

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of August 19 2020
Virtual Meeting**

Participants from the School Committee: Shannon Scully, Susan McCready, Tracey Spruce, Paul Murphy, and Lauren Conoscenti.

Others participating: Superintendent Shelley Berman, Assistant Superintendents Sandra Trach & Sara Stetson, Chief Operations Officer, Stephen Nembirkow, Director of Communications Nicole Kieser, Director of Innovation Stephen Chinosi.

I. Regular Meeting

Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Chairperson Scully called the Andover School Committee meeting of August 19, 2020 to order at 5:30 PM and opened up the Regular Meeting through a Virtual Meeting Broadcast by Andover TV on Comcast Channel 99, Verizon Channel 43 or via streamed: www.andovertv.org . **Public Participation via email: scremote@andoverma.us**

- II. Executive Session:** Susan McCready moved to meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for Purpose 3, to discuss strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining with the Andover Education Association Unit A, Andover Assistants, Andover Educational Secretaries Association, Andover School Food Services, and Andover Administrators Association because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. The Committee will reconvene in regular session at approximately 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. The Chair so declared that an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passed 5-0.

III. Regular Meeting Resumes – 7:00 P.M.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence.

A. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Berman reported on the status of the school re-opening and recognized the administrators on the incredible work they have been doing.

Sara Stetson thanked the new SEPAC for inviting her to their meeting Monday night. They asked terrific questions. She and her team would be happy to attend future meetings.

Shannon Scully shared information on how the Committee can logistically go back to in-person meeting. The Board of Health has strongly suggested that we meet in a larger room, i.e. auditorium but neither the Old Town Hall or the World War II Memorial Auditorium have the ability to televise live meetings right now. We will need Andover TV to work with us and other boards on this. They are consumed with planning for Annual Town Meeting right now, so we'll need to table until after September 12th.

B. Public Input

Re-opening and Field Naming comments will be shared under the appropriate agenda items.

C. Response to Public Input

D. Education

1. Update on School Reopening Plans

The Superintendent and Asst. Superintendents Sandy Trach and Sara Stetson provided an update on the plan to reopen the schools. They are intensively working on the selection of hybrid/remote learning models for students. A great deal of work will be conducted over the next week to ten days.

Results of the registration selection for hybrid/remote learning were shared by Sandy Trach. The registration closed last night and the form was sent to Aspen primary contacts from August 13-August 18th.

The graphs of the survey showed the following:

District: 77.5% selected the Hybrid Model and 22.5% selected the Remote Academy.

AHS: 83% selected the Hybrid Model and 17% selected the Remote Academy.

MS: 77.7% selected the Hybrid Model and 22.3% selected the Remote Academy.

Pre-K –Elem: 73.6% selected the Hybrid Model and 26.4% selected the Remote Academy.

Transportation for PK-6: 61.6% will provide alternate transportation.

Principals have been asked to call parents who have not responded yet to the survey.

Sara Stetson and Nicole Kieser have been working very hard constructing the APS Return to School Website. The site includes a large amount of information covering many topics and will be updated frequently.

Students who were not registered prior to the survey have been placed in the hybrid model. Parents should contact their school principal for more information. Principals will also be communicating information the week of August 31st. Questions have come up about a K-5 meet and greet which the elementary principals are working on. Kindergarten Screening will be held September 17th by appointment only using a sign-up tool, the start date for Kindergarten is September 21st for both hybrid and remote. The information to contact principals with questions will be posted on website.

Professional Development has been scheduled for teachers for the ten days prior to re-opening and includes extensive training to support the Hybrid and Remote Plans.

Rita Casper reported that DESE has aligned some of their protocols with the Department of Health today. There were a few minor's changes; close contacts, if there is a positive case in all grades, the quarantine guidelines will apply for individuals within a 6' distance and a 15-minute contact. Each school will have a quarantine room. There is a requirement that all students come to school with all of their up-to-date immunizations

but DESE has provided a 60-day grace period. We are holding off on hearing/vision screenings for now.

Steve Chinosi reported on the professional development opportunities offered through Schoology for the beginning of the teachers' return.

