

School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2019

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Sara Stetson, and Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach, and AHS Liaison Ben Roldan.

I. **SC Regular Open Session Meeting- Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building.

II. **Executive Session**

Susan McCready moved for the School Committee to meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for Purpose 3, to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining (secretaries) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Andover School Committee. The motion was seconded by Tracy Spruce. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y. At 6:59 PM on a motion duly made and seconded the School Committee adjourned from executive session to reconvene in Open Session not to return to executive session.

III. **SC Regular Meeting Resumes**

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Sanborn School students, Justin Millien (Gr 2), Jadrian Villa (Gr 5), and Hanna Lisauskas (Gr 4).

B. Recognitions & Communications

Hannah Finn, a junior at AHS, and originator of the One Wish Project in 2017 was introduced by Communications Director, Nicole Kieser to the Committee. Hannah bakes special birthday cakes for children living in homeless shelters in the Merrimack Valley. She was recognized as a Community Hero by the American Red Cross earlier this year.

Dr. Berman and Nicole Kieser attended the Mass Association of School Superintendents Mid-year meeting in Marlboro today, Andover was recognized as part of MAPLE, a personalized learning program for students.

Paul Szymanski was awarded the Civilian Service Medal for his work with the ALICE Program.

Dr. Berman said Andover has been highlighted in a number of reports: Nat'l Commission Report of Districts Building Capacity, research and policy in the www.Nationofhope.org, the Rennie Center for Research and Policy, and Learn Launch who is introducing case studies, etc.

Sandy Trach thanked the Sanborn PTO for inviting her to speak on literacy at their recent meeting. She also reported on the NEWA Map Training on Assessment provided to Andover teachers last week. Teachers enjoyed the potential of the tool and provided positive feedback. Online K-registration for 2019 will be open February 25th at www.aps1.net website.

Paul Szymanski shared information the health care insurance component for School Food Services which will cost \$329K for FY-2019 and is increasing to \$346K for FY-2020; which is an unsustainable increase

and cause a potential budget deficit for our Food Service Program. This expense does not account for changes in cost for the compostable containers.

Dr. Stetson provided an update on recent events initiated by Student Services including: recent launch of the Literacy Tutor Program with twenty-six Instructional Assistants trained through Mass General, evaluations of many young children through the Boston Early Literacy Program which is doing a lot to contribute to early literacy indicators, gathering data on a multi-tier mental health program, and being invited back to the Int'l Association of Dyslexia Conference to give a 2-hour seminar.

An update on the School Committee Informal Meeting held on January 15th at Memorial Hall Library was provided by Paul Murphy and Tracey Spruce. They received great feedback from attendees, and topics of concern included, changing school start time and the effects for working parents, traffic and cars at the WMS/AHS complex, kudos for all crossing guards across the district, the APS School Calendar, discussion on the cost of all-day Kindergarten, the cost of public education for all families, change in end of school day time at all schools next year, outdoor education, the need for a district SEPAC organization, and technology addiction.

Student Services is happy to work with school/parent community volunteers, and invites parents who are interested in working on special education events or have ideas to please contact Sara Stetson. Flyers are sent out via Blackboard Connect for parents.

An update on the West Elementary School Building Committee Meeting was provided by Susan McCready. The Committee sent out a bid for an OPM (Operations Project Manager), and an informational and site inspection of West Elementary will be held on Wednesday, January 30th at 10:00 A.M. Updates to West El Building Committee and the AHS Renovation Committee can be found on the website at www.aps1.net Susan also recognized Paul Szymanski and Theresa Peznola, Town Purchasing Agent, for their dedication and persistence in their efforts to move the OPM bidding and selection process along as quickly as possible.

Last week's Town-wide PTO meeting included discussion on the extended school day and the study on the potential change in school start time; nothing has been decided on change to start time however PTO leaders were strongly encouraged to become engaged in the discussions and to encourage families in their schools to as well.

Joel Blumstein added that the next meeting of the AHS Facilities Committee will include input for the revised SOI (Statement of Interest) for AHS that will be sent MSBA in April.

Shannon Scully reported that the Governor's Budget includes a change to the foundation budget formula for funding education, and although the numbers have not yet been finalized, the initial budget shows an 8.1% increase in FY20 Chapter 70 aid to Andover.

C. Public Input None

D. Response to Public Input N/A

E. Education

1. Class Size Analysis

Aixa deKelley, Guidance Program Advisor and AHS Principal Phil Conrad presented information on the Class Enrollment Analysis based on data provided from the October 1, 2019 with an enrollment number of 1,790 students (today's enrollment number is 1,799). AHS offers 673 class sections with 58.8% of those

sections having students of 24 or below. Aixa provided a review of online courses, dual enrollments, and additional learning opportunities.

