

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, December 19, 2019

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

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, Paul Szymanski Assist. Superintendent Finance & Administration, Assist. Superintendent Teaching & Learning Sandra Trach, Asst Superintendent of Student Services Dr. Sara Stetson, and AHS Liaison Ben Roldan.

I. School Committee Regular Meeting- Call to Order

Chair Blumstein called the School Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building.

II. Executive Session

Tracey Spruce moved for the School Committee to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for the following purpose: **Purpose 3:** to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Andover Education Association Unit A and to reconvene in Open Session. The Chair declared that an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, and to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Shannon Scully. Roll call vote: S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, P. Murphy -Y, J. Blumstein-Y.

III. Regular Meeting resumed at 7:06 P.M.

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by a Salute to the Flag led by South School students Sadi Brezinski, Erin Brezinski, and Mattie Brezinski.

IV. Recognitions & Communications

Special Olympics National Unified Champion School Recognition

Earlier this year, Special Olympics presented AHS with the National Unified Champion School Banner for demonstrating our efforts toward an inclusive school climate and a sense of collaboration and respect for all members of the student body and staff. Andover High is one of 16 schools in Massachusetts and 173 schools nationwide to receive this recognition. The banner will be placed in the Dunn Gymnasium at AHS.

Athletics: Swim Team Recognition

Coaches Patty Barrett and Becky Pierce were named Fall Swim Coaches of the Year with the AHS Girls' Swim & Dive Team ending the year with a dual meet record of 12-0 and winning their 19th State Championship. Patty thanked Dr. Berman and Bill Martin who were on deck all day with them.

Other Communications

Andover was accepted into the State's Kaleidoscope Grant Program which Dr. Berman credited Steve Chinosi, Director of Strategic Learning, on securing.

The first of a series of Vision Meetings for the new West Elementary School provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to share ideas on creating a sense of community, UDL, and a sense of collaboration and designing for the environment with the architects from SMMA. The next Vision Meeting will be held on January 15th. The architects will collaborate with all teachers at West Elementary and meet with Shawsheen staff.

Unfortunately, Andover was not invited into the MSBA funding program for AHS. Dr. Berman commented on the constructive conversations he, Shannon and Joel had with the MSBA. The Committee is grateful to Senate Barry Finegold for arranging the meeting with MSBA to help us understand why AHS was not accepted into their program. MSBA validated that we put forth a strong SOI, but found other communities more in need. Dr. Berman will be working with MSBA on their calculations for overcrowding versus our calculations. MSBA may have included the field house and the Collins Center in their calculations that we don't consider as instructional space.

The AHS Feasibility Study Committee met this morning to discuss whether to re-apply to MSBA or to undertake a town-funded project. No conclusion was reached.

At an Informal School Committee Meeting Joel Blumstein and Tracey Spruce spoke with parents about School Start Times and the process being followed. A student in attendance, who is in support of a change in school start time, shared her feelings which was very helpful. They also discussed the process going forward for AHS building renovation.

Today was the deadline for submitting applications to be considered for the Parent Advisory Committee for School Start Times; 38 applications have been received to date.

The next Informal School Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at 9:30 A.M. at Memorial Hall Library on the 2nd Floor.

SEPAC is up and running and their next meeting will be held at the end of January. Paul Murphy has volunteered to be the school committee liaison to SEPAC.

B. Public Input: none

C. Response to Public Input n/a

D. Education

E. Continuing Business

1. Eliminating Tuition for Full Day Kindergarten

As a priority of the School Committee for a number of years, the School Committee is pleased to take a formal vote to discontinue the tuition for FDK beginning in the 2020/2021 school year. The plan has been presented to both the Select Board and the Finance Committee. The School Committee is hopeful for their endorsement.

Shannon Scully moved to amend the FY2021 Budget Development Assumptions and Guidelines in the section labeled "All-Day Kindergarten Tuition" to delete the current language and to substitute the following: "No tuition will be charged for Full-day Kindergarten for the 2020/2021 School Year." In addition, in the section labeled "Mid-Day Kindergarten Transportation" to delete the current language and to substitute the following: "Mid-day Kindergarten Transportation will not be necessary for the 2020/2021 School Year" and further, to make other necessary changes to the FY-2021 Budget Development

Assumptions and Guidelines and to other budget documents to reflect the decision of the School Committee to not charge tuition for Full-day Kindergarten for the 2020/2021 School Year. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. FY21 Budget

Dr. Berman met with the Superintendent's Administrative Team (SAT) this week to reprioritize budget items. The budgetary needs and priorities were reviewed with the Committee as was the staffing priorities and the list for modest improvements. It is possible that after upcoming meetings with administrators the priorities may shift.

The Town Manager has recommended a budget increase of 3.86% for FY-21. The current District-wide enrollment for this year is 5,816 students. Next year we expect slightly fewer students, but anticipate the Kindergarten enrollment will increase to 490 students. AHS will also see an increase with a larger incoming freshman class. Enrollment for the TOPS Program is very full and the program should be housed at AHS. The middle school enrollment decreased by 45 students. Approximately 10% percent of students receive free/reduced lunch and Dr. Berman anticipates it will remain so. The average elementary class size is at 20-21 students and expected to remain that way for next year.

On January 14th and January 15th school administrators and department heads will be presenting on the budget priorities.

Budget Drivers

Spec. Ed transportation increase of \$500,000.

Negotiated contract settlements with unions.

Legal costs for negotiations.

Spec Ed staffing (BRIDGE, AHS Program Head, Tier 3 Program Staffing).

Athletics Program (revenue down due to Triple E threat that increased the need for indoor rental space).

Out-of-District cost will increase significantly next year due to two new students entering the district with very significant needs that cannot be placed in-district.

3. Update: One Community, One Nation (OCON)

Dr. Berman provided an update on OCON. He is proposing a shift from an Andover Only Initiative to a Collaborative Initiative/Partnership with other districts, particularly for the Institutes followed by one-day of curriculum planning. The institutes are three full-days where teachers dig into an approach (content) interwoven into the literacy block with an integrated approach of learning (pedagogy) with a follow-up day of curriculum planning.

The School Committee asked many questions about the funding mechanism for the Andover Only Initiative and the Collaborative Initiative, number of teachers trained, cost for outside consultants, end-point, proprietary rights to the curriculum and the administrative costs for running the collaborative. A chart showing a summary of costs of the Andover Only Initiative and the Collaborative Initiative was shown.

Dr. Berman is looking for approval from the School Committee to send out an informational flyer to the other interested Districts. The Committee agreed to support one District Institute since the funds are already in this year's budget although some members of the Committee have reservations about the funding arrangement.

4. Financials: November 2019

Asst. Superintendent, Paul Szymanski gave a review of the November 30th financials. Andover is incurring unanticipated costs in transportation. Dr. Berman and Sara Stetson explained the costs and many variables of Special Education Transportation In-District and Out-of-District. Shelley anticipates that we will cover some of the overage with anticipated savings and will have to pull back on spending. Paul Szymanski said they have been actively working in a responsible way to reduce spending and expect to have a balanced budget by the end of the year.

5. FY20 Budget and Potential Warrant Articles

As a result of unbudgeted and unanticipated out-of-district tuition in the amount of \$812,000, the School Committee was asked to vote to authorize the request to the Town Manager for a supplemental appropriation to the School Department's budget in the amount of \$212,000 to transfer from available funds.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to authorize the Superintendent or designee to submit a 2020 Andover Town Meeting Warrant Article request to the Town Manager for a Supplemental Appropriation for FY 20 in the amount of \$212,000. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to Andover Public Schools

No reports at this time.

2. Minutes September 19, 2019

On a motion by Susan McCready seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

G. Adjournment

At 9:35 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Susan McCready the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of December 19, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: Presentation on FY-2021 Budget and
Initial Unprioritized Proposed FY21 Budget Additions