

**ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2015
School Committee Room – School Administration Building**

Members in Attendance: Chair Annie Gilbert, Paula Colby-Clements, Joel Blumstein, David Birnbach, Don Robb

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 SC Meeting to order at 7:00PM. SC Committee Chair Annie Gilbert led the meeting in a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag.

B. Recognition/Communications

Superintendent McGrath acknowledged that the area is now in the middle of many snowstorms and she wanted to thank all the Storm Personnel in the Town for all their help ex: the Police Chief, Town Manager, Director of Public Works, School Custodians, and so many other personnel that she could not all named. She also thanked the staff and parents for their patience during these difficult stormy days. At this point, June 22nd looked to be the last student day but that because it was only early February that date could change a few more times.

Next, Superintendent McGrath told the Committee that the AHS Scheduling Team met today and was still looking at all of the items and timeline to implement the new schedule. With that thought, the joint consensus with the AEA was to delay the implementation of the schedule for the Fall of 2016. However, at subsequent SC meetings, the AHS Scheduling team would be presenting progress updates to the Committee. Committee member, Joel Blumstein applauded this delay and stressed it was the right thing to do so that the schedule could be done right.

Asst. Superintendent Dr. Duclos told the Committee gave the Committee on the Junior Festival and the 30 students who represented Andover. She stated that Program Coordinator Beth Delforge highlighted some of these highlights in her newsletter to the District. Superintendent Dr. McGrath also stated that Brian McNally, Program Coordinator for Health, had also started his own newsletter highlighting some of the “highlights in the health department” throughout the district, so she encouraged all parents to read these newsletters.

Committee member, David Birnbach, gave the Committee an overview of Governor Baker’s transition team. He said that they were meeting actively and that there were 4 major themes which serve as a blueprint and those are 1: increasing college completion; 2) foster innovation and choice; 3) connect school to work; and 4) ensure great teachers to leaders. The focus is to redefine the relationship between state and districts – with more focus on implementation and quality and with less governance, but of course with accountability. Mr. Birnbach stated that this was his quick snapshot of the report but that the report is actually a 50 page report.

C. Public Input

Chairman Gilbert stated that there had been a recent story in the Townsman about Dr. Lord’s departure. She explained that recent changes in Ed Reform stated that there was separation of personnel matters from the School Committee – unless the Superintendent and/or HR Director

disclosed any other information. But in general, the SC had no authority over personnel matters and referred these items to HR and/or the Superintendent of Schools. She also noted that there were many questions that people did not know about the School Committee's authority on certain issues. Therefore, the SC was thinking of creating a FAQ document that would address some of these commonly asked questions (FAQs). Mr. Blumstein volunteered that he would like to draft the document and then get input from the Committee. Committee member, Paula Colby Clements concurred and said that this was a good form of communication with the public.

Jonathan Longley, a retired engineer told the Committee that the high school. He said that the exploring engineering courses at the high school are very popular and he is proud to help the RSVA president. He also said there was a recent article in the Townsman on his own team and he is very proud of them.

Ted Teichert, Dufton Road, referred to the DART Report, pointing out the inconsistency in the reporting of information and asked why the numbers seemed off. Dr. McGrath and other Committee members acknowledged that the school personnel was looking into it and would have a report on why the numbers seemed so off, that it seemed to them there had to be an explanation for it.

Sheena Stack, SEPAC Member and parent, asked questions about the January 23rd quarterly meetings and for details on those meetings. She was told that the meetings were not a public meeting – but rather administrative meetings between the Fincom liaisons, SC rep and SC administrative team. The sharing of information at these administrative meetings was to have a check and balance effect.

Kerry Costello, AEA President, wanted to reiterate the joint consensus decision made between their unit and the Administration and that it was really 2 major groups that reached this consensus together – which is no small undertaking. Ms. Costello also concurred in stating that it was the right thing to do so that this was not a rushed process but a methodically well thought out plan for 2016.

D. Education

Director of Student Service Search Process & Timeline

Ms. Candace Hall, Director of Human Resources, handed out a letter and timeline to the Committee explaining the Student Services search and what that entails. She stated that the HR Department has put out notices on School Spring, DESE and Monster websites.