School Committee Questions:

DESE is requiring all students to be vaccinated by December 31st which also applies to students in the Remote Academy. Will School Flu Clinics be offered? *Rita Casper has had preliminary conversations with the Board of Health on this, no decision has been reached yet.*

Will we meet the obligation of teaching our students no matter what model is chosen and could this information be put on the website? *They are different models and students will respond differently; we will do the best to do what we can. Our intention is to have quality education no matter which model students are in.*

People have lots of questions and want information. Would the Committee go back to holding informal meetings? *The School Committee will be discussing when to hold informal meetings again.*

People are concerned about the alignment of the remote schedule and following the schedule of a class that is happening somewhere else. Please consider de-coupling those schedules. *Sandy Trach said the Hybrid Model and Remote Academy were designed to create synchronous opportunities. We did not envision the Remote Academy to be completely separate.*

There have been questions regarding the structure of the schedule and why does it need to mirror so closely to the Hybrid Schedule. *Remote learning will be more continuous learning without waiting for the Hybrid to transition. We are doing the best to be sure all core and content areas are taught, along with lunch and breaks, etc. The elementary functioning on 2-tiers of bussing remains the same. We are trying to maintain a parallel structure.*

Operational questions are not in the purview of the School Committee. Logistical issues should be directed to Dr. Berman and the administration. Most of the answers to questions can be found on the APS webpage.

Public Questions on Re-Opening Plans were read by Dr. Berman.

A memo was submitted advocating for a phased-in re-opening start with remote learning. *The School Committee has received the memo. Information on operational questions is available on the website.*

When will we know what classes/cohorts the students are going to be assigned to? *We are working to provide the information the week of August 31st.*

Can you confirm that staff will wear appropriate PPE apparel? *Masks are required, shields are generally used if there is a risk of splashing of any kind of body fluids. The District has purchased an enormous amount of PPE materials. All teachers and students are required to bring their own masks.*

Questions on Sports: Please contact the Athletic Director, Bill Martin at william.martin@andoverma.us

Please send out a survey to parents on a phased-in hybrid. *The Committee could consider that, but that was not one of the opportunities DESE offered.*

2. Hiring additional staff due to School Reopening Plans

COO Steve Nembirkow presented a proposal for hiring additional staff in the Nursing and Custodial Departments due to Covid 19 and school reopening plans. The Superintendent recognizes the need for this additional staff. Funding will come from the Federal grants.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire: three (3) substitute nurses, three (3) additional custodians, and a Custodial Supervisor as presented. Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, and S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

E. Continuing Business

1. Field Naming Proposal

The School Committee received a proposal in July on naming the field behind Doherty Middle School in the Playstead area in honor of former State Senator Susan Tucker, her husband Michael who has been a pillar of the community, and their sons, Mark and David Tucker, who were both star athletes and played in this field. There is no existing name for this field and naming of the field comes under the authority of the School Committee.

Susan McCready read statements submitted on this request including those who disagree with changing the name.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee in accordance with Policy FF, vote to name the Track and enclosed field behind Doherty Middle School and within the World War I Memorial (Andover Playstead) as the "Tucker Family Field". The motion was seconded by Susan McCready. Roll call: T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, P. Murphy-N, and S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 4-1.

F. End of Year Financials

COO Steve Nembirkow has reviewed the EOY Financials with the Superintendent and Staff Accountant. Janet Wright for FY-20. The 2020 books are now closed. There is a request for funds from the salary account to be transferred to the expense account.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a request by the Business Office to transfer June 30, 2020 unencumbered funds from the Salary Expense Account to the General Expense Account in the amount of \$207,442,27. The motion was seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: T. Spruce-Y, P. Murphy-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, P. Murphy-Y, and S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

2. FY21 Budget

The Town Manager has indicated that, due to Chapter 70 funding remaining at the FY20 level and positive town revenue information, the School Committee will no longer be asked to reduce the FY-21 budget. In addition, school capital projects will be restored to their proposed level.

F. New Business

1. Policy Updates, first reading, no action taken.

- a. ACAB – Sexual Harassment
- b. EBCFA – Face Coverings
- c. EBC: Supplemental: General Interim Policy on Covid Related Issues (HOLD)

The policy subcommittee met on Friday, August 14th to review policies that relate to the School Reopening Plans. Susan McCready reviewed the reasons for changes to current ACAB and reasons for adopting EBCFA as recommended by the policy subcommittee.

ACAB: The U.S. Department of Education has adopted new Title IX regulations which require changes to policy ACAB. Our legal counsel reviewed and created a revised policy it has recommended for adoption. The Massachusetts Attorney General has joined her counterparts in other states in filing a lawsuit to block the implementation of these regulations. Unless and until a Court orders a stay of the proposed regulations, school districts must comply.

EBCFA: Adopted from a MASC template written using guidance from the State and the Centers for Disease Control and is intended to provide districts with a model for requiring face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy subcommittee modified the policy with input from district administrators, local department of health officials, and legal counsel.

G. Consent Agenda N/A

H. Adjournment

At 9:25 P.M. Susan McCready moved that the School Committee adjourn from the meeting of Wednesday, August 19, 2020. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: L. Conoscenti-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully- Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary