

**Andover School Committee  
Regular Meeting of June 20, 2013**

**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

**Members in Attendance:** Chair Dennis Forgue Paula Colby-Clements, Annie Gilbert, and Barbara L'Italian

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, and Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski

**I. Regular Meeting**

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman Forgue opened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee at 7:09P.M. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Doherty Middle School students Jordan Clements, and Alexandra Scott. On behalf of Committee, Dennis Forgue presented the students with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**B. Recognition/Communications**

Superintendent McGrath commended AHS 2013 Visual Arts Student Josh Allen on winning the 2013 Congressional Art Competition Award and whose painting will hang in the Nation's Capital for one full year. This is a first for AHS and she congratulates Josh on this achievement.

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos recognized DMS Health Teacher Cheryl Todisco and students for notifying Boston.com through a letter campaign that the wording in their article on the study of the health effects of the sun and the UV Tanning Index is incorrect. The correct wording should be the UV Sun Exposure Index. Ron Apeela, Editor of Boston.com responded with a letter to change the wording.

Dennis Forgue recognized the ten West Middle School students who participated in the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Competition winning first place, second place, and Honorable Mention. The students are eligible to move forward in the National Competition.

**1. Healthier US Awards Presentation**

Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski welcomed James Arena-DeRosa, Northeast Regional Administrator of the USDA Food & Nutrition Service, and Kathleen C. Millett, Executive Director of the Office for Nutrition, Health, and Safety Programs of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who are here this

evening to present the Healthy Schools Award to Food Services Director Gail Koutroubas, Assistant Food Services Director Ruthie Olney, and Health & Physical Education Coordinator Brian McNally for accepting the healthy school challenge. Mr. Arena-DeRosa said the challenge requires the collaboration throughout the Town to promote a healthier lifestyle and fight against obesity in children through good nutrition and physical activity.

Andover was presented the Healthy US Bronze Award and has four years to compete for the Silver and Gold Awards. Andover schools received eight awards; more than Boston and Springfield who also received the Healthy US Challenge Award. Certificates were presented to Food Services personnel from Bancroft School, Doherty Middle School, High Plain/ Wood Hill, Sanborn School, South School, and West Elementary School. Andover has a wonderful Food Services Team and Mr. Arena-DeRosa congratulated them on receiving this prestigious award.

**C. Public Input - None**

**D. Education**

1. Update: Bancroft School Project

Annie Gilbert provided an update on the status of the Bancroft School Project and said the School Building Committee achieved a momentous milestone by approving a guaranteed maximum price for the construction of the building which is an amount to not exceed \$40.2M but does not include furnishings, permitting, technology, etc., it is for the building only. She thanked all members of the School Building Committee and parties who have worked on this project for the Town. They are on target to have the building weather tight by August.

**E. Old Business**

1. AHS Student Handbook Proposed Changes- 2nd Reading

AHS Principal Christopher Lord and Assistant Principal Marilyn Jordan reviewed the proposed changes to the AHS Handbook which included but not limited to the Tardiness Policy (pg 22) security requirements for parent/guardian identification (pg 25), the new Academic Honor Code which sets expectations for students to do their own work and own thinking (pgs 38 and 39). Dr. Lord also talked about the new Breathalyzer Policy (pg 41) which was piloted this year and has had positive results so far. The AHS Administrative Team is still working on the NEASC recommendation to include a Community Building Block (matching students with a teacher) and once this is complete they will be able to complete the Bell Schedule.

The AHS Team is also assembling a Master Calendar which will list all activities for 2013.2014. Freshman Orientation will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup> coinciding with the beginning of freshman sports season. Assistant Principal Mark Seide was credited with creating alternatives to reduce the volume of students in the cafeteria and balancing classes by offering four lunches instead of three thereby reducing the overcrowding in the cafeteria.

All grade changes will be completed by September 13<sup>th</sup> which is earlier than previous years and they expect to have student schedules available next week. The schedules will indicate the class only, not teachers or rooms. Guidance Counselors will be on hand all summer to help with students requesting changes.

The School Committee is required to vote on the changes to the Student Handbook which has been posted on the APS website since June 12<sup>th</sup> for comments from the public, the handbook has also been reviewed by School Counsel. Barbara L'Italien asked the vote be deferred to the next meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**F. New Business**

1. AHS Field Trip Request: Chamber Choir - Washington, D.C., April 24 – 27, 2014

Paula Colby-Clements motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for Andover High School students to Washington, D.C. on April 24-27, 2014 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 Barbara L'Italien and voted 4-0 to approve.

2. Greater Lawrence Education Collaborative: Appoint FY 14 Representative

Annie Gilbert motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to appoint School Committee member Barbara L'Italien as the Andover Representative to the Greater Lawrence Education Collaborative (GLEC) Board for the 2013-2014 School Year. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.

**G. Consent Agenda**

1. School Committee Minutes: March 4, April 11, April 25, May 16, 2013 and the Budget Subcommittee Minutes

2. Warrants: Expense Warrants SW1322 and SW1322A and Payroll Warrant 13W051.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert and seconded by Barbara L'Italien, the School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Warrants on the Consent Agenda as presented and to hold on voting on the Minutes until the next meeting.

**H. Adjournment**

At 8:25 P.M. on a motion by Annie Gilbert and seconded by Paula Colby-Clements the School Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of June 20, 2013.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Dee DeLorenzo  
Recording Secretary

Documents: Warrants, AHS Student Handbook