

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of March 23, 2017**

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Nancy Duclos, and Vishvah Kaul AHS Student Government Liaison to the Andover School Committee.

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order – Opening Ceremonies

Chair Blumstein called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag led by the members of Brownie Troop 79190, Lily Townsend, Lauren, Palacios, Krishna Patel, Stella Gryllakis, Katie Barry, Hannah Newman, and Claire Thiele. Vice Chair, Susan McCready presented each of the Brownies from Troop 79190 with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

Chairman Blumstein reported that the Literacy Update will be rescheduled to the next meeting.

B. Recognition/Communications

1. Highlights from around the District

Dr. Berman made the following announcements:

- Jason DiCarlo has been selected as the successor Principal of the Sanborn School upon the retirement of Patricia Barrett at the end of this school year. Jason, who was in attendance, thanked Dr. Berman for his warm welcome and he is excited about joining the Andover Public School Team and Community. Candace Hall thanked everyone on the Committee who made this decision, it was a very collaborative process.
- Bancroft School has been awarded an architectural award from the Association of Learning Environment.
- Mass Recycle Annual Recycling has awarded the K-12 Waste Reduction to Andover's Green Team.

Dr. Duclos gave a brief summary of the MCAS scores which will be posted on the APS website. Andover improved in the K-8 aggregate in areas of high needs and economically disadvantaged students in both Math and ELA and compared to our comparison communities. Andover ranked second in both ELA and Math in that group. At AHS 97.9% of our students scored either proficient or advanced in ELA, 93.6% in Math, and 84.0% in Science. A more detailed report will be provided at a future meeting.

Grant Award Letter

Financial Literacy Education. Brad Heim, Dave Floreen, Service Club and AHS Assistant

Principal Scott Darlington shared information on the grant award received for Financial Education and Financial Literacy to help students with a life-long skill on how to manage their personal finances. Every senior will be asked to take a survey, attend a brief assembly, and meet with over 100 volunteers. Students will be assigned a career with a salary and expenses and provided various life scenarios involving cost of living, unexpected expenses and how to handle the ups and downs. At the end of the session they will have 30-40 counselors available to help them get a better grasp of personal finances.

Shannon Scully thanked all of the teachers and parent teams who participated in Destination Imagination Competition, it was a great effort by teachers, parents, and coaches. She also recognized everyone who participated in the Middle School Science Fair held on Saturday morning. It was a phenomenal event with twenty projects moving forward to the Regional competition.

Ted Teichert asked if Andover was participating in the "Day on the Hill".

Vishvay Kaul announced that the Food Rescue Team was at AHS this week and it would be great if it could become a student run initiative.

Susan McCready asked if there has been any follow up sent to the students who made recommendations about securing a mentor for this program. Ted Teichert and Paul Murphy will determine what the next steps would be.

School Committee members Susan McCready and Shannon Scully participated in an informal public forum at the Memorial Hall Library on Wednesday, March 22nd with seven people attending. Topics of interest included the School Budget, CIP, High School Schedule, MCAS scores, community involvement by Dr. Berman, and the importance of Social & Emotional Learning, etc.

Paul Murphy attended the South School performance "The Little Mermaid" and was amazed with the energy, singing, enthusiasm of all students involved.

A Special Education Meeting will be held in the School Committee Room on Monday, April 10th from 7:00-9:00 PM. Parents are able to talk freely about personal stories but the School Committee will not be able to respond back. A communication on the agenda, date, and time will be sent out via a Connect 5 message.

C. Public Comment

Jeanne Teichert, Dufton Road, commented on the lack of supporting documents for agendas which makes it difficult to follow along; would like to see improved communications from APS, and the results of the climate study survey should be put on the website, and the Special Education Parent forum should be open for parents to come and talk.

Karen Winship was looking forward to hearing about the literacy program this evening, and expressed her deep concern for the middle and high school students with language issues. It is important to come up with an immediate plan to keep kids from failing, there needs to be a sense of urgency to address this situation.

D. Response to Public Comment

E. Education

1. WHMS Field Trip to Costa Rica Feb. 2018:

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for WHMS 6th and 8th Grade Students in the WHMS Outing Club to Costa Rica on February 16-25, 2018 as presented, and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled “APS School-Sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy”. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. FY2018 Budget Update

Dr. Berman provided a recap on the status of the FY-18 budget. Ed Ataide was present to share information on maintenance items in the Capital Improvement Projects. Joel Blumstein is recommending the School Committee vote on a school budget after the Public Hearing on March 30, 2017. Ted Teichert suggested waiting until after the Public Hearing to vote on the Warrant Articles in case there were any changes after comments from public hearing. The format last year was to have the public hearing, vote on the warrant articles, and vote on the budget. The School Committee agreed to defer on voting on the warrant articles themselves, but will continue with the discussion.

Dr. Berman – review of Budget

Gap:	\$1,321,613
Potential Reductions:	<u>\$1,127,186</u>
Projected Gap:	\$194,427

The biggest issue is the \$519,300 in textbooks which appears in the base budget and as a CIP article. We can either retain textbooks in the operating budget or put them back into the CIP.

Potential Budget Reductions: Technology Credits of \$220,000, Technology software \$52,900, school budgets \$17,000, 5th Utility \$15,000, custodial supervisor \$35,000, increase Circuit Breaker Projections \$40,486, Miscellaneous Reductions of \$27,500, and textbook proposal of \$519,300 with a reduction in textbook expenses of \$139,800 and a total reduction of \$379,500 in CIP School 1 and School 2.

Ed Ataide explained the impact the proposed reductions in School 2 will have on the school buildings. Everything listed in School 2 Building Maintenance was pushed off from 2017 to 2018 and now we would be deferring it again. Routine maintenance is required to keep our buildings in good condition for prolonged use.

The School Committee as a whole has never discussed teacher layoffs as a budget reduction option and Dr. Berman has never recommended a staff reduction. A decision has not yet been made to keep textbooks in the CIP that would reduce available funds for school maintenance.

Joanne Najarian addressed the request for IT-2 to provide devices for the lower school grades. Students use iPads to read for fluency and adaptive technology (real-time) so teachers can help students as they move through the curriculum. Students will be actively engaged, move along at their own pace, and struggling readers will be helped. A specific device for younger students has not been determined but they are looking at a tablet for touch not typing. Results will be shown through curriculum based assessments.

3. FY18 Draft Warrant Articles

The warrant articles were briefly discussed and noted those that did not pertain to the School Department and not requiring a vote. An updated list of warrant articles will be provided prior to the next meeting.

F. New Business

1. Update on Statement of Interest

Paul Szymanski updated the Committee on the Statement of Interest (SOI) for West Elementary. The target SOI submission date is April 6, 2017 and the School Committee has to cast their vote tonight for the Statement of Interest.

REQUIRED FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT AN SOI

REQUIRED VOTES

If the SOI is being submitted by a City or Town, a vote in the following form is required from both the City Council/Board of Aldermen OR the Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body AND the School Committee.

If the SOI is being submitted by a regional school district, a vote in the following form is required from the Regional School Committee only. FORM OF VOTE Please use the text below to prepare your City's, Town's or District's required vote(s).

FORM OF VOTE

Please use the text below to prepare your City's, Town's or District's required vote(s).

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 23, 2017, prior to the closing date, the Andover School Committee of Andover MA. in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent, Sheldon H. Berman, Ed.D, to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 6, 2017 for the West Elementary School located at 58 Beacon St, Andover, MA 01810, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

In summary, the students attending West Elementary are receiving less than the education they deserve because the building has health and safety issues (lead and CO²); is severely overcrowded, especially given its special populations, and its enrollment is projected to increase; and its physical design and amenities are so outdated that its students are unable to benefit from the 21st century educational programming that its teachers long to provide and that its parents have a right to expect.

Priority No. 1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.

The school has two major conditions jeopardizing children's health: high levels of lead in the water and high levels of carbon dioxide (CO²) in the air. Tests in February 2017 by the Department of Municipal Services of Andover, Massachusetts revealed that the school's water exceeded the maximum allowable levels of lead, so sections of pipe and a drinking fountain were immediately replaced. Follow-up tests in March indicated that not only were the lead levels still above the maximum allowed. Accessing and replacing quantities of buried pipes is not feasible. In addition, tests performed in response to staff complaints about air quality revealed high levels of CO² based on ASHRAE and OSHA standards; these CO² levels are believed to be contributing to a high rate of absences.

Priority No. 2. Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.

West Elementary's overcrowding is the result of: a) high enrollment that exceeds physical capacity, and b) large numbers of special needs students whose IEP programming requires particular uses of space, including 1:1 instruction. At West, 21 percent of students are in special education; the services we can provide are constrained by the lack of flexible space for both instruction and the storage of individualized materials, leaving some students to be served in hallways with multiple distractions and no privacy (both of which hinder learning progress) or in closets with inadequate lighting and ventilation. Two classes of regular education students and teachers sometimes must share the same room, and there is no suitable space for OT/PT services.

Priority No. 4. Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.

Some programs and students that would normally be placed at West have already been relocated or directed to other schools, but the overcrowded conditions continue and neighboring schools cannot accept more transfers without incurring similar problems. Enrollment projections provided by the Massachusetts School Building Authority and by MGT's facility planning study—both for West Elementary and for Andover Public Schools as a whole—show a steady increase through 2026. Older residents are selling their homes to families with young children and a number of apartment and housing developments are in the construction or planning stages. The English Language Learner (ELL) population at West has doubled in three years and has

increased three-fold in the district over five years, with the majority of students being in grades K-3, while the district's special education population has increased by 17 percent in the past decade. West Elementary and other district schools will need additional small group spaces to provide individual and small group instruction, as well as larger classrooms that accommodate inclusion of students in the regular classroom along with the adults who provide their support services.

Priority No 7. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

West Elementary School was built in 1951, added to in 1968, and is now past its functional life. In addition to the health, safety, space, and programming issues cited above, the location of the main office and administrative offices in the building's interior compromises access control and the ability of security to deal with intruders. Of particular concern, the facility is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Classrooms in the 1968 addition were designed in an open-school concept, adding to the staff's inability to appropriately serve the students assigned to regular as well as SPED and ELL programs. Even basic amenities are inadequate; for example, 110 boys in the grades 2-3 pod have access to only one toilet, and rooms lack enough electrical outlets to take advantage of otherwise available technology. Some students who need remedial services are turned away because of space limitations. Our mandated programs in physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, reading services, guidance, and school nursing are all suffering from the limitations imposed by this outdated facility,

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

CERTIFICATIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief, the statements and information contained in this statement of Interest and attached hereto are true and accurate and that this Statement of Interest has been prepared under the direction of the district school committee and the undersigned is duly authorized to submit this Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The undersigned also hereby acknowledges and agrees to provide the Massachusetts School Building Authority, upon request by the Authority, any additional information relating to this Statement of Interest that may be required by the Authority.

(signature)

(signature)

(signature)

Date

Date

Date

* Local Chief Executive Officer: In a city or town with a manager form of government, the manager of the municipality; in other cities, the mayor; and in other towns, the board of selectmen unless, in a city or town, some other municipal office is designated to the chief executive office under the provisions of a local charter. Please note, in districts where the Superintendent is also the Local Chief Executive Officer, it is required for the same person to sign the Statement of Interest Certifications twice. Please do not leave any signature lines blank.

Motion: Shannon Scully moved to approve the required form of vote to submit an SOI for the West Elementary School as written. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Mid-Year Review on Superintendent’s Goals:

A mid-year update on the Superintendent’s Goals for 2016-2017 was distributed and the School Committee members individually shared their thoughts on the progress Dr. Berman has made thus far. Dr. Berman thanked the members for their feedback and he is glad they feel like they are making good progress.

3. Financials

Paul Szymanski gave a brief overview of the February 2017 Financials which were provided to the Committee via the Dropbox showing an unfunded balance of \$160,000 to date.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense SW1725, Payroll 17S037 and 17S038

2. Minutes: January 11, 12, and 26, 2017

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

I. Adjournment

At 7:30 P.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Ted Teichert, the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting of March 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: Statement of Interest
 Warrant Articles
 Progress on Superintendent Goals for 2016-17
 MCAS Analysis