

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of March 30, 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, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Nancy Duclos, and Vishvah Kaul AHS Student Government Liaison to the Andover School Committee.

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order – Opening Ceremonies

Chair Blumstein called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag led by Grade 5 students, Teddy Hutchins and Tatum Ahearn from High Plain Elementary. Teddy and Tatum shared examples of Acts of Kindness that the students at High Plain Elementary have participated in at school and within the community. The students were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

B. Reorganization – Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2017-2018

Chair: Joel Blumstein asked for nominations for the Chair of the Andover School Committee.

Paul Murphy moved to nominate Susan McCready as Chairperson of the Andover School Committee for 2017-2018 effective at the conclusion of the 2017 Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ted Teichert and voted 5-0 to approve. Susan accepted the nomination.

Vice-Chair: Paul Murphy moved to nominate Shannon Scully as Vice-Chair of the Andover School Committee for 2017-2018 effective at the conclusion of the 2017 Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve. Shannon accepted the nomination.

C. Recognition/Communications

1. **Highlights from around the District**

Dr. Berman recognized the students of the AHS Innovation Lab who were invited to compete in the 37th Annual Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition with over 300 other teams. Andover's Team won a Gold Medal for their creation of the Smart Garden computer controlled hydroponic greenhouse.

Congratulations to the Doherty Middle School Green Team on receiving the 2017 Recycling Award from Mass Recycles. The Green Team at Doherty Middle School is student run but couldn't do it without the active support of Tim Kolodony and Jeff Gorrie, custodians at Doherty Middle.

Dr. Duclos recognized Ariel Kim (West Middle School - Grade 8) on receiving a National Silver Medal in the Novel Writing Category in the 2017 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and to Charlotte Gutterman (AHS - Grade 11) on receiving the National Gold Medal for her charcoal drawing. The students work will be displayed at the Pratt Institute in NY.

Susan McCready reported on the Open Forum she and Shannon facilitated in March. Parents were concerned about teacher layoffs, securing funding for the high school schedule, in addition to discussions on MCAS scores, middle school math, accelerated classes, the OECD test (a new National Assessment), survey questions, and mindfulness practice.

Ted Teichert congratulated Paige Bukowski, (AHS Freshman) on receiving the State's Gymnastics All Star Award.

Shannon Scully attended the ACE Fundraising event on Saturday which raised over \$35,000 for the Andover Schools.

Joel Blumstein is very happy to be back as a member of the School Committee.

II. Public Hearing – FY18 Recommended School Budget

The public hearing for the FY-18 Recommended School Budget as proposed by Dr. Berman provided an opportunity for the public to ask questions and give comments. The hearing was posted in the newspaper as required. The detail of the FY18 School Budget in the amount of \$79,337,598, is posted on the school website at www.aps1.net

Dr. Berman reviewed the operational budget drivers and additional services and expenses to address particular school/student needs. It was pointed out that textbooks in the amount of \$519,300 and Out of District Costs in the amount of \$800,000 are shown within the budget as Other Needs with funding mechanisms to be determined (warrant article or within the operations budget).

A list of potential budget reductions to close the projected budget gap of \$194,427 were reviewed and included areas such as textbooks, custodial supervisor, technology software, reductions in school budgets, the fifth utility, an increase in circuit breaker funds, removing the \$100,000 to offset Full Day K-tuition, and other miscellaneous account items.

Public Comments:

Question: Is Technology really necessary at the young grades? Is there a need to have devices for each classroom or could they have carts with computers to share?

Heather Beaver, 9 York Street has twins at the middle school. They have complained about students playing games on laptops and less time for curriculum. She suggested a survey be developed and sent to middle school classes to find out their views on the use of computers in the classroom.

Several parents spoke about their concerns with the proposal for 1:1 devices for students in the younger grades. Studies have shown technology can be addictive, and normal play can be the best education for kids to use their imagination and to learn how to solve problems, emotions, voice tones, anti-social behavior, etc.

