

Andover School Committee
Minutes of April 27, 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, and Vishvah Kaul, AHS Student Government Liaison to the School Committee.

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag. Joel Blumstein stated that there was a change in the SC agenda and that we would not have an update of the AHS Committee Faculty.

B. Recognition/Communications

1. Highlights from around the District There will be an update in May from Annie Gilbert, Chair of the AHS Facility Study Committee. Shelley introduced Joanna Ganci, as the new ELA Dept Head. Shelley stated that he and Nancy D had just returned from the Andover Cultural Council reception. They gave grants to eWest Elementary, Bancroft and South. Also The Andover Better Chance (ABC) is celebrating their 50th year this year with a celebration and dinner coming in the fall. At the AHS, there is a play this weekend – Almost Maine. Nancy Duclos stated that On April 18th, Steve Sanborn defended his dissertation and he has received his doctorate. Ted Teichert mentioned the Memorial Day parade and asked his fellow members if they would be attending this year’s parade.

C. **Public Input** - No input from the audience.

D. **Response to Public Input**

E. **Education**

1. 2016-2017 School Year: Last Official Day for Students and Teachers

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote June 22, 2017 as the official last day of school for students and June 23, 2017 as the last day of school for teachers for the 2016-2017 school year providing there are no other emergency or inclement days during this school year. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Appoint CREST Collaborative Representative for 2017-2018 School Year

Joel Blumstein, who has been the representative said he would be willing to again represent Andover if the Board would have him.

Ted Teichert moved that the Andover School Committee vote on Joel Blumstein as the Andover Representative to the Collaborative for Regional Education Services and CREST Collaborative Board for the 2017-2018 School Year. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. After School Program After the last SC meeting on April 13, Mr. Connolly provided the SC with more information about the After School Program. If the Committee is ready to vote on the program, then they will do so at this meeting.

Mr. Connolly stated that the estimate on the budget is based on 26 students. With regard to the operating expenses, it is bare bones. Andover Recreation will be responsible for the 1hr custodial per day to make sure the school is left as it was found. Also if there any utility costs or if there is any loss of revenue, the After School Program will make that up as well as being responsible for any wear and tear of the facility. Joe state that he would sit down and discuss w/Dr. Berman if any other questions came up. Ted asked why the estimate was in red. Joel asked how the costs would work, and Asst. Superintendent for Finance, Paul Szymanski stated that the internal accounting would be easy to deal with. Joe said their staffing would be based on 39 - 2 group leaders and 1 support staff, plus volunteers. 13:1 elementary students K-5. Joel was concerned that one of the 3 could be a high school but Joe C said that it was his intention to make sure that they have 3 adults. The site director is the benefits director. Shannon states that this is great but would like to review the numbers after the pilot program. Joe is looking to the future and hoping to grow.

Motion: Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the After School Program as presented for the 2017-2018 School Year. Ted Teichert seconded the motion and the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

4. Annual School Choice Vote School Choice 2017-2018 – Vote to Not Participate: Since we do not participate in school choice, you are required by statute to vote “NOT to participate” in school choice on an annual basis. We are required to submit the minutes of your vote to the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) no later than May 1st.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to not to participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program for Grades PK-12 for the 2017-2018 School Year. Paul Murphy seconded the motion and the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

F. New Business

1. Town Meeting Preparation/Report from Town Meeting Dr. Berman and/or Joel will

debrief the Committee on the preparation for Town Meeting. Sheila Doherty recently gathered the group to go over the script and rules for TM. Joel reported that there is no texting during TM, there should be no personal attacks, and to be civil at all times. On Article 4, there will be 5 min reports from the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen (BoS) and then from SC and Superintendent. This will be a pretty high overview of the budget. Then Jon Stumpf will give his financial report. At this moment we don't know if the Finance Committee will give their support on the number that the BoS voted on based on the SC numbers. If they don't approve, Greg Serrao will speak to the audience. Then the SC will rebut which then it goes to the floor. Shannon asked if someone made an amendment, can they respond from the stage. Paul S asked if there was an opportunity to speak about the number that the Finance Committee has put in their FINCOM book. Joel said that in their 5 min report, they will have the opportunity to speak about that and make an amendment on the number. Everyone will get a sheet explaining the budget numbers. Joel also reminded members about the May 1st meeting and to plan on being at the Collins Center in the AHS classroom adjacent to Andover TV to meet at 6pm before the meeting. Ted asked if there are any other articles – Joel state that Article 45 (High Plain/WHMS air conditioning project) and 47 (Major School Projects) would be the other school articles to vote on.

G. Old Business

1. Dascomb Road Project. Joel said that they are not required to take a position on the zoning articles. He further stated that there could be significant revenue to the school system. He would like to see the SC be more involved with evaluating zoning articles that may impact schools.. Susan would agree with that and that this was a discussed at the recent AHS PAC meeting. She said it was important to evaluate and give feedback to the residents and how it will comply w/our policies and may impact the school system. Susan likes the project for a number of reasons and she states that the way article has been written is positive.

Paul is not ready to vote as a Board member. He is unsure what the value is of taking a stand on these articles. More money from the Town does make sense to him, but he does not want to lured by the fact, just because they will get a piece of the revenue. He said it is too random for him on who can live in the apartments and how many children can live at the new development. He feels that it should be more of an individual vote rather than a SC Board vote.

Shannon stated that she is not a zoning expert. But she does think that they should provide the community feedback on how this may impact the schools. This project is different and the housing configurations at Hamilton Green are different from what is

proposed on the sheet given to the Committee. Also she pointed out that there is other development going on in Andover, and that the Board should participate when there is potential impact to schools. This project seems worth it as the town does need other revenue sources. Otherwise the same discussions at TM will come up every year.

Ted T sees this as a zoning project and questions whether the SC should make a stand. He looked at Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) definition of SC functions and said there is nothing about getting involved in zoning issues. He doesn't think it's the purview of a SC to take a stand on zoning articles. He can't remember when the SC has ever taken an issue on zoning and questioned why the SC didn't take a position on the Historic Mill district development when there seemed more revenue that would benefit the schools.

Susan responded that it was a mistake that they didn't take a stand beforehand and that we need to start doing this in some cases. She just feels that any article that is related to an impact on the schools should be taken up by the SC. Shannon agreed with Susan and that maybe we should have a liaison to the Planning Board. Vish Kaul, our SC AHS student rep said he agrees with Ted but as long as it impacts the schools they should be kept in the loop.

Steve Fink noted that this is an opportunity for the School and town to collaborate. So much change is coming to Andover and there is no way around it. He hopes that the Committee would be in favor of working together.

Wendy Donohue, lead sponsor for the article said it is very difficult to see the struggle over the budget. She feels that Sal is open to listening and that is why she partnered with him on this article. She feels that they have done as much to restrict the article so that it doesn't have a negative impact to the schools.

Sal Lupoli stated that he hired specialists to conduct an analysis on impact to the schools. He believes in leadership. He is not a developer; he is a social impact entrepreneur, if he can't make a difference then he won't be involved. He questioned the SC if this was an opportunity to take a stand -- just because the SC have never done it before. He requested a vote tonight as he believed there is a community waiting to see what the SC will do tonight. If it impacts the children, then shouldn't the SC vote tonight. This would demonstrate that the Committee understands what is coming -- based on research.

Joel stated that the question is whether we should take a stand because we have not in the past. He thinks that it is an important thing to do even though it might be the first and hopes it's not the last time they get involved when it impacts the school. There are lots of

demands for the revenue that is available in town and lots of fighting over that limited pie. He wants to see how can we expand revenue. One way is doing an override or we can do development with caution. The bottom line is that this is a project we should weigh in on as a beginning to the SC being involved with planning and development going forward.

Shelley concurred the Committee has to make a decision on whether they want to take a stand. He shared that cities grow and cities die but they never stay the same. All the projects going on now speak to the revitalization of this town. Growth is meaningful, and carefully planned growth is the best. It would be very beneficial for the SC to have a say in planning. He is supportive of the project and believes that the impact on the schools is minimal.

Motion: Shannon Sully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Articles 57 and 58 on the 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as it relates to the overall impact to our schools. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 3-0-2 to approve. Ted Teichert and Paul Murphy abstained.

2. FY18 Revised Budget Joel stated that the BoS voted to approve the compromise amount about \$400 short of what the SC voted on, so the SC should revote to match the number voted by the BoS..

Shelley thanked Paul and Janet for all their time and effort on the budget. The district has provided the Fincom with as much information as possible and hope it satisfies the interest and needs of the FinCom. Ted asked if we could give back some amount back to the Town. Shelley stated that he is still not sure how much they will use up and thought any additional balance go to o to the circuit breaker. \$200,000 has already been set aside for circuit breaker next year. General consensus is make such a decision at year-end to give back to the town if there are additional monies left. Paul M stated if we are married to the % increase then it never makes sense to give money back to the town because it looks like you don't need it and of course it is needed to run a good school system. Shelley will come back to the Committee with the amounts left over in June.

Motion: Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adopt the FY-18 Operating Budget in the amount at \$79,337,171. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted (4-0-1) to approve; Ted Teichert abstained.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants
2. Minutes: We will wait to approve the March 30 and April 13 minutes at the next

meeting.

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

E. Adjournment

At 8:55P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Susan McCready the School Committee voted to adjourn the meeting of Thursday, April 27, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Phelan
Recording Secretary

Documents: Proposed Afterschool program staffing and budget