



ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SC ROOM Key: *I.O.* = Information Only; *A.R.* = Action Request

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM

** Please note that public comment – either during the Public Input agenda item or on specific agenda topics – should follow School Committee [policy BEDH](#) *Public Comment at School Committee Meetings* and [policy BEDH-E](#) *Guidelines for Public Comment*, including limiting remarks to 3 minutes.**

I. School Committee Meeting – Open Session

6:00 PM

Motion and vote to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for the following purposes:

- Purpose (3): to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with unionized personnel, namely the Andover Education Association (AEA)-Unit A; Andover Administrators Association (Unit B); Andover Assistants-Unit B; Andover Educational Secretaries Association (AESA)-Unit C; SEIU Local 888-Andover School Food Service; because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. The Committee will reconvene at approximately 7PM in Open Session.

II. Resume Regular SC Meeting

7:00PM

A. Moment of Silence/Salute to Flag

B. Recognitions/Communications

- i. Division 1: State Champions AHS Girls Basketball

C. Public Input

(limited to 10 minutes total; if more time is required, Public Input will resume after New Business)

D. Response to Public Input

E. Education

1. RULER Update – Jason Levene, Program Coordinator, Social Emotional Learning
2. Presentations by Jennifer Starr, Exec. Director, Technology Integration and Digital Learning
 - a. Library Media Specialist Role
 - b. Library Media Materials Policy and Procedures for Challenged Materials

F. New Business

1. School Choice Hearing and Vote A.R.
2. Memorandum of Agreement: SEIU Local 888 Andover School Food Service A.R.
3. FY24 Proposed Fees Reduction A.R.
4. Private School Tuition PrePayment A.R.
5. Budget Transfer Request A.R.
6. Financials (March) A.R.

This is the SC posted agenda for the upcoming meeting to the best of our knowledge at the time of posting; however, other agenda items may arise; therefore, the SC reserves the right to discuss additional items if merited.

The mission of the Andover Public Schools, in partnership with the entire Andover community, is to educate by engaging and inspiring, students to develop as self-reliant, responsible citizens who are thinkers, problem solvers, and contributors prepared to participate in an evolving global society.

G. Consent Agenda

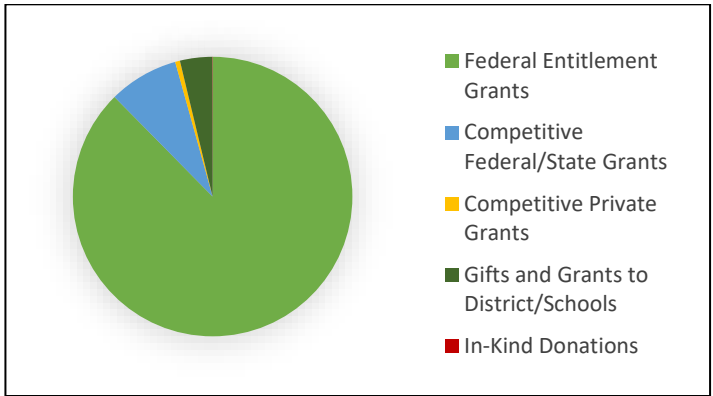
A.R.

1. Grants/Donations to District
2. SC Meeting Minutes: Minutes from prior meetings

H. Adjournment

FY23 Andover Public Schools Grants and Contributions

School Committee Meeting
May 4, 2023



		Budget
Grants & Contributions for School Committee Approval		
District	ACE via ECCF for Spring 2023 Teacher Innovation Fund (TIF) Grants	\$ 10,949.45
District	The Andona Society for Tents for the Special Olympics Program	\$ 500.00
High Plain Elementary	Committee for Children to Support SEL and Summer Reading	\$ 500.00
		\$11,949.45

