

**Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes of February 15, 2017**

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, and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Nancy Duclos.

I. Regular Meeting

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

Chairman Blumstein called the School Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room located in the School Administration Building. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Recognition/Communications

1. Highlights from around the District

a. ESIC Students – Greenway Presentations

Under the guidance of Steve Goldman, AHS students Isabelle Allen and Kerry Manuel developed a Sustainability Resource Program to revitalize the Shawsheen River Greenway, which is an educational resource for Andover. The students showed a short video and talked about their goal to choose distinct locations along the river to bring awareness to, and distributed a handout of the Junior Ranger Program for third grade students to learn about the river. Next steps include building a partnership between the schools and the Shawsheen Greenway. Dr. Duclos will follow up with Mr. Goldman to talk about curriculum opportunities.

Dr. Berman reported on the lead and copper testing conducted in the schools resulting in the discovery of five water fixtures at West Elementary above the recommended level of lead/copper, and one water fixture above the limit for copper in the basement at Shawsheen. Plant and Facilities took immediate action to remove or cap the fixtures and going forward testing will be conducted on an annual basis. A communication was sent out to parents explaining the test results.

Paul Szymanski reported that a 248 luxury apartment development is being constructed under a Comprehensive Permit under MGL Chapter 40B with Mass Housing as a subsidizing agency at 30 Shattuck Road. The process of clearing the property and construction will begin this spring, with occupancy expected by May 2018.

Susan McCready:

- Received a request from a third grade Brownie Troop to lead the School Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. She will work with Alison to schedule an appropriate meeting date.

- Reported on last week's Town-wide PTO meeting and the update of the FY-18 budget provided by Dr. Berman.
- Andover High School PAC is sponsoring an evening on April 26 at 7:00 P.M. to talk about school budgets and warrants that impact the schools.

Shannon Scully:

- Attended three very informative conversations that Phil Conrad held with parents on the new high school schedule.
- Reported that MSBA held a Board meeting today and believes seventeen communities were selected to move forward with renovations/replacement schools.

Joel Blumstein:

- Requested the Superintendent to provide an update on the Statement of Interest submitted to MSBA for replacement of West Elementary.
- Updated the Committee on the tuition increases Crest Collaborative has proposed for some of their programs.
- The Green Schools Parent Group requested an additional liaison be added to their group and Paul Murphy has agreed to join Ted Teichert in this endeavor.

C. Public Comment

SEPAC Executive Council members Ruth Ann McDougall and Patricia D'Ambrosio acknowledged Student Services Director, Dr. Sara Stetson and Assistant Director, Nancy Koch for their support in arranging a parent workshop for March 18 and they look forward to working with the District on future endeavors. The workshops scheduled to support parent requests is appreciated. In addition, SEPAC would like to be added as an agenda item for each School Committee meeting.

Brad Weeden, 5 Summer Street said testing the water at the schools would be a great opportunity for an AHS student as an independent project.

Kerry Costello, AEA President, said the message Dr. Berman sent out to school community on respecting one another and each other's differences was well received and resonated with people.

D. Response to Public Comment None

E. Education

1. NEAL: 2 Year Evaluation Report and Year-end Ad Hoc Report

Project Director Ruth Tarbox, and Fine Arts Program Coordinator Beth Delforge, presented findings from the New England Arts for Literacy Project (NEAL) Year 2 Evaluation Report related to Cohort I, and Cohort II (recruitment), the 2016 Summer Institute and the project's year end ad-hoc report.

Using a presentation link to the NEAL website, they provided a brief review of projects and objectives accomplished through work in collaboration with Salem Public and

Quaboag School Districts, establishing a strong sense of community, and providing a foundation of trust which supported teachers and students through their collective stories of learning by encouraging them to take risks.

In addition, Doherty Middle School Art Teacher Veronica Pennick and Health Teacher, Cheryl Todisco shared how they were able to integrate Health and Art within their classes through opportunities provided through the NEAL Project.

2. AHS Program of Studies

AHS Principal, Philip Conrad and Guidance Director, Aixa de Kelley reported on the changes to the Program of Studies for 2017-2018 reflecting the implementation of the new AHS H-Block Schedule (7+8 schedule) starting in September. Students will be taking 7 credits and graduation requirements have been adjusted to reflect the change. Aixa reported on changes to courses, new courses being offered, and courses being eliminated. The new Program of Studies is available on the Andover Public Schools website at www.aps1.net and available for 8th grade parents to review prior to the 8th Grade orientation in March.

On a motion by Susan McCready and seconded by Shannon Scully the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the 2017-2018 New High School Schedule, and Program of Studies as presented.

