

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, March 24, 2016

I. Members in Attendance:

Chair, Joel Blumstein, Vice-Chair, Susan McCready, Ted Teichert, Shannon Scully, and Paul Murphy

Others in Attendance:

Interim Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent Finance and Administration Paul Szymanski

II. Regular Meeting

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

Acting Chair Joel Blumstein called the Regular Meeting of the Andover School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Recognitions/Communications

The two newly elected School Committee members, Shannon Scully and Paul Murphy, were welcomed to the School Committee by Acting Chair Joel Blumstein. He is excited to have them join the Committee and knows they will be a tremendous addition. Shannon Scully thanked everyone who came out to vote on Tuesday. She is happy to be here and looking forward to serving with the other members of the Committee. Paul Murphy said it is an honor to be elected to serve on the School Committee and he is excited and ready to get to work.

Dr. Berman sent out an announcement tonight on the appointment of Michelle A. Costa as the new Principal for Bancroft School. Michelle taught 1st and 2nd grade in Topsfield for nine years and for the past seven years, she has been the Principal of the Steward Elementary School. Michelle spent the day at Bancroft today and received an enthusiastic welcome. Dr. Berman has invited Michelle to attend the next meeting to meet the School Committee members.

Dr. Berman reported on the productive conversation held with the Finance Committee last night and said the Town Manager is moving the compromise proposal forward to present to the Board of Selectmen on Monday. The next School Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 31st with the major topic being the budget presentation. The School Department is committed to reducing the budget further by \$60K although they have not yet identified where those funds will come from. Susan McCready, also attended last night's meeting, and she too thought it was a good meeting and stated it would be really helpful for all to think of ourselves as a Town collectively discussing the issues.

Upcoming meetings: Chairs of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and the School Committee, Dr. Berman and the Town Manager will continue to meet to refine the budget compromise.

The OPEB Advisory Board will present their recommendations at the March 31, 2016 Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 7:00 P.M. The draft Recommendation Report is available on the Town Website and will be one of the drivers of the conversation over the next few weeks. The Board of Selectmen is also meeting on Monday, March 28 to continue the discussion on the budget.

The Subcommittee and Liaison Assignment List was distributed to the members and explained by Joel Blumstein and he asked the Committee to review the Sub-committee and Liaison list and to contact him if there are any questions.

Ted Teichert suggested assigning a School Committee to act as a liaison to a specific school(s) who would report back to the Committee on school activities.

C. Reorganizing

Susan McCready moved that Joel Blumstein be elected as Chairperson of the Andover School Committee for 2016-2017 effective March 24, 2016. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and unanimously approved.

Joel said the School Committee is a deliberative body; we all take our positions seriously and do a good job of talking through the issues and respecting everyone. The campaign brought out the perception that we are not listening to concerns and the School Committee will continue to improve upon communications and think about how to better foster two-way communications with parents.

Shannon Scully moved that Susan McCready be elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Andover School Committee for 2016-2017 effective March 24, 2016. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and unanimously approved.

Dr. Berman attended International Night at Sanborn School, and it was one of the most impressive events he has ever attended. There were beautiful displays of pride in the countries presented, tables were set up with information on each country, their culture, food, and student performances. The engagement of the Sanborn Community was impressive as was the range of cultures in the school.

D. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense and Payroll

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert, and voted 5-0 to approve.

III. Adjournment

At 7:30 P.M. on a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Teichert-Y, Shannon Scully, and Paul Murphy-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recorder