellence, Elementary School Citation, 2015 People's Choice Award for Favorite Place to Study, and selected by MSBA for inclusion in its Model School Program). The Boston Society of Architects Educational Facilities Committee will be touring Bancroft School on Thursday, September 27, 2018.

Dr. Berman and Sandy Trach visited all of the schools over the first two days of school. The enthusiasm of students and teachers was impressive, and great feedback was received by staff on their opening day activities. AHS classrooms were quite warm today and we should consider including air-conditioning as an item for the Capital Improvement Plan.

The FY-19 Enrollment Projection Sheet vs Actual Enrollment as of today, was distributed and discussed. Enrollments are expected to rise over the next few weeks as students continue to enroll.

Sandy Trach shared information on professional development which teachers participated in over the summer: AVID Elective in Philadelphia, Teachers' College Writers Workshop, Responsive Classroom Trainings, and a team of teachers from the middle and elementary levels along with some administrators attended a Literacy Training by Lesley University (train the trainer) for Literacy Leadership. In-house courses included a class on Supporting Teachers w/special needs in the Classroom, and an Introduction to Design Thinking. Two of our New England Arts for Literacy Teachers attended the Habla Teacher Institute, and we welcomed 35 new teachers to the New Teacher Orientation Program overseen by Ann McNamee and her team. Three principals attended the second level training for Responsive Classroom and Pam Lathrop is a certified trainer.

Paul Szymanski spoke about safety initiatives undertaken this summer and said unannounced active training drills will take place at all 10 schools in September. A new paging system was implemented at AHS, and fully integrated with our CISCO phone system. In addition, a new vestibule was constructed for visitors to AHS; background checks take less than two minutes to process visitor information; parents who have entered the building have been very pleased. Chief Mansfield is working on improving communications and has filed for FCC licenses to install hand-held radios at all schools. Mr. Szymanski thanked all of the members of the IT staff and the staff at Plant and Facilities for the number of projects they completed over the summer.

Ben Roldan reported that temperature inside AHS reached 91 degrees the first day of school; the only complaints were about the temperature on the third floor. Students will begin scheduling for H-Block next week.

Susan and Tracey have attended the West El Building Committee Meetings held on the last Thursday of every month at 7:30 AM in the School Committee Room. The recent meeting provided an update on enrollment projections. The School Committee will be discussing the enrollment size that would be considered reasonable for an elementary school.

Paul Murphy: Opening Day was great!

Joel Blumstein: The new vestibule at AHS looks terrific, they did an excellent job constructing the area and is an important safety addition. Joel, as the Liaison to the Retirement Board, shared information from the discussion on how the Retirement Fund is performing (quite good). AHS Facilities Study Committee has been meeting regularly over the summer, and has developed a FAQ (frequently asked questions) document about this project and information about the West El project. A member of the AHS Study Committee will be present at all of the school open houses to share information.

The AHS Facility Study Committee is holding a Community Presentation on October 2nd at the Collins Center at 7:00 P.M. with tours of AHS starting at 6:00 P.M.

Shannon thanked all the School Administration and Staff for a wonderful opening day.

The School Committee will meet next on Thursday, September 13th at 8:00 A.M. and a Triboard Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room.

C. Public Input

Brad Weeden, Summer Street, is impressed with the online student registration link which saved a lot of time, and streamlined the registration process.

D. Response to Public Input – N/A

E. Continuing Business

1. Second Reading: APS SC Policy Section I

School Policy Sub-committee member Joel Blumstein reviewed the changes proposed from the first reading of the School Committee Policy Section I.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve Policy I as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. School Start Times – Approval of Guiding Principles

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the Recommended Guiding Principles Document with the change to adolescent start times as presented. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

Shannon Scully clarified that this is just a conversation on the process of changing school start times and our goal is to receive solid feedback; the School Committee has not made a decision. In talking with other communities, it is important to have Guiding Principles in place. The key value is evaluating this for adolescent well-being in conjunction with important considerations, next steps, development of alternatives, consultation with the AEA and coordination with other MVC communities.

Sandy Trach will lead the Task Force with Patrick Bucco, Michelle Costa, and a representative from AHS. Kerry Costello will represent the AEA, and Mary Lu Walsh, and Paul Szymanski will assist with logistical information.

3. APS Calendar: 2019-2020

The School Committee and the AEA have begun a review the 2019-2020 school year calendar options which were initially discussed in June. The AEA will provide feedback to the Committee on the proposed options. The School Committee hopes to vote on a calendar in late September if possible. Both options provided have school beginning before Labor Day; the difference being that one option includes 3 religious holidays (historically known as low attendance days) and the other does not. On June 1st, the School Committee adopted a policy on Religious and Ethnic Observances that describes how accommodations will be made for students missing a scheduled school day for religious or ethnic observances.

Kerry Costello, AEA President, would like clarification on the plan going forward, which was provided by Dr. Berman. The AEA Executive Committee will meet on September 13th and Kerry will discuss with them on how best to get feedback from the membership. Joel Blumstein suggested the School Committee declare Christmas Eve as a low attendance day.

4. Scoreboard Donation

Bill Martin, Athletic Director, has had a number of conversations with the donor on a variety of renditions of the scoreboard proposed for Lovely Field and conversations are still in process.

F. New Business

1. Activity Account Maximum

Paul Szymanski provided a recommended maximum balance that may be on deposit in each Student Activity Checking Account at each of the district's schools. These amounts will no longer be in policy, rather, will be maintained in Business Office guidelines and will be brought to the Committee annually for review and approval.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the maximum balances that may be on deposit in each student activity checking account as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Budget Operating Guidelines

Joel drafted and presented a brief outline of staffing adjustments, as described in the School Committee Policy, and how the School Committee and Superintendent have traditionally operated relating to FTE adds and changes after Town Meeting.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the Budget Operating Guidelines for FTE changes as amended. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and vote 5-0 to approve.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Disposal Inventory Form – High Plain Elementary
2. Warrants: In Order
3. Minutes: June 27, 2018 and July 18, 2018

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

H. Adjournment

At 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of August 30, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: Listing of Policy Changes to Section I
 Guiding Principles for Changing School Start Times
 APS 2019-2020 Calendar Options (version 1 and version 2) Budget
 Operating Guidelines
 High Plain Elementary Disposal Inventory Form