

**Andover School Committee**  
**Minutes of May 28, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**

---

**Participants from the School Committee:** Chairman Joel Blumstein, Vice Chair Tracey Spruce, Shannon Scully, Susan McCready, and Paul Murphy.

**Others participating:** Superintendent Shelley Berman, Assistant Superintendents Sandra Trach, Paul Szymanski, Sara Stetson, Director of Communications Nicole Kieser, Director of Innovation Stephen Chinosi.

**I. Regular Meeting**

**Call to Order/Moment of Silence**

Chairman Blumstein called the Andover School Committee meeting of May 28, 2020 to order at 7:00 P.M. and opened up the Regular Meeting through a Virtual Meeting Broadcast by Andover TV and on Comcast Channel 99, Verizon Channel 43 or via streamed:

[www.andovertv.org](http://www.andovertv.org) **Public Participation via email: [scremote@andoverma.us](mailto:scremote@andoverma.us)**

Alison Phelan and Shelley Berman will be screening the emails.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence.

**A. Recognitions & Communications**

**Superintendent: Update on APS District Closure**

Dr. Berman communicated the following:

~ Teacher, parent and student forums for the finalists for the AHS Principal position were held today.

~Professional development for remote learning continues to be provided to teachers.

~He has received a flood of messages from teachers about activities that they have been doing with students.

~Thank You to all of the School Committee members for attending the Seniors Last Lap.

~Paul Szymanski will be working collaboratively with the Town on the re-entry Task Force which will have a variety of representatives.

Sandy Trach provided an overview of the curriculum work conducted over the past two weeks. She acknowledged the student celebrations and thanked all the teachers for their work in these events. They are moving into the final stretch of the school year and working on typical end of year activities. Sandy is leading the South School Principal Search with Candace Hall.

Sara Stetson thanked Joe Yarid and the Social Workers for their work on the movie *Angst* shown last night for parents. They are also planning for summer, end-of-year assessments and IEP meetings.

Steve Chinosi said they are receiving a lot of professional development requests from teachers for summer professional development on remote learning Paul Szymanski has been

organizing the schools for parent pickup of student materials. Thursday, June 18, the last day of school for students and teachers, will be a collection day that will continue into Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be a collaborative effort with principals and teachers.

Susan McCready thanked Student Services for a great Transition Workshop held last week for parents. She also reported that the clean out of student materials at WMS went very well yesterday.

Joel Blumstein reported on the Select Board's meeting earlier this evening and the possibility of extending the date for Town Meeting. The topic of the Retirement Board's meeting this morning was an increase in COLA for retirees which the Board voted and approved a 2.25% COLA increase on the first \$12,000 base amount. The School Committee will be meeting next Thursday for a Budget Hearing that they are legally required to do. Joel recommended that a communication be sent to parents regarding the reopening even though we don't have answers to many of the questions.

The School Committee has enjoyed the end of year celebrations for the AHS Class of 2020. Congratulations to David Grossman who was awarded Valedictorian and Henry Chen and Kush Shah, Salutatorians.

Shannon Scully said the AHS Principal Search has been a very rigorous process; she was part of the parent panel that interviewed the candidates today. Shannon urges everyone who has an opinion on moving the date of Town Meeting to email the Town Moderator, Sheila Doherty. She recognizes the unfortunate situation we are in but she is not clear on what a safer date would be and hopes we can keep the June 22<sup>nd</sup> date. If Town Meeting is held beyond July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Select Board will decide on how much money can be spent on a monthly basis which can only be 1/12 of the prior year budget.

**B. Public Input**

Michelle Houlihan from Fusion Academy sent a message that Fusion has submitted their application for approval as a private school. She looks forward to hearing back from the School Committee. Kerry Costello asked about the MOA concerning the retirements of AEA members. Email comment: Suggesting someone other than the current principal oversee the AHS summer graduation ceremony.

**C. Response to Public Input**

Dr. Berman: Administration will be reviewing Fusion Academy's application, but due to the current situation, it will take longer. In regard to Kerry Costello's question, Dr. Berman said the School Committee will vote at their next meeting. In response to the public input to have another administrator take over the summer high school graduation, this is not part of the School committee's responsibility.

**D. New Business**

**1. Middle School Chromebooks Leasing Program**

IT Chief Information Officer Paul Puzanghera previously provided an overview of the program being proposed for the upcoming school year regarding MS Chromebooks and

looking at how to recalibrate device technology at the middle school level. Paul shared the results of the responses received from the middle school parent survey. IT's preference would be to manage devices for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The more devices managed, the better the experience; therefore, they are requesting to make the lease program mandatory for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders and optional for this year's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students; going forward it would be mandatory for all grades.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve an optional Pilot Middle School Chromebook Leasing Program for the 2021-2022 school year with a fixed fee not to exceed \$150/student/year. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: S. Scully-N, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, and Joel Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 4-1. Shannon Scully opposed.

Shannon Scully moved that Andover Schools require that middle school students use a Chromebook type device and that this device is managed by IT during school hours by Andover IT. Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders (class of 2025) with non-Chromebook devices are exempt from the policy for the 2020-2021 school year. Susan McCready seconded the motion. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, and Joel Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

## 2. FY21 Revised Budget Presentation Options: Superintendent

Link to the Superintendent's revised FY-21 budget:

<https://www.aps1.net/DocumentCenter/View/10458/BudgetChanges-SC-5-28-2020>

Dr. Berman updated the Committee on the budget changes due to the financial limitations caused by the COVID-19 crisis. The major decision is to reduce the budget by \$807K as requested by the Town Manager. There are several other factors that will impact the budget such as software needed for remote learning, safety precautions, PPE, reduction in Circuit Breaker funds, teacher contract settlements, and an increase in Out of District spending. The Cares Act has given us minimal resources. It is in our best interest to preserve services and staffing. The Committee will not be voting on the School Operating Budget tonight.

Susan McCready does not want to see any reductions in staff.

Shannon would like an understanding of the implications of the reduction in textbooks and the impact that would have on the curriculum refresh cycle. Tracey Spruce has concerns with the budget cuts and what will be sustainable in the long-term. There are more conversations we need to have as the information unfolds. Paul Murphy said there will be a lot of guessing if we open. Joel strongly agrees that we should do everything to maintain staffing levels and that we may need more staff for when school re-opens in the fall.

## 3. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Shelley and SC members commented that the Town Manager has done a thoughtful job of trying to minimize the impact on town and school articles. Two larger school projects being delayed: the Sanborn School Roof and Air-conditioning at Doherty Middle School library. Andrew provided a high-level overview of the overall plan which he approached by prioritizing the operating budget given the uncertainties around funding. His belief is that

we will come out of this with an integrated plan close to the amount anticipated to be borrowed and maintaining free cash. He explained the components of Article 5 and the reductions of pushing out Free Cash projects freeing up \$2.5M in the bottom line. Projects they could make progress on were looked at and it was determined that they could defer the Sanborn School roof as well as the DMS Library A/C because both projects are still in the design stage. They looked at the four funding sources and how they could restructure the budget.

Joel Blumstein asked about the General Fund Borrowing and why they would not borrow now for the Sanborn School Roofing Project when we have such favorable interest rates. Andrew said the issue is not so much the first-year interest payment, but that they are committing resources to future years that remain uncertain. He hopes that we will be normalized as much as we can be next year. James McSweeney said the South School roof is going to be an intricate design process including solar panels and would not be able to be constructed next year anyway. The DMS A/C will have to be a full renovation of the ceiling and there would not be an opportunity to get that done in the summer of 2021 but they are continuing to progress on the design.

Shannon said even with the newly revised budget we still have to cut \$800K out of the operating budget. What changes were made as a result of deferring the two CIP Projects? Andrew responded that the only real change has been increasing the Pension contribution. These changes will help our bottom lines going forward and provides us an opportunity to balance the budget next year.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article 5 in the amount of \$805,108. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article 22 General Fund Borrowing in the amount of \$6,592,000. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, J. Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article 24 Free Cash in the amount of \$3,460,000. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, J. Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

#### 4. Amended Crest Collaborative Capital Budget 2020-2030

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed amended Crest Collaborative Capital Budget for 2020-2030. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, and Joel Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

5. Policy Subcommittee- Various Policies for First and Second Readings

This is the second reading of various policies changes recommended by MASC that were looked at in detail by Susan McCready and Joel Blumstein.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the following policies with amendments as presented by the Sub-Committee on Policy. Motion seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, and Joel Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

<i>BEDH-Public Comment @SC Meetings</i>	<i>IHA-Basic Instructional Program</i>	<i>JJIB-Interscholastic Athletics</i>
<i>JLA-Student Insurance Program</i>	<i>JLA-Student Insurance Program</i>	<i>JLD-Guidance Programs</i>
<i>JP-Student Gifts and Solicitations</i>	<i>JFABD-Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights/Services</i>	<i>JFABE-Educational Opportunities for Military Children</i>
<i>JFABF-Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care</i>	<i>DJAA-Recycling Policy</i>	

Susan McCready provided information on changes to the following policy changes recommended by MASC. First Reading

<i>JIC Student Discipline</i>	<i>IGA-Curriculum Development</i>	<i>JICFA – Prohibition of Hazing</i>
<i>IC/ICA-School Year/School Calendar</i>	<i>IE-Organization of Instruction</i>	<i>IHBEA-English Language Learners</i>
<i>JB-Equal Educ Opportunities</i>	<i>JF-School Admissions</i>	<i>JH-Student Absences-Excuses</i>
<i>JJH-School Sponsored Trips/Student Travel</i>	<i>JRD-Student Photographs</i>	

6. Response: Potential refunds on various APS fees

The School Committee discussed the merits of refunding various fees that families have been seeking. For most of the fees, the district is still incurring the costs of the activity. The only exception is the bus fee where we incurred the full cost during the first two-thirds of the year when schools were open. During the closure, we are paying 78% of the bussing contract. Thus, we are incurring \$278 of the \$300 bus fee which would allow for a refund of \$22.00 per bus pass. If all families requested a refund, it would cost the School Department approximately \$33,000. The Committee discussed how to provide the refund and, based on the Superintendent's recommendation, the consensus was that it would be best if parents would email a request for a refund of \$22 for bus passes before the end of the fiscal year.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve providing a notice to families who paid the bus fee for 2019.2020, indicating that they may request a refund of \$22 per bus pass to be paid out of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. Susan McCready seconded the motion. Roll call: S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, J. Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0. Please email [marylu.walsh@andoverma.us](mailto:marylu.walsh@andoverma.us) before the end of the school year to request a refund.

**E. Consent Agenda**

1. Grants/Donations to Andover Public Schools: Returning Grant Funds for Digital Learning Professional Development that staff were not able to participate in due to the pandemic.

2. Minutes: April 30, 2020

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, J. Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

**II. Adjourn from Open Session**

The School Committee adjourned from open session at 9:40 P.M.

**III. Executive Session**

At 9:40 P.M. Shannon Scully moved to meet in Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purpose: Purpose 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Andover Education Association Unit A and AEA Secretaries, AEA Occupational & Physical Therapists, Andover Licensed/Practical Nurses, Andover Assistants, Andover School Food Services, Andover School Custodians, and Andover Administrators Associations because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee not to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Dee DeLorenzo

Recording Secretary