		Budget
Federal Entitlement Grants		
District	ESSER II (expires 9/2023)	\$ 304,392.00
District	ESSER III (expires 9/2024)	\$ 1,254,539.00
District	IDEA American Rescue Plan (expires 9/2023)	\$ 396,998.00
District	IDEA Early Childhood American Rescue Plan (expires 9/2023)	\$ 36,996.00
District	Title I (Salaries: \$146,798 - Operational: \$1,944)	\$ 148,742.00
District	Title IIA (Salaries: \$20,400 - Operational: \$51,430)	\$ 71,830.00
District	Title III (Salaries: \$24,105 - Operational: \$3,200)	\$ 27,305.00
District	Title IV (Salaries: \$10,799 - Operational: \$0)	\$ 10,799.00
District	IDEA Special Education Entitlement Grant (Salaries: \$1,394,654 - Operational: \$265,054)	\$ 1,659,698.00
District	IDEA Special Education Early Childhood (Salaries: \$29,344)	\$ 29,344.00
		\$ 3,940,643.00
Competitive Federal/State Grants		
Andover High School	State Treasurer's Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant (Credit for Life)	\$ 2,500.00
District	DESE Competitive: Civics Teaching and Learning Grant	\$ 34,000.00
District	Comprehensive School Health Services Grant (Installment 4/4)	\$ 100,000.00
District	DESE Targeted: My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) Development & Implementation Grant	\$ 4,500.00
District	DESE Competitive: Genocide Education Grant	\$ 40,000.00
District	DESE Competitive: Math Acceleration Academies Grant	\$ 81,760.00
District	DESE Competitive: High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) Implementation Grant	\$ 100,000.00
		\$ 362,760.00
Competitive Private Grants		
District	Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors for SEL in Action (Installment 2 of 2)	\$ 25,000.00
Gifts & Grants to District		

District	ACE via ECCF for Fall 2022 Teacher Innovation Fund (TIF) Grants	\$ 12,592.00
District	Tides Center: Mini Grant for 5 Staff Members to attend the Innovative Schools Learning Excursion at Casco Bay High School	\$ 3,750.00
		\$ 16,342.00
<i>Gifts & Grants to Individual Schools</i>		
Bancroft Elementary	Bancroft School PTO for Music Room AV Upgrades	\$ 15,000.00
High Plain Elementary	High Plain Elementary PTO for New Playground Project	\$ 30,000.00
High Plain Elementary	The Andona Society to support Social Emotional Learning Program	\$ 1,500.00
South Elementary School	American Online Giving Foundation - Donation	\$ 175.00
West Elementary School	Rotary Club of Andover for Books	\$ 619.46
West Middle Schools	AEOP & eCYBERMISSION for StopFire Brigade STEM-in-Action Grant	\$ 4,999.88
Wood Hill Middle School	The Andona Society for Grade 6 Science Program Change is Simple	\$ 2,000.00
APS Middle Schools	ACE via ECCF for Glowforge Laser Cutters for Middle Schools	\$ 18,870.00
APS Middle Schools	ACE via ECCF for <i>On the Same Page</i> Author Visit Program	\$ 41,465.00
Andover High School	Rotary Club of Andover for Name Tags for Presentation	\$ 250.00
Andover High School	Andover High School PAC: Sea Perch/Dance Team	\$ 1,000.00
Andover High School	United Technologies Corp. (Raytheon): Donation in honor of Lindsey L'Ecuyer	\$ 1,000.00
Andover High School	Andover High School PAC - Various Clubs	\$ 1,975.00
Andover High School	Service Club of Andover - Speaker Fee	\$ 500.00
Andover High School	Andover High School PAC for Teacher Wish List Grantees	\$ 4,219.00
Andover High School	ACE via ECCF for STEM Equipment	\$ 13,766.00
Andover High School	Andover Vocal Music Association: Targeted Donation for Show Choirs	\$ 5,000.00
Andover High School	Digital Federal Credit Union (DCU) for Andover High School Student Scholarships	\$ 7,500.00
Andover High School	Andover High School PAC for Teacher Wish List Grantee	\$ 500.00
Andover High School	Teradyne, Inc. for AHS Robotics Club	\$ 1,000.00
		\$ 151,339.34
<i>In-Kind Donations</i>		
Transition Opportunities Program (TOP)	In-Kind Donation: Frigidaire 17.6 cu. ft. French Door Refrigerator from Home Depot	\$ 1,498.00
TOTAL GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS		\$ 4,493,832.34

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 2, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. McCready, Chair
L. Conoscenti

T. Spruce, Vice Chair
S. Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: E. DiCesaro
OTHERS PRESENT: M. Parvey, Superintendent
K. Taverna, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration
J. Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Sophia Miele, SGA student representative

II. Public Hearing – FY24 Recommended School Budget

Ms. McCready opened the School Committee Public Hearing on the FY24 Recommended Budget. Ms. McCready stated that the notice of the public hearing was published in the Andover Townsman.

Dr. Parvey presented the FY24 Recommended School Budget and reviewed the timeline of the budget presentations to the School Committee. The FY24 Recommended Budget totals \$99,600,924 (3.75% increase) and does not include the \$1.5 million Circuit Breaker reserve.

Data driven analysis was used to analyze the current performance data, staffing and enrollment to strategically allocate staff and maximize efficiencies. The budget addresses learning gaps, targeted support based on identified needs, provides structure to promote continuous professional learning and curriculum, supports special education students and programming, and responds to enrollment changes. Major initiatives for FY24 expand coaching, include curriculum development, the new Middle School schedule, and expand support for students with emotional and behavioral needs. The FY24 Recommended Budget also includes the addition of a District Registrar/Program Coordinator (Pre-K-8), and an increase in transportation services.

The FY24 Recommended Budget leverages the ESSR funds and grants. Chapter 70 aid was reviewed. The Chapter 70 aid goes into the Town Fund, not the School Department funds.

Out of district placements were reviewed. Mr. Taverna added that the \$1.5 million of Circuit Breaker reserve will be used to offset the out of district placement costs in FY24.

Class sizes were reviewed. The average class size in elementary remains at 21 students.

The highlights of the FY24 Recommended Budget are a 3.75% increase, it meets all the obligations, meets education and curriculum requests, maintains budgets for student activities, maintains reductions in student fees, leverages ESSR funds and grants, special education reorganization and includes the hiring of a District Registrar/Program Coordinator.

FY24 Level Service drivers were reviewed including primary obligations and offsets and costs savings in the budget.

FY24 Budget Summary was reviewed with itemized expenses of investments.

FY24 Salary and Non-Salary obligations were itemized and reviewed.

FY24 Student Services obligations were itemized and reviewed which include the circuit breaker reserve.

FY24 Special Education programming and reorganization were reviewed.

FY24 Core Curriculum was reviewed and the costs.

Ms. McCready closed the public hearing for the FY24 Recommended School Budget.

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

Ms. McCready, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of March 2, 2023, to order at 7:06pm in the School Committee Conference Room. She asked to remember the families of two APS staff members who recently passed.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey's Administrative Updates included her school visits at Doherty Middle School with guest speaker Ellen Oh, Andover High School DEI Student Advisory Council, West Elementary "Dress As Your Favorite Teacher" day, Congressman Moulton visited Andover High School students.

School Drop-Ins with APS staff continue with the second round of visits beginning March 30th.

Dr. Parvey met with Senator Finegold, attended Andover High School Bi-Weekly project team meeting, attended the Adaptive Leadership Network meeting, Andover High School Building Committee Meetings, and will attend the Tri-Board meeting on March 4th.

Dr. Riley attended the ELPAC Breakfast and thanked the teachers for attending tonight's meeting.

Mr. Taverna attended the signing of the beam by the West Elementary students for the topping off ceremony.

Ms. Spruce also attended the ELPAC Breakfast which had a great turnout of staff and families. She thanked Colleen Billings for her engaging presentation. The Talking Points App was discussed which is a translation app for text and email and contains 125 languages. High Plain Elementary parents have a group who meets to help parents with English learning and understanding the basics of how APS works. The HS Athletic winter teams were recognized for their success.

Dr. Conoscenti attended the meeting with Congressman Moulton and the students asked challenging and engaging questions. The Andover High School Building Committee meeting was held today, and the Campus 2 with Auditorium model was voted to move forward. The cost estimate is being worked on for a global overview. The timeline was discussed at the meeting between new construction and a renovation. The next Community Meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 7:00pm. A survey was sent out to the community for feedback and can be found on the Building Project page.

Mr. Wright informed the School Committee that an informal School Committee forum was held Tuesday with Dr. Conoscenti. There was a good turnout for the virtual meeting. High School transition was discussed and the supports provided, out of district enrollment questions, and parents appreciate the communication from the District. He also attended the meeting with Congressman Moulton and the questions from the students were thoughtful and had depth.

Sophia Miele informed the School Committee that the students have strong comments regarding the recent bell change. A petition is being circulated with 180 signatures to revert the bell schedule and increase IA pay. Sophia read the petition into the record.

C. Public Input – None.

D. Response to Public Input – None.

E. Education

- 1. Presentation: Middle School Update/NELMS** – Dr. Riley thanked the Middle School Principals for attending and their work on this project. She reviewed the timeline of meetings held to date with monthly meetings with NELMS, Zoom and in-person meetings. The Middle School Schedule Review process is being done in partnership with NELM with guiding documents and foundational research, meetings with NELM and collecting feedback from schools, students and the community. Whole district assessment research was reviewed including US Department of Education, Middle School Journal and Research on Adolescent Development, NCTM, NCTE, STEM. There is a lot of research available regarding adolescent development. Patrick Bucco added that there are conversations about what is being done well, what is not being done well and these conversations continue. Tim Corkery reviewed the 5 Essential Attributes and 18 characteristics of a Middle School education. The Essential Attributes are Equitable, Engaging, Empowering, Challenging and Responsive. He reviewed what each attribute encompassed. Robin Wilson stated that they are taking the COVID experience and infusing new learning into the culture, daily life and reestablishing ourselves into the “Where Everyone Belongs” and the power it has for Middle School students. Dr. Riley shared feedback from the survey and the feedback received was good. The next steps include continued monthly meetings with NELM, feedback sessions, Middle School teams will meet to develop schedule draft and then bring the Middle School teams back together in Fall 2023 for implementation in the 2024/2025 school year. Mr. Wright asked if parent feedback for both incoming and current parents was received. Engaging conversations are happening with the data of what the kids need, and concerns are addressed in the feedback received.

F. New Business

1. FY24 Warrant Articles

Article P4: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P4 as presented was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article P5: 2024 Capital Projects Fund

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P5 as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article P6G: Fiscal Year 2024 Revolving Accounts.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record and reviewed the accounts pertaining to the School Committee.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P6G as presented was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article P9E&F: General Housekeeping Articles and Accepting Easements.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Articles P9E and PF as presented was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article P12: Granting Easements.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P12 as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article P19: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Projects from General Fund Borrowing.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record and advised that School 5 includes major school projects.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P19 as presented was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article 20: Capital Projects From Free Cash.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record and advised that IT2 is the annual student device refresh.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P20 as presented was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article P23: Memorandum of Understanding -Foster Care Transportation.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record. Mr. Taverna added that this authorizes the signing of the MOU to enable the Town to access reimbursement for foster care transportation expenses.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P23 as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 4-0.

Warrant Articles P24, P25, P27, and P28 are tabled to March 16, 2023.

Article P30: Shawsheen School.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record. Town Manager Andrew Flanagan informed the School Committee that in 2015, Town Meeting petitioned the legislature to transfer the Shawsheen School building from the School Department to the Select Board due to a deed restriction on the building when gifted to the Town. Only Special Legislation can allow this to happen. The legislature passed it, but the deed had to be changed requiring the current petition. There are no imminent plans for the building. After approval, the Town Building Committee will work with a consultant and community discussions will take place to analyze the function of the existing building. We are hoping to get this going over the summer.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P30 as presented was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 4-0.

Article P31: Andover High School Schematic Design.

Ms. McCready read the Warrant Article into the record. Mark Johnson informed the School Committee that the Warrant Article has been revised and only asking for \$1.3 million and no other action. The feasibility study is ongoing, and a recommendation will be made to the Select Board. The Town Meeting vote to fund the schematic design is next and when the design is done, costs will be in place for a Town Meeting vote in January 2024 for funding of the construction.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P31 as presented and modified was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 4-0.

2. Stipends: RULER and District Curriculum Member.

Dr. Riley reviewed the internal posting for RULER to facilitate the ability of all five of our schools to attend RULER training for social emotional methodology and practice and cohesive K-12 plan. The first 5 schools will attend training in April. Dr. Riley reviewed the work being undertaken by the Middle School and Elementary.

3. Financials

Mr. Taverna reviewed the January financials with updated numbers, and we are still on track to end the year balanced. The bus contracts are upcoming, and we are prepaying upcoming tuitions.