3. AHS Facility Planning Committee

Annie Gilbert, Chair of the Facility Planning Committee for AHS, reported receiving twenty-four applications from parents to be a member of the Facility Planning Committee, which was much more than expected and across all levels. The passion which people expressed their interests was amazing and spoke to the enthusiasm in the community to improve the high school. The committee has a lot of talent and certain skill sets especially as architects, expertise, and designers of educational facilities, etc.

Next steps: The first meeting will be held after February vacation week and then to meet every other week for the next year to form their thought process, and come back to the School Committee for assistance with items under the purview of the School Committee. Minutes and presentations of meetings will be posted on the APS website. People will have an opportunity to interact with the project via meetings, presentations, and surveys.

Dr. Berman said they framed the school building member list around MSBA requirements, and decided that staff members Paul Szymanski, Ed Ataide, and Steve Chinosi would act as research people to support the work. Phil Conrad talked about the recommendation of including AHS student, Sam Holland and faculty member Eric Pellerin to represent the high school; both of whom are committed to making AHS better.

Susan McCready moved for the Andover School Committee to vote to approve the slate of members of the AHS Facility Study Committee as presented. Paul Murphy seconded the motion and the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

F. New Business

1. Frederick Drive – Request for Temporary Permit

Attorney Don Borenstein provided a letter to the School Committee with an update on the request for permission to use an easement at Frederick Drive, and distributed maps of the 1958 approved sub-division plan, surrounding area, and location of the modified plan that has been presented to the Planning Board. Attorney Borenstein is requesting the School Committee's approval for a temporary permit to grade around the ring of the sub-division as shown on the plan to create the cul-de-sac as it needs to be built. No action taken at this time.

2. Committee Policy Manual: Chapter C – First Reading

Susan McCready presented information on the updates to Chapter C of the School Committee Policy Manual. Ted Teichert had a question on CE, to choose a Chair or to add wording to allow the Superintendent to select a Chair. Dr. Berman will look at the wording.

3. Financials

Paul Szymanski briefed the School Committee on the 2016.17 financials as of January 2017 noting that we are in a good financial state at this point in time. An inordinate number of teacher leave of absences with substitutes covering at a lesser pay grade helped with the state of the financials. They are being conservative with the balance and will attempt to circumvent the Circuit Breaker fund. The vast majority of the expenditures provided professional development for dyslexia and the purchase of small snow blowers to help with snow removal from the school sidewalks.

G. Old Business

1. School Committee Policy Manual – Chapter B-Second Reading

Joel Blumstein and Susan McCready shared the updates for Section B from the Policy Handbook Section which Mike Gilbert of MASC has provided. Ted Teichert questioned whether to use MASC's definition of what consists of a deliberation (Policy BHE) or if we should follow the Attorney General's definition to protect ourselves. Joel said if two or more members went to a meeting and didn't post beforehand, they could not deliberate.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the revised version of Section B of the Policy Manual by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees as presented. Ted Teichert seconded the motion and the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

2. FY-2018 Budget Update

The Town Manager released his Recommended Budget last Friday which represents a 4% increase in the School Budget; however, there still remains a gap of between the School budget and the Town Manager's budget not including out-of-district costs which have to be worked through. Dr. Berman explained his proposal to break away from the up and down costs for Out-of-District placements and to be more consistent with financial planning. He asked the School Committee for feedback and guidance on which proposal to consider.

Mike Roli, 2 College Circle, asked why the school department is not lowering their budget and giving back the remaining balance to the Town, and if we are going to drop the \$519,000 Warrant Article for textbooks.

Dr. Berman referred to the discussion last year with the other Committees about the School Department spending two years of the Circuit Breaker funds to cover last year's spike in the deficit, which resulted in a gap of \$800,000 this year.

3. Public Participation

a. Informal Forums

Chairman Blumstein spoke with Town Counsel about dialogue with School Committee members and citizens at informal forums and was advised that School Committee members cannot deliberate or express an opinion on any questions, and if an issue requires further discussion it would be added to a future agenda. The Committee talked about various options to accommodate informal forums. No action taken, to be further discussed at the March 9th meeting.

b. Written Comments

The School Committee discussed whether or not written communication submitted by residents should be read aloud by the Chair during public participation. Susan McCready researched practices in other communities and for the most part, they do not read the emails but they do enter them into the record. Ted Teichert thinks we should welcome the feedback and emails should be read into the record.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Warrants are in Order
2. Minutes: January 5, 2017 Regular Meeting

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

I. Adjournment

At 10:35 P.M. on a motion by Ted Teichert and seconded by Susan McCready the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 15, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary

Documents: AHS Program of Studies for 2017.2018, NEAL Report-Year 2,
FY-18 Financial Report, Junior Ranger Program