

School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, November 15, 2018
Regular Session

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Sara Stetson, and Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach, and Ben Roldan, Liaison from AHS Student Government.

I. Call to Order

A. Call to Order and Opening Ceremonies

Shannon Scully called the School Committee to order at 6:30 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag led by Madeline and Elisabeth Shin, current 8th graders at Wood Hill Middle School.

B. New Business

1. Enrollment Certification Letter

Mass School Building Association (MSBA) requires the District to submit an Enrollment Certification Letter for K-5 that includes the capacity of all school K-5 buildings. Members of the West Elementary School Building Committee (WEBC) recently met with MSBA to discuss the finer points of the enrollment number and the Pre-K population (Shawsheen School).

In a meeting this morning, the WEBC voted to certify the enrollment number of 925. Even though they are requesting to certify up to 925 students, the number will be solidified during the feasibility study. The number certified cannot be increased but it can be reduced. The number does not include the pre-school population. A Feasibility Study is extremely detailed and the School Committee ultimately decides what the program will look like for a K-5 school. The Feasibility Study does not include the Pre-K population. Annie Gilbert attended this morning's meeting and was very helpful in providing information on the process.

Joel reminded everyone that the results of the facility study by MGT three years ago, showed Shawsheen to be the lowest ranked school facility in the town due to site conditions. Joel requested that everyone keep this in mind and advocate for the Pre-K population to be moved to the West Elementary site. Paul Szymanski said it clearly states in the letter from MSBA that the determination will be made during the next process for special needs and pre-k students.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee approve the Enrollment Certification Letter as presented. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 4-0-1 to approve. Joel Blumstein abstained.

Meeting break 6:50 PM

Meeting reconvened 7:05 PM

The Chair announced that the consent agenda has been changed to include approval of the School Committee Minutes of October 4 and October 18, 2018.

Over the last 2 years, the School Committee Policy Sub-Committee (Susan McCready and Joel Blumstein) have been meeting regularly (public meetings) to review the Policy Manual, section by section. The policies were reviewed on October 4 and October 18, 2018 at the School Committee meetings and will be voted on Thursday, November, 2018.

Susan and Joel provided a review of the current polices and recommended changes for Policies:

1. Policy Manual Discussion Sections

- i. JJE Student Fundraising Activities
- ii. KBE Relations with Parent Organizations
 - iii. KIA Relations with Booster Organizations
 - iv. KHA Public Solicitations in Schools

The meeting to review the student fundraising activities was well attended and several members of the audience provided comment.

Ann Graw, 33 Algonquin Ave, President of Andover Vocal Music Association and Dennis Forge 18 Reservation Road and a Board Member of the AVMA Organization. They are a 5013 C organization. There is no overhead in canning, and they remain in support of canning. Canning conducted with permission of store, in a selected area with adult supervision, and students choose to participate.

Brian Major and Mike Shattuck, representing Andover Wrestling Program (they do not receive funds from the APS Operating budget) and have been able to support the Wrestling Program by raising money to provide equipment, supplies, team clothing, and offer scholarships. They acquire permission from commercial establishments beforehand for canning which is conducted on Saturday mornings with an adult volunteer collecting the money, students matched up to support each other. Kids feel connected to the community and the visibility increases the brand awareness for wrestlers.

Heather Heidtke, 30 Mary Lou Lane, is concerned with the change. The deficit in the Athletic Budget is made up through gate receipts and does not cover items essential for the safety of students. They provide replacement helmets for football which are not covered, additional coaches, necessary padded equipment and a list of items necessary for the Football Program. Allow the Booster Organization to not take away their tools to raise money to support the students.

The Chair understands the needs of the Athletic Department and last year the School Committee approved a 23% increase in the Athletic Budget. The District now covers about 60% of the Athletic Budget with 40% coming from gate receipts. It is important for the School Committee to know what it is that the organizations have been funding.

Katy Wagner, and Karen Wiley, Elaine MacLean, Hockey JV Boosters: They are proponents of canning because Hockey is a very expensive sport and in addition to the Athletic fees, every hockey family pays an additional \$300 per child. Upperclassmen are paired with younger

students, strictly optional, always a parent in the vicinity and monitor the area to make sure there are no safety issues. Canning is one of their sole fundraisers to support the program.

Kathy Quill, One Ellsworth Road, talked about the Gymnastics Team (Girls/Boys) and their limited budget, they raise money so everyone can participate. Last year they raised \$750.00 through canning and fundraising, and do not have the funds to become a 501 C3.