G. Continued Business

1. FY24 Budget Development Assumptions

Mr. Taverna updated the FY24 Budget Development Assumptions document and reviewed the changes. He handed out updated Chapter 70 information. Page 2 contained updated information for long range planning. Page 6 was updated for increases in utilities in expenses. When he reconciled actual vs. projected, there are adequate funds in those accounts. Page 7 contains the updated Chapter 70 anticipated revenue. Ms. McCready added that Chapter 70 is educational state aid, and all of those funds go into the Town funds then are allocated to the School budget which protects the District budget in case there is a decrease leaving a shortage in the budget. Mr. Taverna reviewed the Chapter 70 increases and funding. Ms. McCready informed the School Committee that the Finance Committee appreciates the Budget Development Assumptions and guideline documents.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the revised FY24 Budget Development Assumptions as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 4-0.

2. Policy Updates – Second Readings

a. Section D – Policies on Fiscal Management

b. Policy KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools

This is the second reading of the policies which were reviewed by Ms. Spruce at the February 16, 2023 meeting. There have been no additional changes.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed policies – Section D, selected policies on fiscal management, and Policy KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools, as presented was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 4-0.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Donations/Grants to Bancroft Elementary from Bancroft School PTO for music room AV upgrade in the amount of \$15,000.
2. Minutes for January 19, 2023 and December 7, 2022 Tri-Board meeting.

A motion that the Andover School Committee approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 4-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the Andover School Committee meeting at 8:35pm by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 4-0.

Submitted By: _____ Approved _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary Date

Per the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the following is a list of documents that were either distributed to the Andover School Committee before the meeting in the packet or at the meeting.

1. Agenda
2. Elementary Math and Coaching
3. MS Schedule/NELMS Update
4. FY24 Warrant Articles
5. RULER and District Curriculum Member Job Descriptions
6. Consent Agenda
7. Policy Updates Section D and Policy KCD

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 6, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. McCready, Chair
L. Conoscenti
E. DiCesaro
T. Spruce, Vice Chair
S. Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Parvey, Superintendent
K. Taverna, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration
J. Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Daniel Shin, SGA student representative

II Reorganization – Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2023-2024

Ms. McCready stated that the first School Committee Meeting after Town Elections is the reorganization meeting to elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson for the term of one year. The newly elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will take office at the first regularly scheduled School Committee meeting after Town Meeting.

Election of Chairperson

Ms. McCready asked for a motion to elect a new Chairperson.

A motion that Ms. Spruce be elected as Chairperson of the Andover School Committee effective at the conclusion of the 2023 Town Meeting was made by Dr. Conoscenti and seconded by Mr. Wright.

Ms. McCready asked Ms. Spruce if she was willing to accept the nomination. Ms. Spruce agreed to accept.

Roll call Vote: S. Wright – yes L. Conoscenti – yes S. McCready – yes
T. Spruce – abstain E. DiCesaro – yes

Election of a Vice Chairperson

Ms. Spruce, as nominated Chairperson asked for a motion to elect a new Vice Chairperson.

A motion that Dr. Conoscenti be elected as Vice Chairperson of the Andover School Committee effective at the conclusion of the 2023 Town Meeting was made by Ms. Spruce and seconded by Mr. Wright.

Ms. Spruce asked Dr. Conoscenti if she was willing to accept the nomination. Dr. Conoscenti agreed to accept.

Roll call Vote: S. Wright – yes L. Conoscenti – abstain S. McCready – yes
T. Spruce – yes E. DiCesaro – yes

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

Ms. McCready, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of April 6, 2023, to order at 7:15pm in the School Committee Conference Room.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey's Administrative Updates included her school visits at Andover High School for Step-Up Day for Doherty Middle School 8th graders, attending World Autism Day at Shawsheen and attending Beauty and the Beast at West Elementary. She also visited a South Elementary Social Studies class who was studying the history of Andover, Wood Hill Middle School for the Trial of Julius Caesar, Sanborn Elementary Staff Focus Group for the Principal search, Andover High School Drama Guild "*Advice for Astronauts*", the Read Aloud Program at Bancroft Elementary School and attended the production of The Addams Family at Doherty Middle School.

Dr. Parvey's Administrative Updates included a review of the Andover High School Building Committee meetings, the PAC meeting at Doherty Middle School, AEA monthly meeting, attending the Project Bread Forum as a panelist regarding universal free meals, and Institute for Learning hosted learning walks for the Middle School math program. Dr. Parvey held office hours on Saturday, March 25th in person and a few parents attended. The next office hours will be held virtually in May. The Data Wise training for leadership is continuing. Dr. Parvey attended a meeting for the Equity Audit which will take place in the fall. She also attended the swearing in of the Town and School officials and congratulated Dr. Conoscenti on her reelection to the School Committee.

Drop Ins with APS staff continue. The second round will begin next week with Andover High School, High Plain Elementary, Shawsheen Preschool, West Middle School South Elementary, Bancroft Elementary, Wood Hill Middle School and West Elementary.

Dr. Parvey congratulated Donna Ruseckas who received the MA Association for Health, PE, Recreation and Dance Award known as the Joseph McKenney Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Riley thanked the students who participated in sports events, theater, arts and Sean Walsh for all of his work. MCAS are underway. The Institutional Self Evaluation through the Department of Education and Data Wise protocols continue. Title IV and Anti-Bullying training for students has taken place.

Mr. Taverna attended Moana Jr. at South School as well as the All-District Band concert and both were very well done. He had lunch with Ms. Allen's 5th grade class at High Plain Elementary. The students expressed their concerns about lunch. Andover High School Financial Simulation took place as a precursor for Credit for Life and was a great success.

Ms. DiCesaro also attended the All-Bands concert which ran very smoothly and was enjoyable. She also attended The Wizard of Oz at Bancroft Elementary and participated in the Community Read Long Program.

Ms. Spruce stated that the Andover ELPAC meeting is tomorrow at 9:30am in the School Committee Meeting Room. The next informal School Committee forum is scheduled for

April 27th at 7:00pm and will be virtual. Ms. Spruce congratulated the Andover Girls Basketball team on winning state championship. She also acknowledged the show choir competition which included show choirs from around the country coming to Andover High School to perform. Ms. Spruce congratulated the Drama Guild who competed in the finals of the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild Competition.

Dr. Conoscenti attended the production of *The Addams Family* at Doherty Middle School as well as *Moana Jr.* She also attended the All-Strings Night which was wonderful. There have been a number of Andover High School Building Committee Meetings.

Mr. Wright participated in the Read Along Program at Bancroft Elementary and he promised to share the student's suggestion of no homework. The students are doing a research project about not having homework and will share it with the School Committee. He attended the DEI Community Outreach at the Oak & Iron with Women in Business Leaders. Sophia Miele was the moderator at the event, and it was an inspiring experience. An informal School Committee forum was held April 1st at Memorial Hall Library with a small group of parents attending. The feedback was shared with Dr. Parvey and Principals who are following up.

Daniel Shin presented a statement drafted by the students regarding the construction and renovation of the high school. The students support the full reconstruction of the high school building and he read the statement to the School Committee. The students are concerned with the disruption due to construction.

Also, the Andover High School Quiz team is in the semi-finals of the High School Quiz Show.

Ms. McCready acknowledged the artwork on display at Central Office from all the Middle Schools. Art from Andover High School is on display at the Robb Center. She attended the Trial of Julius Caesar and two Credit for Life events for municipal budget simulation and the 6th Credit For Life Fair held at the high school for seniors. Ms. McCready thanked everyone involved with the events.

- C. Public Input** – Kevin Coffey, 1 Stafford Lane, asked the Committee to share specific measures of educational outcomes of the student achievement and the preparedness used to monitor the effectiveness of our school system. He is concerned that the ranking of APS has declined over the past 20 years. The Andover High School building project cost is high and asked if improving academics is an outcome of this expenditure. He believes the commitment should be to the educators, students, support staff and materials. Kerri Costello, AHS Student Government Association, thanked the Student Government reps who helped draft the statement. Andover High School had two students attend Student Government Day at the State House.
- D. Response to Public Input** – Dr. Conoscenti addressed the rankings comment by stating that there are a number of ranking services that take into account the condition of facilities.

Andover High School does not do well when ranked on facilities but does very well in other categories.

Ms. McCready added that Dr. Parvey often provides information on the success of APS and the data measured during School Committee meetings.

