

**Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes of September 1, 2016**

Members in Attendance: Chair, Joel Blumstein, Vice-Chair, Susan McCready, Ted Teichert, Shannon Scully, and Paul Murphy

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski.

1. Regular Meeting:

A. Call to Order – Opening Ceremonies

Chair Blumstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag.

B. Recognitions/Communications – Opening Day Highlights and Enrollment Numbers

Opening Day: Opening Day at the schools went very well. Dr. Berman and Dr. Duclos toured all the schools and were impressed with the enthusiasm of the students and faculty. A press release on the district wide opening day for faculty was sent out on August 30th and included information on the day's activity and important issues and remarks shared by Dr. Berman.

Bancroft Elementary School has been selected by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) as a new model school, one of twelve across the State of Massachusetts. Bancroft was chosen for its flexibility, efficiency, occupant comfort, cost-effective design, and accommodating 21st century teaching and learning styles. Dr. Berman said the selection by MSBA is a compliment to the individuals involved in designing and building the school.

District wide enrollment numbers for the first day of school totaled 6,043 students. The enrollment numbers were on target for AHS, but slightly under predictions at the middle and elementary levels; however, enrollment numbers are expected to rise over the coming weeks and especially at Sanborn with the recent opening of the Slate Apartment Complex. Enrollment trends show that Andover will experience more significant increases. October 1st is the date the official enrollment numbers are sent to DESE and at that time an enrollment report will be provided to the School Committee along with updated numbers on ELL students and services.

Home Language Surveys are required for new students to determine if they will need English Language Learner (ELL) assistance. The information gathered showed 148 of new students (83 at kindergarten level) have parents who speak another language at home.

Susan McCready, who attended and spoke at the opening day ceremony, said the program was excellent, and from all accounts, the entire day was exceptional. She acknowledged the dedication and hard work of Paul Puzanghera and his IT Team this summer in preparation for the opening of the schools; she overlooked this acknowledgement in her opening comments.

Ted Teichert said a new development was being built on Dascomb Road which would further affect the enrollment at Sanborn School, and he asked for an update on all current and future developments in Town from the Building Dept. He also announced that

Andover Day will be held downtown on Saturday, September 10th.

School Committee Representatives for the Town/School Financial Summit Group will be Joel Blumstein and Shannon Scully.

The recent publication of the Boston Magazine included their annual school rankings. Shannon Scully said the data is very subjective so she created an analysis of the metrics used to ascertain the rankings, which change dramatically from year to year. Two significant measurements used included student/teacher ratio and the number of guidance counselors at the high school. There is some weighting in the data that we are not clear on and questions on methodology used.

Joel Blumstein reminded the School Committee members who may be planning to attend the MASC Conference in Hyannis on Nov 5th that the early-bird rate is available until Sept 15th. Joel also reported that he is preparing a state of the school report that will show where we have been, where we are now, and what the challenges are ahead. The report will be sent out via a Connect 5 message and submitted to the *Townsmen* as an op-ed piece. In addition, the Committee discussed scheduling additional informal School Committee Forums over the next few months. It was agreed that Joel would draft up various dates and times to share with the Committee and then schedule these dates.

C. Opportunity for Public Comment

Peter Otis, 56 Maple Avenue, North Andover and an ELL Teacher in Andover provided an update on the DESE ELL Guidelines on identification of ELL Learners and reported that several of the changes will require additional resources. Peter has emailed the document to the School Committee for their review.

D. Response to Public Comment- none

E. Education

1. Global Pathways Presentation

AHS Guidance Director Aixa de Kelley, Dr. Jorge Allen, Principal Phil Conrad, and Steve Chinosi worked together to create a Global Engagement Summit at AHS this year. Aixa and Jorge provided an insight into the global challenge and cultural activities students participated in. AHS student Domenica Dillon talked about the service learning activities, leadership and team building skills she developed while in Costa Rica this summer participating in the global challenge. Dr. Allen said the global engagement program involves course work, a project, service work, and overseas experience.

2. ELL Language Summer School Peter Otis reported on the ELL summer program for elementary ELL students held over the summer and funded through the Title III grant. The program is designed to develop English proficiency for students in the elementary level, and to promote literacy and engage in enrichment activities. Deirdre Forss oversaw the program and was one of four teachers engaging in activities with the seventy-five students who participated.

3. NEAL Update Fine Arts Program Director, Beth Delforge and Janet P. Ware, Project Facilitator supporting the teacher groups, provided an update to the Committee on the work done by the New England Arts & Literacy (NEAL) program

this past summer. The cohort includes teachers from three school districts: Quaboag Regional School District, Salem Public Schools, and Andover Public Schools and partner with their respective museums; the Springfield Museum, Peabody Essex Museum (PEM), and the Addison Art Gallery, to integrate the arts and increase literacy skills. The 2016 Summer Institute was held at the Peabody Essex Museum in July, and included teachers from grades 3-8. Teachers learned how to engage students in meaningful text through community building, engagement, reflection, documenting, sharing work, and teaming with artists. The theme this summer was 'The Power of Imagination through Simple Machines' supported by the book, "The Boy who Harnessed the Wind" and integrated with the PEM art displays. Teachers will take what they learned at the summer institute and apply it to their own practice. The NEAL team is holding a workshop for Andover Administrators on September 20th after school at Bancroft School. The School Committee is invited to attend.

4. WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) – West Middle School Principal, Becky Franks explained the nationwide Middle School Student Mentor Program pairing 8th grade volunteer students with new incoming 6th grade students. Darlene Ohlenbusch and Cherilyn Adams are the teacher Co-coordinators at WMS, and Stacey Consiglio and Kathy Conti are the Co-coordinators at WHMS, where the program was piloted this year. WEB is a student led transition program for incoming sixth graders, it is a leadership training program with team building activities, development of leadership and discussion skills, as well as a School Community Building Program.

Student WEB Leaders from WMS, Bipasha Ray and Tabitha Maina, along with Aiden Charles and Bella Gervais, the CREW Leaders from WHMS, shared how they personally benefited from participating in the program.

Dr. Berman said the innovative programs presented this evening offer authentic service experiences for students, global perspective, leadership, community and connections. Over the years, Andover students will graduate with richness in learning, providing opportunities that will make students far better qualified going forward.

F. New Business

1. Briefing re New Open Records Law

Larry Murphy, Andover Town Clerk, briefed the Committee on the new legislation relative to the Open Records Law. There has been a comprehensive re-write on public records law (municipalities and state agencies) which will affect how we do business on a daily basis. Every community is required to have a Records Access Officer (RAO) to assist people requesting public records. The Town Manger is the appointing person for the RAO (town or department/division level) and the information will be published on the town website, including contact information, guidelines on how to request public records, and posting requirements. The new provisions go into effect on January 1, 2017. Certain provisions of the statute are open to interpretation. The new provisions allow for 10 business days to respond to a request and the ability to ask for more time. The guidelines include provisions to charge fees for the cost of providing records and encouraged to provide records electronically whenever possible. Penalties for failure to comply can be costly so it is important to properly document requests. There are also new guidelines for responding to what are considered harassment requests.

2. Second Reading – Tailgating Policy

Since the first reading of the policy at the August 25, 2016 School Committee meeting, one change has been made. The term “half time” in paragraph 8 excludes a number of sports that don’t have “half times.” Thus, Section 8 has been changed to state “that tailgating must conclude no later than the conclusion of half time of the game or, for sports that don’t have half times, by the mid-point of the game.”

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee Tailgating Policy be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. FY16 End of Year Financials

Paul Szymanski, Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Administration presented a draft of the FY-2016 financials as of June 30, 2016. From the original appropriated budget including carryovers the School Department is on target and has a zero remaining balance. The Circuit Breaker Fund carry forward for this year is \$1.458M. We cannot speculate what will happen during this school year, as there are concerns on potential out-of-district placements.

Legal expenses for FY15-16 were appropriated at \$300,000 and the total amount expended for Special Education was \$139,929.01 and \$62,291 for non-Special Education legal costs for a total of \$202,220 which included two public records request costing \$14,955. Total legal costs for 2014-15 were \$551,724.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants Payroll #17S0009 and Expense # SW1705
2. Minutes None

On a motion by Ted Teichert and seconded by Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

I. Adjournment

At 9:32 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Shannon Scully, the Andover School Committee adjourned. Roll call: T. Teichert-Y, S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary

Documents: Draft of FY- 2015-2016 YTD Budget Report, Analysis of 2015-2016 and 2014-2015 Legal Services , Class Cohort Analysis, September 1, 2016 Enrollment Report and Summary of ELL students to be screened, Summary of Boston Magazine Metrics. Press Releases: Bancroft School, and Opening Day 2016.