

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of March 1, 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, and Noah Colby, AHS Student Government Liaison to the School Committee.

The students and Art Teachers at High Plain Elementary School were recognized for the beautiful artwork hanging in the hallways in the administration building and School Committee Room for the month of March.

I. Regular Meeting

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

Susan McCready called the School Committee to order at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room located on the 2nd floor of the School Administration Building. Present: Paul Murphy, Joel Blumstein, Ted Teichert, Shannon Scully, and Susan McCready.

II. Public Hearing: FY-2019 Recommended School Budget

A. 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.

B. The purpose of this part of the meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed budget. The hearing was posted in the newspaper as required.

The FY-2019 budget presented by the Superintendent is the budget the School Committee approved and includes a 4% increase over the FY-2018, and meets the budget amount recommended by the Town Manager.

What the budget accomplishes: Maintenance of Service, aligns with sprints, maintains elementary class size, addresses increase in: Special Education, ELL students, costs of athletics, need for Records Administrative Officer, communications support, includes the cost of textbooks, and reduces the cost of full-day Kindergarten tuition.

The total of the FY-19 School Department Budget is \$82,510,658 and includes: Personnel \$66,753,383 and General Expense \$15,757,275. The budget also includes textbook adoptions and replacements added to the budget this year, previously budgeted from the CIP Budget.

The budget presentation included graphs and information on enrollment projections, average elementary class sizes, percent of students receiving free or reduced price meals, (up 10.5%), growth in K-12 ELL population projections, staffing, and Circuit Breaker Reimbursement from 2005-2018.

Discussion:

Number of Spec Ed Students:1162 (24 more than last year)

Textbooks: Is there a general cost / what % of the budget generally used for textbooks

Andover's adoption cycle of 6-7 years is standard

Out of District Placement Expenditures: budgeted @ \$600,000 more than 2018

Budget reflects long-term planning conducted by Town/School

Budget is a credit to Paul Szymanski, Janet Wright, and collectively with the Administrative Team

Public response:

Bob Pokress, 3 Cherrywood Circle, question and a request. Comparative data, doesn't show comparison data on MCAS data along with financial comparison. Observation Full-day K reduction is disappointing.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:43 P.M.

III. Regular Meeting Resumes

C. Recognitions & Communications

The Massachusetts Teacher Association Award for Education Support Person of the Year was presented to Kathy Coufos, a Special Education Instructional Assistant at AHS. On her behalf Principal Conrad spoke to the excellence Kathy brings to the classroom.

Steve Chinosi, Director of Innovation, spoke about the Global Portal and how it provides students an opportunity to study cultures in other countries through face-to-face interaction. Andover is the first school district in the country to have the Portal sponsored by the Andover Coalition for Education (ACE). The portal is currently at the Cormier Youth Center and will be making the rounds across the schools/town over the next year. The portal is open to students and adults.

Dr. Duclos said the Dept. of Education has invited Beth Delforge, Fine Arts Coordinator and students to present "How Choices Impact our Journey", using the performance cycle outlined in NEAL and understanding the text, "The Road Less Traveled", by Robert Frost. The impact NEAL has created and is making across the State is phenomenal!

Joel Blumstein and Shannon Scully, members of the AHS Facility Sub-committee, reported on the meeting on Monday where they discussed scheduling another community forum as well as a Triboard presentation. The Committee talked about school safety and if they should give direction to improve security outside of AHS. The deadline to submit the Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is April.

C. Public Input

Bob Pokress gave a personal report card on the School Committee.

D. Response to Public Input

Joel Blumstein responded to Mr. Pokress' s remarks. The School Committee has spent a lot of time listening to the issues and in Executive Session and putting out a communication as did Dr. Berman. It is time to move on to more pressing interests.

E. Education

1. AHS Students –Students who participated on Gun Violence Discussion in Schools today

Phil Conrad: Students not able to participate this evening. However, they made sure everyone discussed their ideas and the leadership the students shown was admirable and they deserve a lot of credit for having stepped up.

F. New Business

1. Safety in our Schools Review

The shooting incident in Parkland, Florida as well as the many other shooting instances, has touched the nation and especially students all over the country who are rallying that they should be safe in their school. Mr. Conrad and Dr. Berman attended a conference today and spoke about the call for collaboration and a moment to honor those who were killed in Parkland as a way for students to gather and acknowledge the pain that has taken place and to confront school violence, a conversation that has to take place. Chief Keefe, Paul Szymanski, Janet Nicosia, and Paul Puzanghera gave a brief review of all the safety regulations/equipment/trainings the district has in place throughout the schools and the vision for safety and security in our classrooms. Chief Keefe summarized what the Safety Group has already implemented and what is planned for the future without going into details. For the future, it is important to have access to new building/renovations to ensure that the safeguards are part of the building program. Schools can expect to have two drills per year (with blackout dates during student testing) and they are currently conducting an internal assessment on who has access to our buildings, and to be in tune with what our operational procedures are.

Public Comment

E. Perpone, 12 Ridge St, we have experienced lock downs in several communities, Andover should have a policy for any vendors coming into the schools to know what to do, address school safety through prevention dealing with the social/emotional/mental health issues. Jodi Luber, 5 Brooklyn Lane, teaches at BU and has participated in several drills. Simple fixes: have rooms lock from the inside, be proactive, and have a sensitive discussion with children. Julie Moran, please make the current buzzer access to West Elem a priority. What are the rules to enter and is everyone following the rules *every time*?

Kerry Costello, President of the AEA talked about the March 14th walkout that students are planning, and what can be done that is developmentally appropriate for students to participate and be involved. It would be helpful to provide informational communication as to what initiatives are being undertaken to make our schools more secure.

2. WMS Out of State Field Trip request: Destination – Nicaragua Friday, Feb. 15 – Friday, Feb. 22, 2019

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trips for West Middle School 8th grade students to Nicaragua on February 15-22, 2019 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled “APS School-Sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy”. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Mid-Year Progress Report – Hold

4. Financials- Hold

E. Continuing Business

1. Parent Forum Response

This will be the opportunity for any questions regarding the response authored by Student Services Director, Sara Stetson and Asst. Student Service Director, Nancy Koch. An Executive Summary was provided and placed on the school website. Paul Murphy thanked Nancy and Sara for compiling the information on the results of the forum, and responding to questions asked. The publication is helping move the needle forward. Joel also thought it was also a thorough and fair synopsis.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Expense: SW1820, SW1820A Payroll: 18S033, 18S034,18S035
2. Minutes: none

On a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee vote 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

I. Adjournment

At 10:07 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Ted Teichert the Andover School Committee voted to adjourn from Open Session and move to Executive Session for Purpose 7: To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements (Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s. 22); specifically, to perform a review of executive session minutes dated 2/8/18, 2/13/18, and 2/15/18 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A s. 22(g)(2) to determine whether all or portions thereof may be publicly released, and not to reconvene in Open Session. Roll call: S. Scully-Y, T. Teichert-Y, P. Murphy-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, and S. McCready-Y.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary

Documents: FY-2019 School Budget
Feedback on Forum on Special Services May 18, 2017