E. Education - None

F. New Business

1. Field Trips:

a. **WHMS 7th grade students to Camp Kieve-October 2023.** Patrick Bucco presented the field trip to the School Committee. The students will be traveling October 2-6, 2023. This is a leadership school to build skills for problem solving, relationships, making smart choices, etc. There is financial aid available to families assisting with the cost of the trip.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Wood Hill Middle School students to travel to Camp Kieve in Nobleboro, Maine from October 2-October 6, 2023 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” was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

b. **AHS Andover Fine Arts to New York-April 2024.** Sean Walsh presented the field trip to the School Committee. The students will be attending and performing at the Heritage Festival in New York City from April 11-April 14, 2024. The itinerary was reviewed including a possible college visit on the way to New York City, a Broadway play, performances, mini-clinics and comments and sightseeing. Performing at cultural sights promotes a stronger social and emotional connection for the students. A parent information session will be held. 10:1 student/guardian ratio for this trip. There is financial aid available for families. Ms. Spruce reviewed the fundraising guidelines.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for the Andover High School Fine Arts students to travel to New York City from April 11-April 14, 2024 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” was made by Ms. DiCesaro, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

2. Presentation: Debt Limit & AHS Building Project – Patrick Lawlor presented to the School Committee on the Debt Limit. He informed the Committee that exempt debt is what would be used for funding the AHS building project.

Debt service is payments related to principal and interest for borrowing. 13% of the average 2024 single family real estate tax bill is allocated to debt service. There are 3 categories of Debt Service: Non-Exempt Debt (General Fund) for capital improvement projects, Exempt Debt which is excluded from Proposition 2½ and approved at Town Meeting and at the ballot, and Enterprise Fund Debt like water and sewer.

Debt limit is governed by MGL Chapter 44, section 10 which limits a town's authorized indebtedness to 5% of the full and fair cash value of real property in a community. Andover's current debt limit is \$510 million with \$101 million of qualified debt, resulting in \$409 million available in debt capacity. There is certain debt that is outside the debt limit such as water and sewer, landfill capping, school building projects in partnership with MSBA and debt specified by legislation. The biggest debts taken on by towns are school projects. The school projects without MSBA funding must be funded within the debt limit.

Exempt debt service, reserved excess levy capacity, and unused excess levy capacity was reviewed. Exempt debt has a dedicated funding source from property taxes which expires when the debt is fully amortized. Debt exclusion requires approval at Town Meeting and at the ballot box. Debt exclusions are used for larger projects or initiatives that cannot be funded through CIP or other funding sources. Mr. Lawlor reviewed the projects remaining under debt exclusion, when they will be fully amortized, and how they impact the average single family real estate tax bill.

Ms. DiCesaro asked if it was realistic that the legislature will address the debt limit. Mr. Lawlor informed the Committee that he has been speaking with our legislators about it. Andover is the first community to consider a project that would require borrowing this amount of money without MSBA partnership. There are a few other communities getting close to where Andover is in this process.

Dr. Conoscenti added that other schools have built schools without MSBA funds, such as Brookline and a few others.

Mr. Lawlor stated that any legislative change will not occur until July/August.

Mr. Wright asked if we could apply for MSBA funding? Andover is in the midst of constructing West Elementary/Shawsheen Preschool, so our chances are not very high.

Ms. Spruce stated that it is shown to be less expensive to move forward without MSBA funding due to the extended timeline and rising construction costs.

- 3. Presentation of Recommendation from AHS Building Committee** – Mark Johnson introduced the members of the building committee in attendance. He also reviewed the timeline and schematic design timeline of the building committee which included 74 meetings, 6 community forums, 2 AHS tours, sustainability charrettes, and touring of other high schools. The future demographic of the high school was researched, and it is estimated that 1900 students is the number construction should be based upon. Mr. Johnson reviewed the options discussed at meetings, which option was decided upon, and why it was chosen. Campus 2 with a new Auditorium was unanimously voted as the preferred option.

James Liebman reviewed the timeline for Campus 2 with a new Auditorium. The feasibility phase and cost analysis process were reviewed as well. There was a high-level construction cost information comparison between all 3 options for decision making purposes. The team will use industry standard multipliers to translate preliminary construction cost analysis to rough total project costs. Campus 2 with new Auditorium was the least expensive option. Mr. Liebman reviewed the difference in the cost of the three options discussed. He also reviewed the soft costs and costs broken down by percentage of the total cost. Potential Add-Ons, items the community has expressed they

want to include, were also reviewed and the additional costs. These will be addressed during the schematic design. The building costs being reviewed are current as of March 10, 2023.