2. Program of Studies

Changes to the AHS Program of Studies were explained by Aixa De Kelley. Upon approval, the 2019-2020 Program of Studies will be posted online so that 8th grade parents will be able to review class offerings prior to the 8th grade Orientation Meeting in March.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2019-2020 AHS Program of Studies as presented. Motion seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. New Business

1. Full Day Kindergarten Tuition

For the past three years the School Committee has voted to reduce the All-Day Kindergarten (ADK) tuition. The Superintendent discussed a plan to use funds out of the full-day kindergarten revolving account in order to reduce all-day kindergarten tuition for the 2019/20 school year. Tuition can be reduced by \$200 to \$3,775 and the Committee hopes the downward trend continues. Dr. Berman reported that 90% of kindergarten students are enrolled in ADK, which has increased funds in the revolving account and enables a reduction in tuition cost. The tuition funds go into the revolving account and are spent entirely on expenses for ADK and this reduction is sustainable. There are no fees for Half-Day Kindergarten. The goal is to eventually offer ADK for free.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to reduce the Full-Day Kindergarten tuition by \$200 to set the tuition at \$3,775 for the 2019-2020 school year. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 5-0 to approve.

G. Continuing Business

1. FY20 Budget Development Guidelines- Second Reading

Paul Szymanski reported that all of the changes discussed previously to the Budget Development Guidelines have been incorporate into the latest draft.

Shannon Scully would like the Committee to consider the expected increase of 8.1% in the State Aid and to consider revising the budget number to reflect the current information available to include the changes to Chapter 70, Circuit Breaker, and All-day Kindergarten tuition.

Dr. Berman provided an update on funding changes noting that further conversation is needed with the School Committee and the Town Manager to discuss the implications of the increase in Chapter 70 funds. The anticipated amount of Circuit Breaker reimbursement funds has decreased in the latest state budget proposal and will need to be made up within the school budget, although Dr. Berman hopes the Circuit Breaker funds will increase as the state budget is finalized. A legislative briefing is scheduled for February 6th and Superintendents across the Commonwealth are signing onto a statement requesting full funding. An analysis of Andover's out-of-district overall costs shows a forecast of \$6.5M for FY-2019 and \$5.9M after that. There is an opportunity now, with the increase in Chapter 70 funds due to the revised school funding formula which will be sustainable going forward, to look at other areas in the school budget that could be addressed.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the FY20 Budget Development Guidelines and amend the Full Day Kindergarten tuition to \$3,775 and that the Chapter 70 estimate be consistent with the Governor's proposed allocation, and to change the Circuit Breaker to reflect a 67.8% reimbursement. The motion was seconded Tracey Spruce and voted 5-0 to approve. Motion carries.

2. FY20 Budget

Andover is expected to receive a significant increase of 8.1% in Chapter 70 State Aid and municipalities are encouraged to use the additional funding towards education. The FY20 increase will be added to Andover's base Chapter 70 funds going forward. Dr. Berman will schedule a time to meet with the Town Manager to discuss the increase in Chapter 70 State Aid and suggested they work with the proposed budget numbers expected and project how to use the additional funds, and consider efficiencies that could be created.

For more than a year, Dr. Berman and the Town Manager have been considering the organizational structure of IT resources that support both the town and schools. They have put forth a proposal to shift the IT staff currently reporting into the School Department to the town IT Staffing organization. Accordingly, funding for these positions, at approximately \$313K, would shift from the school to the town operating budget.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to authorize the Superintendent to work with the Town Manager on the transition of School IT positions to the Town IT department, and correspondingly reduce the preliminary FY20 school operating budget by the amount agreed upon, providing that the staff transition and financial responsibility of the positions are transferred and approved by the Board of Selectmen.. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Policies BEDH BEDH-E (Public Comment) – Second Reading

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed Policies BEDH and BEDH-E as presented. The motion seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

4. AC, AC-R (Non-discrimination) and GBBA (Harassment prevention and response policy) – First Reading

Tracey Spruce reported on the changes to Policies AC and AC-R, and asked for the Committee to consider removing GBBA from the handbook based on incorporation of GBBA into policy AC. This will as well as other revised policies in the SC handbook. These changes incorporate sexual assault and consolidate policy for these areas into into a single place. A second reading and vote will be scheduled for the next School Committee meeting.

H. Consent Agenda

1. **Warrants:** In order
2. **Minutes:** December 13, 2018 SC Meeting and December 18, 2018 SC Workshop
3. **Grants:**

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

I. Adjournment

At 8:51 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn from the meeting of Thursday, January 24, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: AHS Program of Studies
AHS Class Enrollment Analysis
FY2020 Budget Development Assumptions and Guidelines
FY2020 Recommended Budget