Jeanne Teichert, Dufton Road, asked how parents would be notified of the search and Ms. Hall responded that there would be a general email thru Blackboard and thru the newsletters from each building principal as well as sending it to the SEPAC group.

March 2015 PARCC & MCAS Testing Overview

Asst. Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Duclos, gave the Committee members and audience an overview through a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming PARCC and MCAS testing dates/venues. The PowerPoint is available on the website for anyone to view. She did stress this is a first time testing period for all so that DESE will most likely be curious to see how all the districts have handled the testing dates. We are most confident that Andover has prepared as well as we can possibly be for these dates. The IT department headed by Paul Puzanghera, CIO, Neil Thomas, Customer Service Manager, and Joanne Najarian, Director Digital Learning were also present to add backup information on Dr. Duclos' presentation about PARCC.

E. New Business

Approval: 5 Year Contract – Ice Use at Lawrence Valley Forum, GLS Rink Management Company
Asst. Superintendent, Paul Szymanski of Finance and Administration, presented to the Committee members his thoughts on the proposed 5 year contract before them for approval. As Mr. Szymanski has been working with Don Doucette, the Athletic Director on this contract this is what it entails:

The background: Ice rinks and available ice time within the Town of Andover is a scarce resource. For the past three years, Don Doucette has worked tirelessly to negotiate ice time at reasonable rates within reasonable distances from the High School. To that end and our good fortune, Don negotiated a five year "Ice Use Agreement" at the Lawrence Valley Forum with the GLS Rink Management Company.

Don summarized the need as follows:

Andover High School currently sponsors four ice hockey teams with about 80 participants

- Boys Varsity and JV
- Girls Varsity and JV

We currently rent ice at three facilities to service the four teams

- Phillips Academy Andover (**Boys JV, Girls Varsity and JV**)
- Breakaway Ice Center in Tewksbury (BIC) (**Girls Varsity and JV**)
- The Lawrence Valley forum (**Boys Varsity**)

At the end of the 2014 hockey season, the Athletic Department was notified by Merrimack College that ice would no longer be available for us to rent in their facility. In 2014 Merrimack College was the home ice for our boys' varsity hockey team.

The only available rink to replace Merrimack College for the 2015 season was the Lawrence valley forum. They had recently had a local high school leave. **They only offered a 5-year contract that had some very positive things for Andover High School:**

- **First**, the practice time was ideal for the Team with practice on most days starting shortly after the end of the school day.
- **Secondly**, the Location is only a short drive from Andover High School to the rink even though it is in Lawrence. It is also easy for our opponents to access as it is right off of 495.
- **Third and finally**, the price per hour was competitive with what we were currently paying with other facilities.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a five year contract for ice use at the Lawrence Valley Forum with GLS Rink Management Company of Lawrence, MA for the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons. The motion was seconded by David Birnbach and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Financials – Quarterly Reports

Asst. Superintendent Paul Szymanski gave the Committee an updated copy of the Quarterly Reports as his office had updated them for the meeting. Mr. Szymanski stated that these quarterly reports would be given to the Committee on a quarterly basis during the SC meeting.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Paul Szymanski said the warrants are in order.

David Birnbach moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda – Warrants as presented. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 4-0 to approve.

2. Minutes: Executive Session Minutes presented to the Committee are Jan. 2014 – Present date.

Joel Blumstein moved to approve the Exec. Minutes from April 2014 to present and to table the January to March Executive minutes for the time being. The motion was seconded by David Birnbach on a 3-0-1 vote. The reason for tabling the Jan. 2014 to March 2014 Exec Minutes is because Mr. Blumstein was not a SC Member at the time and Ms. Colby-Clements had already left the meeting for the evening, thus not allowing the vote to take place for those dates until a future meeting.

H. Adjournment

At 9:45pm on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by David Birnbach, the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn. Roll Call: D. Robb-Y, D. Birnbach-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, J. Blumstein-Y

Respectfully,
Alison Phelan, Committee Recorder