

School Committee Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2019

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

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 AHS Liaison Ben Roldan.

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the School Committee to order at 6:30 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building.

II. Executive Session

At 6:31 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Joel Blumstein the School Committee moved to meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(A) for purpose 7: to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law; specifically, to perform a review of executive session minutes dated 11/29/18, 12/13/18, 1/24/19, 2/7/18, 2/28/19 and 4/12/19 and pursuant to G.L. c. 30A sec. 22 to determine whether all or portions of such minutes may be publicly released and **Purpose 3:** to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with union personnel, specifically the Secretaries Unit. The Committee will reconvene in Open Session and not to return to executive session. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully-Y.

III. SC Regular Meeting Resumes

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute to Flag

Shannon Scully reconvened the School Committee to order at 7:06 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag.

A. Recognitions & Communications

Dan Donovan, AHS Science Teacher and Advisor for the SeaPerch Underwater Robotics Teams, and along with members of the SeaPerch Team, showed how the BOTS they created work. The Teams competed in the Northern NE SeaPerch Regional Competition in Brunswick, Maine coming in second earning them a spot in the Nationals. The Team will participate in the National Competition at the University of Maryland this summer. Congratulations!

Shannon Scully announced that the May 9th School Committee Meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 P.M..

B. Public Input

Heather Ferro, 12 Algonquin Way, is disappointed that the School Committee did not approve the application of Fusion Academy who offers opportunities that APS cannot, especially kids with ADHD.

Kathy Meltsakos from the AEA Board hopes the agreement with the School Secretaries can be reached soon.

Michelle Houlihan, Head of Schools for Fusion Academy, is excited to continue the conversation of opening a school in Andover. They believe Fusion will be a welcome resource to the citizens of Andover and intend to resubmit their application.

Keith Saxon, Greenwood Road had questions on the DMS lockdown this week and the ability of persons with a badge being able to access the building, even during a lock down.

Kelly Grant, 8 Alonesos Way, has concerns with the mental health of a student. Shannon Scully explained that there are areas that are not under the School Committee's purview and which cannot be discussed.

D. Response to Public Input

Susan McCready thanked Kathy Meltsakos from the AEA Board for coming this evening. The School Committee recognizes that Secretaries as valuable assets and the Committee remains committed to working with the Secretary's Negotiation Unit to reach an agreement.

E. Education

1. Capstone Program

The presentation of the Capstone Projects by AHS students this week was exceptional. The students, accompanied by their teacher Rebecca D'Alise, attended tonight's School Committee Meeting providing a brief overview of the topics of their projects. Dr. Berman said Andover was able to build a program that are profoundly important to the World. The Capstone Showcase will be held on May 20th at the Cormier Youth Center and on May 2nd, Elementary Capstone Students will meet with AHS Capstone Students.

2. Sprint Presentation- Mental & Behavioral Health, Sara Stetson

Sara Stetson introduced the members of the Sprint Team; Ryan Fielding, Heather Eigen, Joe Yarid, Rita Casper, and Nancy Kotch. The team reported on the progress of the Mental & Behavioral Health supports and programs that have been implemented throughout the school system that include: Student Needs, Acuity Rates for students who identified with social, emotional issues, piloting of a Mobile Support Team at the elementary level, expansion of the SAIL Model at WHMS designed to help students with significant social/emotional needs, the RENEW Expansion for at-risk students at AHS, and, at the District level, the Eye to Eye Program.

Rita Casper provided an update on the DPH Grant Award that will be used to develop and implement the Tier 3 Program at DMS, initiate a referral program with community mental health providers, improve data collection, and assist in determining racial inequities and health disparities, the health program has been expanded to students from ages 18-22.

F. New Business

1. SEPAC Status and Compliance Waiver

The Andover School District does not currently have a functioning SEPAC and DESE approved a Compliance Waiver until a functioning SEPAC is formed. Dr. Stetson reported that her team has held several community events, held parent coffees, workshops, a Parent Resource Fair, and visited school PTO's.

Several members of the audience provided input and asked questions on establishing a functioning SEPAC. The SEPAC President from Westford, MA read the SEPAC Bill of Rights that she authored. The School Committee feels it is time to move forward and establish a high-functioning SEPAC for all parents of special needs students.

2. Policies-First Reading: GBEBC Revision & Update to Cross References

The first reading for policy GBEBC and Update to Cross References was explained by Policy Subcommittee Members, Joel Blumstein and Susan McCready. Minor changes include solicitation of events by outside organizations as long as they are school related. When revisions to the Policy Manual were completed, it was realized they overlooked removing Cross References to policies that no longer exist.

3. Revisions to Collins Center Rental Agreement

Paul Szymanski explained the minor changes to the Collins Center Rental (Policy) Agreement on renting the facility. i.e. it is the Collins Center Rental Agreement (not policy), page 2 under Refreshment Area was stricken, and locations of the security cameras that will also be located in the AHS dining area.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the recommended changes to the Collins Center Rental Agreement as presented by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0 to approve.

4. Town Meeting Preparation/Report from Script Meeting

The Committee has the results of the Script Meeting and the preparations for Town Meeting.

G. Continuing Business

1. 2018-2019 School Year: Last official day for Students and Teachers

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve Tuesday, June 18, 2019 as the last official day for students for the 2018-2019 school year providing there are no more storm days this school year. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0 to approve.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve Wednesday, June 19, 2019 as the last official day for students for the 2018-2019 school year providing there are no more storm days this school year. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 4-0 to approve.

2. Town Meeting Article 55, AHS Facility Study Committee

The Chair discussed the potential change to Article 55 which would remove \$50K from the Article for the Educational Work Plan for one component to be removed at this time.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to reduce Article 55 by \$50,000 for the Educational Work Plan per the recommendation of the AHS Facility Study Committee. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0 to approve.

3. FY20 APS Budget Updates

A new motion for the Personnel/General Expense split regarding the school budget is as follows (the amount is not changing, just determining the split).

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the FY-2020 School Budget in the following amount: Personal Service \$70,166,040, which includes \$75,000 for Kindergarten Offset and \$15,763,768 for General Expenses for a total budget of \$85,929,808. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0 to approve.

4. All-Day Kindergarten Rate Reduction

Dr. Berman is recommending a rate reduction in All Day Kindergarten in 3 categories for incoming kindergarten students. Backup material on the reductions was provided.

On a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Paul Murphy and pending approval of the recommended budget at Town Meeting, the Andover School Committee voted 4-0 to approve an All-Day Kindergarten rate reduction from \$3,775 to \$3,575 for the 2019.2020 school year.

Susan McCready moved that, pending the approval of the Recommended Budget at Town Meeting, the Andover School Committee vote to approve an All-Day Kindergarten rate reduction under the income eligibility guidelines for Level 1 fees from \$500 to \$300 for the 2019-2020 school year. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 4-0 to approve.

Susan McCready moved that, pending the approval of the Recommended Budget at Town Meeting, the Andover School Committee vote to approve an All-Day Kindergarten rate reduction under the income eligibility guidelines for Level 2 fees from \$1,500 to \$1,200 for the 2019-2020 school year. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 4-0 to approve.

5. March Financials

Paul Syzmanski provided a brief overview of the financials and is pleased to report they are carrying a favorable unexpended balance.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants Expense: SW1924, SW1924A Payroll: 19S042 and 19S043

2. Minutes

3. Grants/Donations to District

On a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy the Andover School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

I. Adjournment

At 9:45 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting of April 25, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Documents: Sprint Presentation-Mental & Behavioral Health
March Financials