Kim Winters, 5 Stirling Street, on behalf of the Andover Band Association: They have a 501 C3 status and have run fundraisers for past 19 years without incident, canning brings in ¼ of their budget. They do not put quotas on students, encourage canning in teams, and collect bottle/can drive twice a year.

Lisa Bradshaw, 8 Dartmouth Road, representing Men's Swim & Dive Team: 35 boys, no cut team, charge \$100 per year and have to outfit students every single year, and supply equipment, they pay for their dive coach which is a significant amount. Three small fundraisers, but the largest portion of their budget comes from canning. Cannot afford the fee to become a 501 C3.

Dr. Berman pointed out if a group is not a 501 C3 and are fundraising, you need to report to the IRS. Susan McCready offered to help the organizations with applying for a 501 C3, as it is a daunting process. For everyone's protection it is important that they declare themselves as a 501 C3.

Marilyn Fitzgerald, Andover Swim and Dive Team Coach, said last year was their first year of canning and they had safety precautions in place.

Leanne Pavziale, 12 Granli Drive, Treasurer of the Cheer Boosters with 70 girls participating in the fall and winter season, they have canned every year and it provides 25-30% of their budget. Fees are for specifically for competition. Each parent per season pays \$0 in dues and \$100 for apparel, \$100-\$200 stunting fees, typical parent paying \$450 Athletic fee plus an additional \$400 for other needs.

Maureen Wickersham, 6 Beacon Street, representing Ski Boosters: There has not been a booster organization for the ski team for the last two or three years. The Ski Team has to travel all the time, practice and races at Bradford Ski Hill and pay for their lift tickets. They have not collected enough money for more busses for more practices, they are not a 501 C3, and would love the opportunity to tag on with someone else.

Laura Gregory, AHS Field Hockey Team: Thank you for pledge to support the Boosters with the 501 C3. Canning shows off our kids behaving well, great for the community seeing kids in uniform, tells the community that fees and budget are not paying for everything, moving away from canning to parents paying is just more money that parents are paying. Many items that are costly and not covered by the athletic budget/ fees are purchased by the Booster organizations. She does not see that canning in the community is a safety risk.

Susan McCready pointed out that students do have unfortunate interactions with people and businesses in the community. Students should not be mandated to do any fundraising. She has received concerns from parents.

Carman Scarpa, 9 Swan Lane, on behalf of AHS Boys' Basketball Boosters and AHS Co-ed Golf Club: they don't can or sell items and are in the process of trying to become a 501 C3. The Golf Team gets funded \$1,000 worth of golf balls and payment for the coach. All other items, uniforms, transportation, and year-end banquet are not covered. From the Basketball Budget they get basketballs, and have to buy practice gear for all 3 programs, uniforms, senior night, and the town is paying less than 20%. Ticket receipts help to offset the expense.

Eric Merryfield, Chris Potts, and Steve Gruenberg representing the Baseball Boosters: The Boosters supply a number of items they feel should be provided by the school's system; helmets, uniforms, baseball hats, surface, conflict on field maintenance and who takes care of them, baseballs, additional coaching staff, busses, interment fees, announcers, umpires. They don't can but they sell add cards and go out in a group of 70 players and blitz the neighborhoods. The distribution of funds towards sports is not equal as it should be and what the school is willing to do about this without having the booster organizations to fund all the needs.

The Athletic System is a great opportunity to experience success and failure and urge that fundraising opportunities not be limited. Fundraising teaches life lessons, they do not see safety risk or dangers. A high percentage of kids participate in fundraising. They should consider creating a subcommittee to work collaboratively with the Athletic Dept., Boosters, Performing Arts, so they can all understand what is being funded by whom.

Next steps: Sub-Committee will schedule a meeting and provide recommendations on discussion this evening.

The School Committee will vote on Policy JJE on December 13, 2018. The Policy Subcommittee will meet tentatively, Wednesday, November 28th at 10:00 A.M. and review today's feedback and consider recommending changes to the policy.

C. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense SW1911 and Payroll 19S020
2. Minutes: School Committee Minutes of October 4, and October 18, 2018
3. Grants: Cultural Council \$250.00

Susan McCready moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 5-0 to approve.

D. Adjournment

At 9:15 P.M. Joel Blumstein moved for the School Committee to adjourn from the November 15, 2018 School Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary

Documents: Current School Committee Policies

Rev. 1/10/19