Georgeann Keer of 5 York Street, shared her concerns about teaching the basics of computing, how to communicate, and useful word processing programs. She sees only connections and links to programs on-line and believes that the maturity of students is not there to match what they are being asked to do in school and encourages the School Committee to think hard about offering 1:1 device for student learning.

Dr. Berman said the Administration Team discussed the use of technology in the younger grades noting that the State has issued standards for Technology. The State is looking at digital learning and computer science standards which are based on ESTE standards and about building global learning and empowering students to be good communicators and collaborators. Paul Puzanghera and Joanne Najarian researched concerns regarding K-2 students using 1:1 devices and will be putting forth a 2:1 program instead.

Joanne Najarian, Director of Digital Learning, Pam Lathrop, Principal at High Plain Elementary, and Paul Puzanghera, Chief Technology Officer for the Town/School spoke about the new standards for students in Grades K-12. A Scope and Sequence is in process, and will be incorporated into the classroom. Kids will work collaboratively in centers as producers not consumers, and will not be on a computer all day long.

Pam Lathrop said Play and Center work is still a vital part of the school day for younger children. Technology is used in groups, and the classroom is still a developmental environment for children to cultivate inter-personal skills. The 2:1 will provide devices in the classroom (20 students / 10 computers) in a center fashion with development of social and emotional learning and caring, and co-taught classes on digital citizenship. Dr. Duclos said the 2nd grade science classes used an iPad to document growth of their plants by taking photos to compare growth and narrating what they learned; devices enhance the ways in which kids can access curriculum and get engaged in the class.

Budget Hearing closed at 7:45 P.M.

III. Return to Regular Meeting

D. Public Input

Pat D'Ambrosio, 3 Ayer Street, on behalf of SEPAC thanked the School Committee and Nancy Koch, Assistant Director of Student Services, for participating in the workshop on Basic Rights. The next SEPAC meeting will be held on April 12th with a speaker who will also return in May. A list of activities for April Vacation is available on the SEPAC website.

E. Response to Public Input- None

F. Education Literacy Update

1. Literacy Update

Dr. Sara Stetson and Dr. Nancy Duclos presented a 6-month progress report on the Literacy Plan, which included the vision, reading theory, and informational report on Dyslexia, subtypes to identify tools to encourage teachers to build structure, and examples of programs that can be integrated and used as interventions as well as the importance of early screening, universal screening, protocols for follow-up assessments, and Progress Monitoring lets them know if the interventions are working.

Jennifer Barresi, PK-5 Literacy Advisory, is working with Regular Ed and Special Ed teachers on data collection, and surveys around literacy. Staff are attending conferences and workshops, publishers have come in to talk about a formalized reading program to determine what kind of reading program is right for the district. In addition, outside organizations have provided training for staff in the district, as well as coaching and follow-up.

AVID Executive Functions: a .2 FTE has been added at AHS to support kids who need assistance with organizational functions. This summer Principal Conrad, Dr. Duclos and several staff members will attend an AVID Conference in Philadelphia.

Resources for this year included \$30K for teacher materials, \$43K consulting and \$74,000 for training Regular and Special Education teachers and specialists. A budget of \$275,000 for FY-18 has been proposed, most of which will be used for teacher training and professional development. Dr. Berman congratulated everyone on the work that is being done.

G. Old Business

1. FY-18 Revised Budget

Joel Blumstein reported on today's meeting of the three Chairs to discuss the school budget. Although no decision was reached he is hopeful they will come to an agreement before Town Meeting.

The School Committee discussed the three budget scenarios presented by Dr. Berman.

