

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of April 10, 2014
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Annie Gilbert, Paula Colby-Clements, Barbara L'Italien, and Joel Blumstein
Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Finance and Administration, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Nancy A. Duclos, and AHS Liaison Hugh Smith.

I. Regular Meeting

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

Annie Gilbert called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. followed by a moment of silence led by Barbara L'Italien, and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Hugh Smith, the AHS liaison to the School Committee.

B. Recognition/Communications

1. Recognitions

Joel Blumstein commended all the volunteers who helped raise donations for Andover Youth Services the two day AYS Telethon last week, he was very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers. Joel will be participating in the Andover Fund for Education Spelling Bee on Friday as the Pronouncer of Words.

2. Student Government Day – Student Representatives Update

Student Government Advisor, Kerry Costello introduced four members of the AHS Student Government, Hugh Smith, Tarushi Sharma, Elizabeth Bernardin, and Rhea Singh. The students gave a presentation on Student Government at Andover High School, and explained their approach to the three areas of focus; Policy, Outreach, and Culture. Students meet weekly to discuss and collaborate on policy decisions and current events. Students are not elected to Student Government but instead participate in an application process which includes fifty-student signatures per application and an interview with Ms. Costello. This process eliminates a 'popularity' contest and is more inclusive.

Currently, the members are working on a master plan to coordinate events and eliminate conflicts (except Booster functions). They are also developing a Peer-to-Peer Mentor Program to introduce students to the culture of the school, providing information on the importance of voting rights, and working to create events to build a sense of community.

The students are in the throes of creating an App that will pertain strictly to student/teachers at AHS to provide a more personalized user experience that every student can benefit from. An overview of the components within the App (which they created on their own) was shown to the School Committee. The App is very informational with a lot of resource sites (daily bulletin, calendar, staff directory, X2-Aspen, lunch menu, clubs, school calendar, AHS events, and much more...), it was quite impressive. They are looking for a source of funding for the App which has a

one-time fee of \$800, and an annual fee of \$99. Student Government Day is Wednesday, April 16th and they are hosting a student forum about voting, requirements and the importance of voting.

3. Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC)

Jean Teichert and Cindy Cromer, the new Co-Presidents of SEPAC along with members Lisa Dawson, Jennifer Warren, and Jeryl Williams, talked about SEPAC as the advisory group to the School Committee for children with special education needs and disabilities, and matters pertaining to these issues and the link between parent and school. SEPAC is open to anyone who would like to participate and welcomes new members.

A survey was recently completed and will be available on the Andover Public School website and the SEPAC website until April 17th after which the results will be analyzed and information shared. Their plans include improving the method of distributing information, adding a public relations mechanism, and expanding their outreach to families with children on 504 plans.

Superintendent McGrath said SEPAC is in the process of updating the treasurer requirements and setting up proper accounts in accordance with Mass General Laws.

4 FY 15 Budget Subcommittee Update

Annie Gilbert reported on last week's Budget Subcommittee's meeting. The ongoing budget process was discussed; some items in the preliminary proposal changed and potential reductions were reviewed in order to meet the allocation of funds for FY-2015. An update on the budget will be provided at the Triboard Meeting on Wednesday, April 16th.

5. Bullying By-law Amendment to State's Anti-Bullying Law MGL 71, Section 370

Superintendent McGrath reported that the amended State's Bullying Policy is available on the Andover Public School website at www.aps1.net for public viewing and comment until May 2, 2014; the changes are statutory in nature. The School Committee will vote on the revised By-law on May 8, 2014.

C. Public Input

None

D. Education

1. Gift to new Bancroft School – Bancroft PTO: New Bancroft School Playground Funding

The Bancroft PTO raised \$16,200 for new playground equipment for the new Bancroft School. PTO members, Montse Rovira-Bru and Shannon Scully presented the check to the School Committee. Annie Gilbert thanked the PTO members for the gift and for their incredible support with the Bancroft project. School Building Chair, Tom Deso, also expressed his appreciation to the Bancroft PTO for the gift and for stepping up after the funding was removed from the budget.

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the gift of \$16,200 from the Bancroft School PTO for funding towards the new Bancroft School Playground. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 4-0 to approve.

E. New Business

1. School Choice 2014-2015:

School Choice requires an annual vote to indicate whether or not Andover will accept students from out of district into the school system. Typically Andover does not participate due to space constraints.

Barbara L'Italien motioned that the Andover School Committee vote not to participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program for grades Pre-K – Grade 12 for the 2014-2015 School Year. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.

2. Disposal of Surplus Equipment: Bancroft & WMS

Per the Town Charter the School Committee is required to vote on the final disposal of textbooks and library book requests, after which the Board of Selectmen votes to sell or dispose the items, and then they are put out to bid and finally disposed of. The request is for outdated texts/books from Bancroft School and West Middle School.

Bancroft is in the process of disposing various items that are not going to the new building. Other Andover schools, the Youth Services Department, and members of the Municipal Maintenance Department were among those that tagged items that could be reused and recycled within the town/school departments.

Paula Colby-Clements motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the disposal of the School Surplus property as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 4-0 to approve.

F. Old Business

1. Subcommittee Appointments: Negotiations and Calendar

There are two open subcommittee positions (Calendar and Negotiations) due to the departure of Dennis Fogue from the School Committee. Joel Blumstein has volunteered to fill the open positions on the Calendar Subcommittee and Negotiations Subcommittee, and will work with Paul Szymanski to negotiate the custodian's contract.

Barbara L'Italien motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the appointment of Joel Blumstein to the Calendar Subcommittee and Custodians' Negotiations Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.

G. Consent Agenda

1. School Committee Minutes of March 27, 2014
2. Warrants: Expense: SW1421 and Payroll S14S041 and 14S040

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and with revisions to School Committee Minutes of March 27, 2014. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 4-0 to approve.

H. Adjournment

At 8:10 P.M. Barbara L'Italien motioned the Andover School Committee adjourn the meeting of April 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.
Roll call:

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Recording Secretary

Documents: Textbook Disposal Information Form

Letter from Bancroft PTO