

**Andover School Committee
Work Session
Minutes of October 27, 2016**

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski, and Assistant Superintendent Nancy A. Duclos,

I. Regular Meeting

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

Chairman Blumstein called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room, School Administration Building.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Berman reported on the significant increase in the number of English Language Learner (ELL) students in the district. Although the ELL staff schedules have been restructured, a collective decision has been made to add additional staff to accommodate the 36% increase in the number of ELL students.

Dr. Duclos explained the request for a total of a .9 FTE increase in ELL staffing at two of our schools because of student population and level of need. One teacher is moving from a .8 to a 1.0 and one teacher from a .7 to a 1.0. The increase in these two positions is temporary. One student needs a one-to-one immediate intervention which will be reviewed monthly. The total .9 FTE increase will be paid from the General Fund and the ELL population will be reviewed in June.

Paul Szymanski announced that a team from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is coming to Andover at the end of the month to conduct a comprehensive audit of our schools which will involve many staff/departments to complete.

Susan McCready commented on the elementary report card informational session provided for parents this week. It was a great informational session and nice to have the elementary principals, program coordinators, and members of the report card review team present to talk through the changes. She also shared comments from the last School Committee Informal Session on September 27th which included questions on overcrowding, length of the school day, facilities, and questions about the AHS schedule, accelerated math program, and concern that elementary students do not have sufficient time for lunch.

Shannon Scully said it was requested that they make the decision around qualifications for accelerated math clearer, and to create a communication for parents/students that

will include pathways, opportunities, and options for support, testing dates, criteria, and timing for decision-making. One parent suggested that as a community we consider better ways for engagement with the Greater Lawrence Technical School and Andover Public Schools.

The Tuesday, October 25th Informal Session was attended by Shannon Scully and Paul Murphy: Three participants were present and the discussion included doing more for special needs students specifically those with dyslexia, opinions about charter schools, and increased knowledge in the District on ADHD.

Joel Blumstein encouraged residents to exercise their right to vote and to take advantage of the early voting days.

Upcoming School Committee Meetings: November 10th and November 17th beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Dr. Berman announced that Parent to Parent is holding an event tonight at the Cormier Youth Center. He also announced that he was invited to attend the National Commission on Social and Emotional Learning as a member of the Distinguished Council who will be supporting the Commission, on November 1-2, 2016.

C. Public Comment - None

D. Response to Public Comment - None

E. Old Business

1. 2018-2020 CIP

AHS Media Center: the School Committee asked that the information on the AHS Media Center be left as is on the CIP until a decision is made on the Facility Plan. Dr. Berman recommends going forward with the CIP as presented. The Facility Plan will be reviewed again at the December School Committee Meeting. If we do not go forward with the media center, we will have to look at other opportunities for space.

Shannon Scully asked why the skylight (\$300,000) is not an optional item. Paul Szymanski explained the media center was designed to have the maximum number of design features included allowing for some to be engineered out when approaching the design phase either before or after the CIP is voted at Town Meeting. Shannon said it is important to note that there is opportunity for some refinement. She is also concerned with deferring maintenance in the school buildings, significant needs being pushed off, and the underfunding of the CIP.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the FY18-2020 Capital Improvement Plan as presented to date by the Superintendent and

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 4-0 to approve.

F. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense SW1710, SW1710A , and Payroll 17S017

On a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Shannon Scully, the School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

G. Adjournment

At 9:40 A.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Paul Murphy, the School Committee voted 4-0 to convene to Executive Session, pursuant to MGL C.30a SEC 21(A) (3), for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with AEA Unit A and Instructional Assistants as an Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position and not to return to Open Session. Roll call: S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, J. Blumstein-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary