

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, September 17, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Participants from the School Committee: Shannon Scully, Susan McCready, Tracey Spruce, Paul Murphy, and Lauren Conoscenti.

Others participating: Superintendent Shelley Berman, Assistant Superintendents Sandra Trach & Sara Stetson, COO Stephen Nembirkow, , Director of Communications Nicole Kieser, Director of Innovation Stephen Chinosi.

I. Regular Meeting

Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Chairperson Scully called to order the meeting of the School Committee at 6:00 PM and the Committee immediately voted to meet in Executive Session. The Regular SC Meeting will be broadcast by Andover TV and on Comcast Channel 99, Verizon Channel 43 or streamed: www.andovertv.org. **Public Participation via email: scremote@andoverma.us**

II. Executive Session:

At 6:00 P.M. Susan McCready moved to meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for Purpose 3, to discuss strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining with the AEA Unit A, Andover Assistants, Andover Food Services, and Andover Administrators Association because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the litigating and bargaining position of the Committee. The Committee will reconvene in regular session at approximately 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

III. Regular Meeting Resumes

Chairperson Scully reconvened the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence.

IV. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Berman thanked everyone who attended Town Meeting on Saturday and approving the School Department Budget. Thank you to the Town Administration for their support of the schools.

Our PTO's and PAC's did a tremendous job preparing to welcome everyone back to school. Shelley also thanked everyone within the School System for the tremendous work they did towards the reopening, especially the custodial staff and the Town Maintenance Staff. The Town Manager allocated staff from the Dept. of Public Works to help out. The Food Service Staff have been working hard to prepare lunches for students and for lunches to take home. Teachers, instructional assistants and nurses have spent a great deal of time preparing for this launch. The level of effort and organization on the

part of every single Administrator this summer was extraordinary. This has been a collective effort.

Laura Conoscenti announced that the first School Committee Informal Forum for this school year will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. with a rain date of September 26th. The forum will be held at Town Market (outside at 429 S. Main St.).

Shannon Scully thanked everyone who attended Town Meeting on Saturday and for supporting the Town and School budgets. The Committee is eager to get back to in-person meetings. The challenge is to find a place that can accommodate enough people (26) and an overflow room with a full A/V setup; there are big technical problems to solve.

B. Public Input

- Please address when the District will address a full-time and in-person learning environment.
- Has there been any discussion in allowing more elementary children back to school and combining cohorts to allow 6-7 children.
- What are the metrics for deciding to be “all in”. Some FAQ documents noted items for the model for this year.

C. Response to Public Input

The return to all-in person learning was discussed often during the summer by the Committee. It became apparent to get everyone in, we would have to have desk space at 3' spacing which we were not comfortable with preferring the 6' spacing but the cost of going with that model is substantial.

The overall conclusion of the Committee is that it was impractical logistically and financially, and presents transportation challenges.

We have been using the metrics provided by the Dept. of Education and will have to wait for the guidance to change, particularly for transportation.

D. Education

1. Update on School Reopening Week

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the school reopening plans for the week. The opening went smoothly with students receiving hand sanitizer as they entered the school buildings, it was orderly and quiet. With half the student in the schools, the schools feel empty. Dr. Berman toured the lunch rooms which were very quiet with students separated by 6' and eager to get outside. Teachers were excited to see the children again. There is a different kind of appreciation now to be back in school.

2. Report on Professional Development

Both Asst. Superintendents, Sandy Trach and Sara Stetson, reported on the re-opening and Professional Development held across the District this summer. Sandy visited schools across the system and was impressed with the students and teachers. She thanked everyone for their support of the 10 days of professional development for teachers.

Opening Day was very successful. The direct teaching of hybrid and hybrid home was very exciting to see, and it was wonderful to see the kids. There were many mask breaks today and some classes held outdoors. Sandy thanked the Digital Learning Team, Steve Chinosi, Shelagh St. Laurent, Matt Hall, and the entire IT Department for all of the work they have put forth. The collaboration has been exceptional.

Our Digital Team will be continuing to offer drop in professional development for staff, and parents are participating in online professional development in Schoology. A digital learning teacher guide on Schoology was launched which will also be offered to parents and students.

Sara Stetson said it was very gratifying to see all of the extensive work done around safety coming into play. The nurses have been answering a lot of questions and fielding challenges. Sara visited Shawsheen School today. They have been running their child find clinics and have redesigned the classrooms with furniture for very small people and specialized supports.

Dr. Berman recognized Steve Nembirkow for his work this summer to ensure all of the PPE equipment/supplies was ordered and in place. Steve has been working with the Fire Chief looking at every school and classroom to ensure that there were no major obstacles in the way. Chief Mansfield will be providing a report on his findings. The schools are the cleanest they have ever been. The Business Department has done an amazing job under very difficult circumstances. Town Maintenance went above and beyond to have everything in place.

Paul Puzzanghera, CIO of the IT Department reported that they successfully delivered 1,000 Chromebooks to students in K-5, everyone in the virtual academy has their device, and we were able to provide technology for all the new hires as well. They are very satisfied with the launch delivery. The IT Team has worked on integration to create a seamless environment. