

**Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes of September 7, 2017**

Members in Attendance: Chair, Susan McCready, Vice-Chair, Shannon Scully, Joel Blumstein, Paul Murphy, and Ted Teichert (participated in executive session only via telephone due to geographic location)

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman and Assistant Superintendents Paul Szymanski and Nancy Duclos.

I. Call to Order

Susan McCready called the School Committee Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. Executive Session

At 6:00 P.M. Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee go into Executive Session for Purpose 2: To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, i.e. Superintendent of Schools, and will reconvene in Open Session for a Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. . The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein. Roll call: Shannon Scully-Y, Joel Blumstein-Y, Paul Murphy-Y, Ted Teichert-Y, and Susan McCready-Y. At 7:00 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Joel Blumstein the School Committee voted to adjourn the Executive Session and return to Open Session, not to return to Executive Session.

III. Regular Meeting

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

Susan McCready reconvened the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the School Committee Meeting Room. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag.

Amendment to Agenda: NEAL Update has been rescheduled to October.

B. Recognitions/Communications – Highlights from the District

1. Highlights of Opening Day

Dr. Berman recognized Wess Murphy, Executive Director of Andover TV and Sara Antonakos, Programming Director for Andover TV for the installation of the new cameras, and microphones in the School Committee Room.

It was a great opening day for the schools today. Shelley and Nancy toured all of the schools and found them to be running smoothly; it was great to see the students and the energy they bring to the classrooms. The first day of H-Block at AHS went very well and they received very positive responses from teachers they spoke with. Our facilities staff and school custodians did a great job this summer preparing for the opening of schools. South and Sanborn School Media Centers have been dramatically changed with more open areas. Mary Lu Walsh did an extremely great job arranging for parents of kindergarten students to ride on the school bus with their children. WEB (where everyone belongs) is now at all three middle schools as of this year and is a great experience for the students. Opening Day events for teachers and staff was very productive and went well.

2. Enrollment – First Day

The projected enrollment of 6,000 students (not including out of district) fell 77 students short with an opening day enrollment figure of 5,923 students. Students are continuing to register and the enrollment numbers are anticipated to be higher by the time the official enrollment data is sent to DESE on October 1st.

3. Summer Professional Development

Teachers attended several Professional Development opportunities across the country this summer including but not limited to: The Summer Writing Institute at Teachers College in New York City, the Henry Ford Detroit Design Center in Detroit, Michigan, The International Society for Energy Education Conference in California, the Museum Summer Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Massachusetts Language-Arts Academy. In-house professional development included the Responsive Classroom Technology, LiPS Training, and Universal Design Learning Seminars.

Sara Stetson, Director of Student Services, introduced the new Clinical Director for Student Services, Dr. Ryan Fielding to the School Committee and shared his very impressive resume and specific interests. We are lucky to have Dr. Fielding on board. His position will provide the opportunity for wrap-around services for students with behavioral and emotional issues and coordination and collaboration of our staff.

In an attempt to implement an online student registration component, Dr. Berman reported that four of our schools are testing the new software. The problem with parents with students in out-of-district placements not receiving notices from their school of placement, has been corrected on Blackboard. The Town Manager expects the Bancroft School Soccer Field to be ready by the Fall of 2018. They are still exploring exterior lights left on at the schools and Llovely Field during the day.

Joel Blumstein is very happy that the new schedule at AHS is finally up and running. He hopes we can find a vehicle to regularly communicate with residents interested in our schools who don't have students in our schools. Joel attended the first session of Opening Day for Teachers and thought is being a great morning.

Shannon also attended the Opening Day for Teachers. Dr. Berman gave a phenomenal message making it clear that there is no room in Andover for racism bigotry and hatred. It was a strong, important message that received a standing ovation. Susan McCready received messages that people were proud to be in this District. Susan also recognized Phil Conrad and his staff at AHS for their hard work over the past few years to implement the new AHS Schedule.

C. Public Input -none

D. Response to Public Input – N/A

E. Education

1. Progress Monitoring: MAP Assessments

Dr. Duclos provided the Committee with information on Progress Monitoring. The idea is to create a tripod of assessments that would be supportive of each leg. DIBELS is our

1:1 universal indicator for literacy assessment; with a goal to have 85% of our students scoring at or above benchmark. The MAP test is a second tool that provides information on reading comprehension to the district with student growth data in reading and math and will give the data on students a Lexile measure, a critical piece that captures a student's ability to read at or above their level. To have a stable base, curriculum based assessments are needed and given by classroom teachers as they complete units of studies. Each assessment provides the teacher critical information. (MAP handout distributed).

2. Climate Survey – Panorama Education

The Social Emotional Sprint Team members Becky Franks, Joe Yarid, Pam Lathrop and Linda Croteau spoke about their essential question of how our students feel in our schools, and do they feel connected. Andover has worked with the school councils to find out if students feel safe and connected and also through surveys they developed. Principals have been asking for a tool to measure the sense of how kids feel connected.

Dr. Duclos provided background information on the administrators' decision to use Panorama Education as the tool to measure school climate and student connectivity. Surveys will contain six questions and be distributed to students in early fall. There are no open response questions and the reports will not be maintained on our servers, student names will be anonymous. There will be an opt out clause if parents don't want their children to participate.

Joel Blumstein recommended consulting counsel to make sure there are no misconceptions about confidentiality.

3. Collins Center Rental Rates Policy– Second Reading

Mr. Szymanski gave a presentation to the School Committee on August 31st regarding rate increases for the Collins Center Rental Policy. He was asked to obtain fee schedules from other comparative performance centers in the local area.

Mr. Worthley and Mr. Szymanski researched comparable venues and found that The Lowell Memorial Auditorium (LMA), a venue the Collins Center is often compared to, charges a base rental rate of \$375/hour and labor rates are charged separately based on the needs of the event. Merrimack College's *Rogers Center for the Arts*, no longer rents out this venue. At the Collins Center different rates for offered for load-in, rehearsals, performances, etc. We could afford to raise the for-profit rates.

Mr. Szymanski proposed to recommend charging \$225.00/hr. for Andover based for-profit groups and \$250.00/hr. for out of Andover for-profit groups. It is Mr. Worthley's opinion that this fee structure will keep us competitive with both LMA and the smaller venues in the surrounding region.

Mr. Szymanski is requesting the approval and support of the School Committee on the updated guidelines as follows:

Andover Based Groups: “For-Profit Organizations” from: \$200 per hour to \$225 per hour.
Other Groups and Organizations: “For-Profit Organizations” from \$225 per hour to \$250 per hour.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Collins Center Rental Rates Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. New Business

1. Statement Against Hatred

The Town of North Andover recently made a statement on events in our country over the summer, and the Andover School Committee discussed adding weight to this issue with a similar resolution. On behalf of the Andover School Committee, Susan McCready read Andover’s statement that condemns bigotry racism, violence, and hatred in the Andover School System. The message will be sent out to parents.

Joel Blumstein moved that the ASC approve the statement against hatred as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy, and voted 4-0 to approve.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense WE1804 and Payroll 18S010
2. Minutes:

On a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Joel Blumstein, the Andover School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

I. Adjournment

At 8:15 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: J. Everett Collins Center Rental Policy and Agreement