

School Committee Meeting
Minutes of Wednesday, July 18, 2018

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, and Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski.

I. Call to Order

Chair Scully called the School Committee to order at 5:30 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building.

II. Executive Session

On a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Paul Murphy the School Committee voted 5-0 to move to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for the following purposes: Purpose 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Superintendent of Schools); and Purpose 7: to comply with to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, sec 22 by reviewing executive session minutes to determine whether release is appropriate at this time, and to reconvene in Open Session for a Regular meeting at 7:00 P.M. not to return to Executive Session. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, McCready-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, P. Murphy-Y, Tracey Spruce-Y. At 6:58 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy seconded by Joel Blumstein the school Committee unanimously voted to adjourn from Executive Session.

A. Regular Meeting Resumes

Chairperson Scully reconvened the School Committee to order at 7:05 P.M.

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag.

C. Recognitions & Communications

Dr. Berman introduced the new School Administrators: Kathleen Caron, Assistant Principal of South Elementary School; Andrea Taddeo, the new Assistant Principal of Bancroft Elementary School; and the new K-5 Literacy Advisor, Sara Colleja.

Janet Nicosia, Director of Facilities, was recognized for successfully securing a final payment from MSBA that will bring down Andover's borrowing by \$1.4M. Ms. Nicosia diligently reviewed all bills related to the construction of the Bancroft School and reallocated items to areas where MSBA had not provided credits.

The District Administrator Magazine has an article in its recent publication acknowledging Andover's work in literacy. The link to the article is:

<https://www.districtadministration.com/dod/awards/andover-public-schools-andover-massachusetts>

Thirty-five Andover teachers participated in a four-day professional development workshop in Design Thinking facilitated by Responsive Classroom this week.

Dr. Berman shared his concern about the unexpectedly high number of students enrolled at High Plain at this \time and will provide updates to the Committee.

Joel Blumstein attended the High School Facility Study Committee this morning where they discussed next steps for the presentation to the Rotary Club on Friday, August 3rd, anticipation of larger parent forums in the fall, and creating a Q & A for handouts at the fall open houses.

Susan McCready recognized Dr. Berman on the great end of year closing for staff held at the Collins Center on June 29th which was well done and a nice way to end the year.

D. Public Input – None

E. Response to Public Input N/A

F. Education

1. Doherty Middle School: Annual Ski Trip to Quebec

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trips for Doherty Middle School 8th Grade Students in the DMS Outing Club to Quebec City, Canada on January 19-21, 2019 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 Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve

G. Continuing Business

1. Guiding Principles regarding School Start Times

The School Committee continued their discussion which began at their Workshop Meeting of May 31st on evaluating a change in school start times. Joel Blumstein walked through a draft proposal of the guiding principles and course of action on moving to a change of school start time. The process would include community information sessions, knowledgeable speakers (Wellness/Emotional/Mental Health/Children’s Hospital, etc.), sharing student survey results, and reviewing pros and cons as they develop and determine alternative options. The School Committee will be sensitive to the impact of changes of schedules on families/athletics, etc. This will be an ongoing process and a coordination with other communities in the Merrimack Valley area.

The Committee discussed the formation of a Task Force with a representative from each school taking part to work out potential costs for transportation, schedules, costs, traffic patterns, etc. Guiding principles that could be used as a rubric include: Looking at a way to be responsive to sleep research, impact on student well-being, academic performance, impact on family schedules; extra-curricular afterschool programs, costs to family and the district. Potentially there could be a formation of core groups to develop a prospective draft and options, a group for outreach and communication with other groups to be developed over time.

2. End of Year Financials

Paul Szymanski, Asst. Superintendent for Finance and Administration reported on the end of year financials for ending FY-18 Budget which has been extremely challenging and managed with every effort by school administrators.

H. New Business

1. Cormier Youth Center – Storage Shed

Reschedule to future meeting.

2. First Reading: APS School Policy Section I and Advertising Policy

As this is a first reading, no vote will be taken at this time. Public is invited to send their comments to the School Committee. Joel Blumstein and Susan McCready, subcommittee members, explained the changes to Section I and answered questions posed by the School Committee members.

Joel Blumstein spoke about the possibility of allowing advertising at the high school fields and the School Committee's current policy. This item will be placed on a future School Committee agenda for discussion.

3. Donation to District

Bill Martin, Athletic Director, has been in discussions with Commonwealth Motors who has offered to donate a new scoreboard for Lovely Field that would include their logo. A new scoreboard would cost in the vicinity of \$30K and an item greatly needed at this time. Bill is asking the School Committee to authorize him to continue the discussion with Commonwealth Motors to discuss terms around the donation. Current policy KCD allows for the acceptance of gifts from industry so long as the gift does not include extensive commercial advertising. Policy KHB prohibits advertising of commercial products or services in school buildings or on school grounds or properties. However, the School Committee has the authority to vary from their own policies within reason and have previously approved a new scoreboard at WMS within the guidelines of Policy KCD. The Committee agreed for Bill Martin to continue working on a proposal with Commonwealth Motors and to report back to them at a later meeting.

4. School Committee Meeting Calendar – 2018,2019 School Year

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2018-2019 School Committee Meeting Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

5. Enrollment Projections: West Elementary School

Mark Johnson provided information on enrollment assumptions and factors used to gather the enrollment information, along with enrollment projections by MSBA, MTG, and Cropper for West Elementary School. MSBA wants to have a design enrollment number for West Elementary by the end of October. MSBA will relook at their analysis using updated Andover data (as will Cropper) and through discussion will arrive at an agreement, which doesn't mean that the enrollment number decided upon won't change again. The School Committee has to agree to a target enrollment number for initial submission to MSBA, and this number is expected to be refined over the next several months.

Joel Blumstein moved that based upon a review of the Cropper, MGT, and MSBA enrollment projections the anticipated design enrollment for West Elementary School that is to be submitted to MSBA be 930 students. This is subject to being updated upon receipt of updated enrollment projections in October. This is based upon the MSBA enrollment projections of 3011 students in 2025. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

6. Vacation Carryover Days for Superintendent

On a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy the School Committee voted 5-0 to authorize the Superintendent to carry over twenty (20) unused vacation days from Fiscal Year 2018 into Fiscal Year 2019 of which ten (10) must be used by August 31, 2018 or they shall be forfeited. Furthermore, this waiver of the ten-day limit for vacation carry over is for the carry-over of these unused vacation days from Fiscal Year 2018 into Fiscal Year 2019 and does not in any way diminish or waive the limitation of vacation carry over in Section 6.2B of the Superintendents employment agreement in any future years. The Committee's agreement to provide for the Fiscal Year 2018 vacation carry over is conditioned on the Superintendent's acceptance of these conditions and outlined in a memorandum.

H. Consent Agenda

1. **Warrants:** Expense: SW1901, SW1834, SW1834A Payroll: 19S003

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

I. Adjournment

At 9:30 P.M. on a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Tracey Spruce, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of July 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: FY18 Preliminary End-of-Year Financials
West Elementary School Enrollment Projections