The proposed building construction was compared to MSBA guidelines for net square footage. The MSBA guidelines are the standard for what they are willing to reimburse and the building committee expects space in each category to be “right sized”. The Field House would not be included in MSBA guidelines.

The MSBA process is being followed with clear modules starting with the eligibility period, forming a project team, and feasibility study. Schematic design will begin in May 2023.

The construction of Campus 2 with a new Auditorium will take 38 months to construct and will have a low impact to the students. The pros and cons of all three options were reviewed.

Mr. Johnson added that the new building will bring new educational opportunities to the students.

Dr. Conoscenti stated that a lot of community feedback had been received in the past 7-8 months. Families of current students and future high school students shared their thoughts and concern with the length of construction.

Mr. Wright thanked the building committee for their effort in obtaining feedback. He also asked how 1900 students was arrived at.

Joe DeSantis explained that an enrollment study was conducted to determine the enrollment. Historical enrollment, the housing market, etc., were reviewed and 1900 is appropriate.

Mr. Johnson added that there is a push from the Commonwealth to increase housing, so we need to plan for this possibility and future needs to be met. There needs to be flexibility to educate students in the future. The current plan is to plan for 85% utilization rate with room for an increase.

Mr. Wright stated that Andover High School is our flagship school and deserves attention and support for our students. The people in the building make the difference and the building is just as important. We need to be able to provide opportunities that allow all of our students to succeed.

Ms. Spruce thanked the committee for their work and thoughtful process. She supports the Campus 2 with new Auditorium option.

Ms. DiCesaro appreciated the attention to detail and the cost of doing nothing is too expensive to try to maintain the existing building.

Dr. Conoscenti added that the students are our priority, and the existing building is holding them back.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Andover High School Building Committee’s recommendation to move forward with the building project option titled Campus 2 with new Auditorium was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 5-0.

- 4. Universal Free School Meals** – Ms. DiCesaro drafted a proposed resolution for the Committee to consider to express support for universal free school meals. The program was successful in Andover with a high number of participants. This resolution will be

added to the list of towns supporting the program. Mr. Taverna suggested sending a letter to our legislators as written testimony for Andover. Our participation rates are up, and this program removes a barrier. Ms. Spruce agreed the Committee should send the letter to all representatives, senator and governor.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the letter to be sent as written testimony to Andover's elected representatives at the state level for universal free school meals as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 5-0.

- 5. Special Education Funding** – Ms. DiCesaro stated that the 14% tuition rate increase for Out Of District tuition is an unprecedented spike considering the increase over the last 13 years has averaged 2% annually. On March 20, 2023, the Governor signed a bill to address the imminent strain on school budgets which includes \$75 million in reserve for extraordinary relief for school districts. Andover is on the cusp of qualifying for this relief. Ms. DiCesaro drafted a letter stating that the bill is unnecessarily complicated which may leave many districts with no supplemental assistance. Ms. Spruce suggested a correction in the letter, and it be sent to representatives, senator and the Governor.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the letter to be sent to Andover's elected representatives at the state level for special education funding as presented and amended was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Ms. DiCesaro and unanimously approved 5-0.

- 6. Financials** – Mr. Taverna presented the February 2023 financials. We are on track as the previous months. He will review the savings and prepaying tuitions at an upcoming meeting.

G. Consent Agenda

- 1. Grants/Donations to District** – Andover High School from Digital Federal Credit Union for Andover High School scholarships in the amount of \$7,500.
Andover High School from Andover High School PAC for Andover High School Teachers Wish List in the amount of \$500.00.
- 2. Minutes from February 16, 2023 and March 16, 2023.**

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. DiCesaro, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 5-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the Andover School Committee meeting at 9:50pm by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 5-0.

Submitted By: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary

Approved _____
Date

Per the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the following is a list of documents that were either distributed to the Andover School Committee before the meeting in the packet or at the meeting.

1. Agenda
2. WHMS Field Trip
3. AHS Fine Arts Field Trip
4. Debt Overview
5. Andover High School Building Project Update
6. Universal Free Meals Letter
7. Special Education Funding Letter
8. February Financials
9. Consent Agenda