

**Andover School Committee  
Regular Meeting and Work Session  
Minutes of December 1, 2016**

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Administration, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Teaching & Learning, Nancy Duclos, Ph.D. and Vish Vay, AHS Student Liaison.

**I. Regular Meeting:**

**A. Call to Order**

Chair Blumstein called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building.

**1. Executive Session**

On a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with AEA Unit A pursuant to MGL C.30A Sec 21 (A) (3), as an open session may have a detrimental effect on the committee's bargaining position. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y. At 6:55 P.M. on a motion duly made and seconded the School Committee voted to adjourn from Executive Session and reconvene in Open Session. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y.

**II. Work Session**

**A. Call to order/Salute to Flag**

Chairman Blumstein reconvened the meeting of the School Committee in open meeting at 7:05 P.M. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag.

**B. Recognitions/Communications**

Dr. Berman shared information on the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development Conference he attended this week, serving as a member of its Council of Distinguished Educators. The conference focused on promoting civic engagement and fostering social and emotional learning in addition to academics. A diverse group of legislators, governors, chief state and higher education school officers attended the conference.

Thank you to the Andover Coalition for Education (ACE) who, in collaboration with Andover Public Schools, and Youth Services, hosted a special screening of "The Future of Education" at the Cormier Youth Center on November 16. The screening provided insights into how our classrooms today align with the latest thinking in education, and well attended by parents, faculty, and school administrators.

The Presidential Election was highly contentious and individuals across the country have been defacing property, bullying and making discriminatory remarks in protest, making some individuals in our school system uncomfortable. Dr. Berman is sending out a message on Friday to parents, school, and staff, that respect and civility is the standard we hold ourselves to and will continue to maintain that standard.

Dr. Duclos reported on the changes to the WMS PE Heart Monitoring Program. 1. Student confidentiality: The display of student data is being adjusted in such a way that there will be no connection to the student and their ID number. 2. There seems to be a misunderstanding on how a heart rate measures as part of the grade. It is not the heart rate, but the length of time a student stays in the target heart rate zone during the 20 minutes of activity; the effort is being collected and used as the participation part of the student's grade. 3. To reflect better the exercise they are changing the wording on the parent portal. 4. Parents have the ability to opt out and should speak with the teacher to let them know the reason.

Joel Blumstein reported that he and Paul Murphy held an informal open discussion on Saturday and they will update the School Committee at the next meeting.

Ted Teichert thanked Dr. Berman for providing the redacted information he requested and will share a few questions he has at another time. In addition, he said that Andover's Downtown Holiday Happenings is being tomorrow night and Andover High School is running Toys for Tots Drive.

#### **C. Opportunity for Public Comment**

Brian Boatner, 100 Burnham Road, attended the facilities meeting at West Elementary and was surprised that it is going to take 15 years to complete all of the school renovating projects. The high school should be the first priority because it would benefit the whole town.

Heather Ferro, 12 Alonesos Way, spoke about her concern with the use of heart monitors used by students in the Grade 8 WMS Physical Education Classes. Such information is not, in her opinion, something that should be asked of our students to participate in, using their private information and having it placed in a data base. Dr. Duclos thanked Mrs. Ferro for her remarks. The Physical Education Program Coordinator and teachers have spent a lot on time on this issue and in looking at the latest research which has proven to be beneficial for kids.

Carleen Bell Flanagan commented on the HPE/WHMS field accessibility issue. She thanked everyone who has have reached out to her and is optimistic that the Town and School appreciates the situation. Ed Ataide is working on the plan and budget numbers to present to the School Committee.

Mike Roli, 2 College Circle, commented on the article in today's Andover Townsman regarding the accessibility issue. This project comes under the auspices of the School Committee, not the Board of Selectmen. Should this request become a warrant article, it takes it out of the hands of the School Committee and into the hands of Town residents for a decision. He is of the opinion that the project should be in the CIP.

#### **D. Response to Public Input**

##### **E. Consent Agenda**

1. Warrants: Two expense and two payroll warrants
2. Minutes: June 17, 2016 Workshop Minutes

On a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Shannon Scully the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

### III. Work Session

#### Facilities and MSBA Statement of Interest application process and enrollment projections

Of the two enrollment projections by NESDEC and MGT, Dr. Berman said the MGT projects a significant increase in enrollment in the coming years. The distinction around the models used was the cohort survival model, student per household, and housing starts. In addition, MSBA processed an enrollment projection showing a decline in Andover's enrollment not an increase. Dr. Berman reviewed the projection comparisons of MSBA, NESDEC, and MGT. In the last two months, an additional 23 students have enrolled in the District. The enrollment projections do not show the number of students in out-of-district placements. MSBA will revise their enrollment projections in January and rely on their own analysis; the key challenge we face is that we will have to defend MGT's projections.

#### Discussion:

It appears that Andover's enrollment increases through elementary and middle school, but drops in high school. We will continue to track the enrollment numbers at the high school and the enrollment numbers of students moving from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Typically, we lose about ten students per year moving from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students also leave to attend the local vocational schools, private schools, etc.

#### Facilities Report from Architect

Alex C. Petkin, Senior Vice President of Symmes Maini & McKee Associates (SMMA) along with Peter Lukacic and Samantha Ferrell explained the building options for West Elementary and Andover High School sites, using prepared maps and three-dimensional models situated on the table for everyone to view. The architects developed possible scenarios for the West Elementary/(WHMS) and AHS school sites sharing ideas and possibilities using scaled models. They discussed what is and what is not feasible, and what the footprint would look like with three-story buildings housing 600 students with shared common areas that middle and elementary schools would have. Joel reminded the School Committee that if they submit West Elementary as the first priority, there is no guarantee that MSBA would approve a joint elementary and middle school. The current enrollment at AHS is about 1800 students and we need to provide enough space for students and convert space for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.

Shannon Scully asked about renting modules for the high school and if the town would support such an initiative. The modules would provide 20 classrooms and if rented for 2 years the cost would be approximately \$3M per year.

MSBA rejected Wellesley's SOI for a number of years (due to enrollment) and Wellesley is now investigating building without the assistance of MSBA. What is the process to build without MSBA funding? The steps would involve going to the town for design money, and taking the design process to town meeting get the appropriations funds. The School Committee shared their opinions on which school should be the first priority submitted on the Statement of Interest to MSBA.

Overcrowding at AHS is a well-known issue throughout the community and therefore, Mrs. Scully believes the high school should go first, we should consider going on our own without the assistance of MSBA, and she would like to think the community would agree to this (for an amount less than the cost of Bancroft). Paul Murphy thinks it is more reasonable to submit for the high school first because it affects everyone not just a sampling of a

neighborhood school. Mrs. McCready feels the bones of the high school are good but the building is not properly designed for how we teach today. She also likes the elementary/middle school idea for West but has many concerns. Chairman Blumstein talked about being aware of what the cost of going on our own would mean to taxpayers, and taking on two projects simultaneously. MSBA's ranking priorities has enrollment has a high priority.

The Committee discussed five potential Warrant Articles for this year's Annual Town Meeting. Some are for modest renovation requests for facilities under School 2.

Dr. Berman updated the Committee on the WHMS/HPE Field Accessibility request. The actual cost given from the designer might be \$600,000 not \$450,000. Dr. Berman spoke with the Town Manager and there may be some funds available in the CIP that would need the approval from the Board of Selectmen to put towards this request. There is a concern about setting a precedent; and they have to see if this is an exceptional circumstance.

Funding for Textbooks has been requested for \$519K for 2018, which Dr. Berman suggested be put forward as a CIP warrant article and not included in the school-operating budget. The Committee discussed this recommendation.

Paul Szymanski explained why there needs to be two articles submitted for the Special Education Stabilization Warrant Article; one warrant article to establish a Special Education Reserve Fund, and one warrant article to appropriate the funds or to raise funds by taxation.

There are two articles related to the High School. One is for the Media Center, and the other is a broader item tied to the Statement of Interest. If we are not submitting AHS as the first priority on the SOI, then we should not submit the following articles. We need to discuss what we want to see happen in and out of the scope of the project. Dr. Berman has had discussions with the Town Manager about AHS and there are concerns related to the timing of the warrant articles and if we have time to prepare. Funds been allocated to the library/media center are strictly held and cannot be used for other purposes.

The high school has to move forward and the School Committee has a decision around which school to choose first.

#### IV. **Adjournment**

At 10:45 P.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Ted Teichert , the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn. Roll call: T. Teichert-Y, S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo,  
Recording Secretary