

**Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting
Minute of January 16, 2018**

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

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

I. Regular Meeting

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

Susan McCready called the School Committee to order at 7:05 P.M. in the School Committee Room located on the 2nd floor of the School Administration Building. Present: Paul Murphy-Y, Joel Blumstein-Y, Ted Teichert-Y, Shannon Scully-Y, and Susan McCready-Y. Joel Blumstein remotely teleconferenced into the meeting.

Susan McCready reported that the Executive Session scheduled for Thursday, January 18th for contract negotiations is being canceled. The School Committee members were in agreement.

B. New Business

1. Budget presentations

Dr. Berman reviewed the context of where we are in the budget process and distributed the FY-2018 General Fund Report. At this point in time, we are running with a deficit of approximately \$55,000 and are working hard to close the gap for FY-18. The significant difference is due to the increase in Special Education costs, but the budget is not finalized until all contract settlements are moved into the budget. Dr. Berman has reached out to other Superintendents and our Legislative representatives to share concerns about the decrease in Circuit Breaker Funds.

The spreadsheet for the Out-of-District Tuitions and Special Education Reimbursement from the Circuit Breaker shows 2018 projected OUD tuition costs in the amount of \$7,390,221 and forecasts \$6,764,585.00 for FY-2019. The Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Fund for FY-18 is projected at \$1,591,284, leaving a deficit of \$(502,645) after the Circuit Breaker Offset is applied

The FY-19 School Department Requested Budget is a level-service budget of \$82,330,412 and includes \$66,528,391 in Personnel Salaries and \$15,802,021 for Expenses. The Town Manager's Recommended Budget for FY-19 is \$85,510,658, a 4% increase over FY-18.

a. AHS Athletics

Bill Martin, Athletic Director and Phil Conrad, AHS Principal, shared information on the Athletic Department's budget and their sources of revenue; (fees, gate receipts, rental of the fieldhouse and fields) while coaching stipends are paid through the revolving account and operating budget. Expenditures projected for FY-2019 are shown as \$589,781.00 with only \$127,145 available from the General Fund and \$461,627 paid through the revolving account, leaves a gap of \$(150,209.00) for FY-2019. A discussion commenced on options to lower the gap. Dr. Berman would like to have a broader, more public conversation on this topic and an analysis on the revenue produced from each option conducted.

b. Textbooks

Nancy Duclos distributed a handout of the FY-2019 Textbook Budget showing the current list and cost for texts to be ordered, the dollar amounts being reduced, and what that impact will look like. The cost of textbooks is being moved out of the CIP and into the School Department's Operating Budget. The \$626,000 budgeted for textbooks has been reduced to \$318,000. Shelley would like

guidance from the School Committee on where to utilize the savings.

c. Technology

Joanne Najarian, Director of Digital Learning provided an overview of each budget account (as allocated by DESE Chart of Accounts) and explained what is covered within each account. Technology repairs and replacements \$77,711; Digital Learning Curriculum/Text Education Software \$147,095; Operation Software \$93,981; and \$79,370 for Informational Technology Software. Some of the educational costs have been shifted to the schools.

d. Student Services/Special Education

The Budget Model for Special Education is one of reallocation and collaboration. Student Services Director, Dr. Sara Stetson and Assistant Director Nancy Koch shared accomplishments made over the past year, and explained items being pursued to continue assisting students in the upcoming fiscal year. Accomplishments included collaboratively putting in place preschool testing, family history, universal screening, progress monitoring, Lexile based measures, new diagnostic protocol, and new annual review protocol.

Items/programs planned for the upcoming fiscal year includes an in-school mental health services clinic at AHS, a Mobile Consultation Team, and Student Learning Disability Advocacy Program/Parent group. Also listed in the presentation is a new Transition Program and Therapeutic Support Program at AHS and DMS, open a group for parents with the Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness, programs for students to develop confidence, continue to expand the language-based programs, expand the TOP program (15 additional students), continue aggressive professional development, In-district Coaching, and adding a 7th grade language based learning disability teacher at DMS and WMS, as well as supporting professional development, literacy tutors, etc.

Kerry Costello, President AEA, commented on the Special Education requests noting that some items that will need to be bargained and may have some ancillary costs associated with the position. The mental health issues at AHS are growing at a rapid pace, and the caseloads are high.

Dr. Berman asked the School Committee for feedback on supporting the 4% budget increase agreement recommended by the Town Manager and how to best utilize the remaining budget dollars.

I. Adjournment

At 10:36 P.M. on a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Paul Murphy, the School Committee voted to adjourn the meeting of January 16, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: FY-18 Year-to-Date General Fund Report
 Out-of-District Tuition Chart
 FY-2019 Requested Budget
 Potential Staff Additions
 Textbook Budget
 Athletic Department Budget
 Student Services Budget