

**School Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of Thursday, November 8, 2018**  
**Regular Session**

---

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

**Others in Attendance:** Superintendent Berman teleconferenced in, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Sara Stetson, and Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach, and Ben Roldan, Liaison from AHS Student Government.

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Scully called the School Committee to order at 6:30 P.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

**II. Executive Session**

Susan McCready moved for the School Committee to meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for **Purpose 3:** to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Secretaries Unit; and **Purpose 7:** To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law (OML G.L. c. 30A, s. 22); specifically, to perform a review of executive session minutes dated June 27, 2018, Aug. 30, 2018 and Oct. 4, 2018 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A s. 22(g) (1) and (2) to determine whether all or portions thereof may be publicly released and the Chair declare that an open meeting would be detrimental to the School Committee's bargaining strategy. The Chair so declared. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce. Roll call: J. Blumstein-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, P. Murphy-Y, and S. Scully-Y.

**III. Regular Meeting Resumes**

**A. Call to Order and Opening Ceremonies**

The Chair reconvened the School Committee Meeting to order at 7:11 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag.

**B. Recognitions & Communications**

Director of Communications, Nicole Kieser read an updated statement on the bus accident that occurred this afternoon on Red Spring Road. There were no injuries to the 17 student passengers on the bus and everyone was removed safely, which Dr. Berman is thankful for.

Stephanie Hand, AHS Science Teacher, was recognized for receiving the Science Educator of the Year Award. Stephanie has been a Science teacher for 17 years working with the Special Education Department, and has been very successful teaching advanced science concepts to students with disabilities. Dr. Berman congratulated Stephanie on this wonderful award and her great career.

Sandy Trach recognized the AHS students inducted into the National Honor Society at a ceremony at AHS last night. Thank you to Principal Conrad and Class Advisor Brian Shea and to all the students who worked so hard to receive this recognition.

On November 6, all staff at the secondary level participated in a full day workshop facilitated by Facing History and Ourselves, to learn how to engage students and staff to foster community building, informed decision-making, empathy, reflection, and encourage civic participation. Leadership training will be offered to School Administrators on December 1, and February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Syzmanski spoke about the Certified Enrollment Document for West Elementary School which has to be approved by the School Committee, signed by the Town Manager, and submitted to the State by November the 19<sup>th</sup>, and has since learned that the document won't be available until Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The West Elementary Building Committee is meeting on the morning of November 15<sup>th</sup> to review the document and make a recommendation.

Sara Stetson talked about their partnership with Boston Children's Hospital on Literacy Credentials for Andover's paraprofessional staff. When the paraprofessionals complete the modules they will be ready to work with children. Dr. Stetson recently attended a Symposium with Dr. Nadine Gaab on Research in Early Childhood Literacy and how it applies to the classroom.

Joel Blumstein congratulated all of the Andover residents that turned out to vote in the election on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> with 77.34% of residents voting.

Susan McCready congratulated the inductees to the National Honor Society, it was a lovely celebration. Susan also attended the Parent's English Language Learner Class at High Plain Elementary which is a wonderful program that teaches English to parents.

Paul Murphy talked about the many families still affected by the gas incident in Andover and how to support them.

Tracey Spruce announced that the AHS Production of the Music Man opens next week on November 14<sup>th</sup> and it is going to be a great show.

Ben Roldan invited the School Committee to attend the AHS Pep Rally, planned by the Student Government, on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> last block before dismissal.

Shannon Scully announced that the School Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> will include a discussion on Policy Sections J and K – fundraising for PTO/PACs and Booster Organizations. The School Committee can begin to schedule their informal conversations now that MHL is fully operational. She also announced that Dr. Judy Owens, Director of Sleep Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, will speak on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium at 7:00 P.M.

### **C. Public Input**

AEA President Kerry Costello said American Education Week begins next week and there will be various activities in the schools celebrating the members and their contributions. Support staff at all the schools will be recognized on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Foundation Budget for Education is set to a formula that has not been changed in over 25 years and has not kept up with inflation and has become very shewed. The formula will be on

the docket in January at the State House. Kerry is hopeful that the School Committee will encourage our State delegates to support the Foundation Budget Study that is more equitable and meets the current needs of cities and towns.

#### **D. Response to Public Input**

Shannon Scully reported that in the past, Andover School Committees have sent a recommendation to the legislature to adopt a change in the formula and the Committee will discuss sending another.

#### **E. Education**

##### **1. WHMS Field Trip – Outing Club to Belize on Feb. 15 – 21, 2020**

Tracey Spruce moved that the School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Wood Hill Middle School Students to Belize on February 15-21, 2020 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 Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

##### **2. AHS Field Trip Global Scholars to Tanzania (Service Learning) on April 16 – 26, 2020**

Joel Blumstein moved that the School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Andover High School Students to Tanzania on April 16-26, 2020 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 Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

#### **F. Continuing Business**

##### **1. Coaches Handbook – Reschedule to November 29, 2018**

##### **2. Update on School Start Time**

Asst. Superintendent, Sandy Trach, provided an overview of the status of the topic on School Start Time. A committee of eight has been established which includes school principals, the AEA President, a School Committee member, and School Administrators, who will work develop later options for start times, provide information on drawbacks, and feedback on potential options. Following the guiding principles provided by the Andover School Committee, they will look at the impact on families, extra-curricular activities, after school jobs, cost to families, and will be consulting with the AEA and discussing with other communities. In addition, they are inviting stakeholders in the community to participate with the goal to create informed options to bring forward to the School Committee for discussion later in the year.

The Sleep Study Community Presentation will be held in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on November 13th beginning at 7:00 P.M. Dr. Judy Owens, Director of Sleep Medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital, and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, will discuss the rationale for later school start times for middle and high school students.

##### **3. Enrollment Certification Letter - Reschedule**

#### **G. New Business**

##### **1. Grievance Officers for Harassment Hearing and Complaint Managers**

An updated list of Grievance Officers in the District has been provided by Human Resources Director Candace Hall. As required by School Committee Policy, the School Committee is to approve the list annually. The updated information will be posted in all school handbooks and placed on the school website.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve Grievance Officers for Harassment Hearings and Complaint Managers for the 2018-2019 School Year as presented. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. **AHS Warrant Articles – 2 options**

The AHS Facility Study Committee is working through what might make sense for Warrant Articles for the upcoming May 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. If Andover High School is accepted by MSBA in December, a warrant article would be submitted for a feasibility study. If not accepted to the MSBA Program, they will have to consider other options available.

3. **Financials**

Paul Szymanski provided information on the year-to-date financials for the month of September 2018 and is confident that we will be on target with our budget number as projected at this point in time. Dr. Berman shared that the Circuit Breaker Fund is up substantially due increased funding from the state.

H. **Consent Agenda**

1. **Warrants:** Expense: SW19010A, SW19010, Payroll 19S019
2. **Minutes:** School Committee Meetings of September 13, 2018, and September 20, 2018.
3. **Grants:** AHS has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Mass Cultural Council STARS Residencies for an artist in residence for 12 days to learn about social change.

On a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Susan McCready the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

I. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Joel Blumstein the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of November 8, 2018 at 8:12 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dee DeLorenzo**  
**Recording Secretary**

Documents: FY-19 Year-to-Date Budget Report