

**ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2014
School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

Members in Attendance: Chair Annie Gilbert, Vice Chair Paula Colby-Clements, Joel Blumstein, David Birnbach, and Barbara L'Italien

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

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairman Annie Gilbert called the Workshop to order at 8:35 A.M. Annie talked to the Committee about the main items they are trying to accomplish in this year's Budget season. The AHS new schedule recently voted on was a topic of looking at costs associated with implementing the new schedule. Dr. McGrath suggested forming a small task force made up of educators and parents to look at different scenarios such as lengthening the school day, etc. David B brought up a study that he and former SC Member, Dennis Fogue, had used to compare Andover to other similar districts in looking at their school hours of operation.

Review draft FY16 Budget Timeline & FY 16 Budget Assumptions – Paul Szymanski handed out to the Committee a proposed budget timeline and budget assumptions based on last year's timeline with some edits/modifications. He pointed out the known factual contractual items such as transportation costs and collective bargaining unit contracts. He also indicated out to the Committee that he had based assumptions on revenue items such as Chapter 70, SPED Circuit Breaker and ECE Tuition on information that he has now. AHS parking fees were another item that would see some reduction because of additional staff parking spots. Expenditures which included operating costs for consumable items were increased by 1.43% - the rate of inflation for FY 16.

Looking at User Fees, Annie asked if athletics, which is a revolving account, could ever be a self-funding item and the answer was that it might be, but that further research needed to be done if it ever were to be. As explained to the committee, user fees are set depending on the school level. Another comment made was that any surplus at the end of the year should be seen as the school department having good management skills, but unfortunately it is not often seen this way. "We don't get credit for good management."

The Strategic Plan Chart was then discussed, a focus on the initiatives was reiterated. David would like to see the library used for some of these accelerated programs. Paul suggested we get estimates and put an amount on this line.

The Curriculum Policy was discussed with some proposed changes from Dr. McGrath. The original one needs to be updated as this was written in 1995. Also the Committee should review the Instructional Philosophy Policy IA and update that as well. After some more discussion, the decision was to review this policy and make some edits to the current policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM

Respectfully,
Alison Phelan,
Committee Recorder