

**School Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of Thursday, September 13, 2018**

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**Members in Attendance:** Chair, Shannon Scully, Vice-Chair, Joel Blumstein, Susan McCready, and Tracey Spruce.

**Others in Attendance:** Superintendent Berman, and Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach.

**A. Call to Order**

Chair Scully called the School Committee to order at 8:00 A.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building.

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag.

**B. Recognitions & Communications**

Dr. Berman announced that the students from the TOPS Program received an award at AHS for their participation in the Unified Sports Special Olympics. TOPS Program Transition Specialist Brian Saad and students Michael Briggs and James Keith were present. Michael and James participated in the Unified Basketball as part of the Special Olympics. The School Committee congratulated Michael, James and Brian for their part in creating a Unified Generation of young people who embrace differences and lead social change. AHS was recently named an official Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Champion School. AHS will have the opportunity to apply for National Recognition in the spring of 2019 and a jamboree is scheduled for October (dates to be announced).

National Representative, Christine Spisak from Eye to Eye, a national award winning mentoring program for high school students with learning and attention issues that trains students to mentor similarly-identified middle school students spoke about the program which empowers students who learn differently to bridge the gap, build a relationship, and connect with a mentor in an 18 -weeklong program. AHS students Meghan Arpin and Lucus Rush are AHS Chapter Leaders and attended an Eye to Eye a Leadership Conference at Brown University this summer. The first official Eye-to Eye meeting with middle school mentees from West Middle School will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Andover is one of 17 new chapters this year, with 80 chapters nationwide. The Program will culminate with a community art show. [www.eyetoeyenational.org](http://www.eyetoeyenational.org) for information and volunteer opportunities.

AHS Principal Phil Conrad is pleased to announce that Ethan Cole, Kate Ivanovich, Adam McKnight, Lekhya Sathi and Omkar Savkur have been named as semi-finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$31 million offered in the spring of 2019.

Enrollment Update: Dr. Berman distributed the MSBA report on enrollment to the School Committee. The report does not include the Pre-school population at this time.

The School Committee suggested adding an update on enrollment to the next agenda for discussion.

The Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for the Field Accessibility Ramp at High Plain Elementary will take place on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M.

School Start Time: Sleep expert, Dr. Judy Owens, of Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, will present her findings on changing school start times on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. The site still to be determined.

Sandy Trach has been visiting schools, and she is very excited to begin the Elementary Literacy Initiative and Social Studies Initiative this month.

Dr. Sara Stetson, reported that the Literacy, Student Mental Health Advocacy and Literacy Sprints are up and running.

Tracey Spruce attended WHMS Open House and reported that one of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers spoke positively about the Lucy Calkins Initiative.

Susan McCready spoke about continuing the discussion on making our environment more conducive to learning vis-à-vis the very warm temperatures at the beginning of the school year.

Joel Blumstein reported that several members of the School Committee attended the school open houses, and members of the AHS Study Committee provided brief updates on the renovations being considered for AHS at all of the school open houses held to date. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Community Presentation on the AHS Renovation Project will be held at the Collins Center at 7:00 PM, with tours of AHS beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Shannon Sully reported they are expecting the full AHS FAQ document to be on the website this week and stressed the importance of getting the community involved in this very important discussion and decision. There is a link on the [www.APS1.net](http://www.APS1.net) home page to follow.

Shannon Scully reported on the Triboard Meeting held on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at which the average tax bill was dissected showing information that drives expenses. A Town Revenue Long-range Planning Committee has been established and she and Joel will represent the School Committee. The Committee also includes community representatives, members of the Finance Committee, and the Board of Selectmen.

**C. Public Input – None**

**D. Response to Public Input N/A**

**E. Education**

**G. New Business**

1. FY19 Authorization for Student Activity Accounts

Paul Szymanski reported on the account line items for Student Activity Accounts at each school in the District. DESE and our auditors suggest the listing of accounts be presented to the School Committee for approval each year.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve all Student Activity Accounts for FY-2019 as presented by the Business Office. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 4-0 to approve.

## 2. Superintendent's Goals

Dr. Berman provided a draft document of his goals for 2018-2019, noted that working on the school building projects (Goal 2) is very time consuming for both he and Paul Szymanski. The other six goals are on-going.

### School Committee Feedback

The School Committee discussed the draft goals submitted and provided feedback.

Joel Blumstein: Reflect the re-location of the Pre-K in Goal #2 District Capital Plan for renovation/replacement of school buildings; Goal #5 – Communications: include School Committee in groups working with the Superintendent, Capital Plan for renovation /replacement of school buildings. Communications should be broader in scale and include challenges we face and updates to the community. Important to include the Athletic Program in goals. Goals can be revised mid-year.

Susan McCready: Reflect that the goals are multi-year goals and include more specifics to define the product expected from the goals by the end-of-the year. Communications: develop a communication plan and define what we are hoping to do over the next few years. Consider eliminating Goal #1 and continue to provide brief updates on the Sprints during the year.

Tracey Spruce: Having more specificity around the work product to better understand what is involved which would also help the community to understand what we have done in the District, and what is new this year.

Shannon Scully: Encourages Dr. Berman to rely on the Building Committee members to do their work so that he can concentrate on educational issues. Be more reflective of supporting others rather than directing. Goal #3 place more focus on the middle and high school levels and to be more specific in the communication and data analysis. Goal #6 – Budget related, communication in the financial reports should be sufficient for community feedback.

Dr. Berman will update the goals and provide another draft for the School Committee to approve at their next meeting.

## 3. Capital Improvement Projects FY20

The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for FY20 were reviewed by Dr. Berman.

School 1: \$675K which is an increase of \$90K over last year for Basic School Maintenance with security upgrades being the priority.

School 2: \$515K for minor school projects.

School 3: Renovation of school entrance(s) to improve security \$100,000

School 5: \$920K Strategy imbedded to include air-conditioning options for the schools, parking, roof replacement design (Sanborn), etc.

School 6: Costs to resume working on school sites (drainage)

School 9: Study of School Sprinkler Systems

School 10: Town & School Energy Initiatives: \$100,000 (School portion)

An updated spreadsheet will be sent to the School Committee. The documents will be placed in the Dropbox under the CIP tab.

Information on funding availability from the Town may affect the CIP dollar amounts and invite Janet Nicosia to attend the next meeting.

4. APS Agreements with Educational Institutions for Student Teacher

Sandy Trach said APS has a partnership with a variety of educational institutions for Fellows, Interns, and Pre-practicum teachers that enriches the lives of students and teachers.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Educational Partnerships with the following colleges and universities: American International, Anna Maria, Simmons, Endicott, Merrimack College, Lesley, Salem State Universities, and Mass General Institute as presented. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 4-0.

5. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants: Warrants are in order
2. Minutes

On a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Susan McCready, the School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

H. Adjournment

At 9:48 A.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Tracey Spruce, the School Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo  
Recording Secretary

Documents: Superintendent's Goals  
Student Activity Accounts