<u>Potential Budget Reductions</u>		<u>Gap</u>
Scenario 1:	Original – moving all of textbooks back into CIP	\$194,427
Scenario 2:	Leaving \$380K in budget for textbooks	\$573,927
Scenario 3:	Requires further reductions in technology and school budgets and elimination of full-day kindergarten relief \$0	

Scenario #1 does not move textbooks into our operating budget (remain in the CIP); and Dr. Berman and the Town Manager are clear about that. The School Department will be looking for an additional \$500K in our budget next year for textbooks. At this point, Dr. Berman cannot in good faith recommend Scenario #3. The Committee discussed the impacts of each scenario.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adopt the FY-2018 Operating Budget of \$79,717,090. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 3-1-1. Ted Teichert abstained and Paul Murphy opposed. Motion carries.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adopt the FY-2018 operating budget of \$79,337,598 on the condition that the Board of Selectmen recommend \$79,337,598 as the FY-2018 Operating Budget. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0-1 to approve. Ted Teichert abstained.

Shannon Scully moved to amend the first motion to adopt the FY-2018 budget from \$79,717,090 to \$79,717,098. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0-1 to approve. Ted Teichert abstained.

2. Warrant Articles

Article P-5 Capital Projects Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation and appropriate the sum of \$3,678,875 for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2018 appropriation for the Capital Projects Fund, or take any other action related thereto.

Susan McCready moved that it is the intent of the School Committee to move \$45K from IT-2 to School 1 or School 2. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Paul Murphy moved to recommend approval of the following warrant articles as presented. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Article P-11-E Contracts in Excess of Three Years

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 12(b), to authorize the Town Manager or the Superintendent of Schools to solicit and award contracts for terms exceeding three years but no greater than five years, including any renewal, extension or option, provided in each instance the longer term is determined to be in the best interest of the Town by a vote of the Board of Selectmen or the School Committee, as appropriate, or take any other action related thereto.

Article P-16 FY-2018 Revolving Accounts

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following revolving funds for certain Town departments under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, or take any other action related thereto (see chart on Warrants).

Article P-27 TM-4 Wood Hill High Plain Accessibility Project

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrowing, or transfer from available funds or by any combination thereof and appropriate the sum of \$200,00 for the purpose of purchasing services and materials including any other costs incidental and related thereto, or to take any other action related thereto.

Article P-31 **P&F-7 Town and School Energy Initiatives**

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrowing or transfer from available funds or by any combination thereof and appropriate the sum of \$420,000 for the purpose of purchasing services and materials including any other costs incidental and related thereto, or to take any other action related thereto.

Article P-35 **SCH-5 Major School Projects**

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrowing, or transfer from available funds or by any combination thereof and appropriate the sum of \$770,000 for the purpose of purchasing services and materials including any other costs incidental and related thereto, or to take any other action related thereto.

Article P-36 **SCH-11 High Plain/Woodhill Air Conditioning Upgrade**

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrowing, or transfer from available funds or by any combination thereof and appropriate the sum of \$775,000 for the purpose of purchasing services and materials including any other costs incidental and related thereto, or to take any other action related thereto.

Article P-40 **IT-4 Selectman and School Committee Room Upgrades**

To see if the Town will to raise by taxation, borrowing, or transfer from available funds or by any combination thereof and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing services and materials, including any other costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

Paul Murphy moved the Andover School Committee withdraw the following three Warrant Articles:

- 1. Establish a School District Special Education (SPED) Reserve Fund**
- 2. Special Education Reserve Fund**
- 3. Textbooks for APS K-12 Academic Programs**

The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to withdraw.

3. Update on SOI

Progress is still being made, will have more to report at the next meeting.

4. Public Forum on Special Education:

Due to the beginning of Passover, the Public Forum scheduled for April 10th will be rescheduled to Monday, April 24th. Ground rules include no discussion on personnel and parents can talk about their own children if they choose but the School Committee cannot respond.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: In Order
2. Minutes: March 23, 2017

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

I. Adjournment

At 7:30 P.M. on a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Susan McCready, the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting of March 30, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: 2018 School Department Budget Presentation
Literacy Update: 6 Month Progress Report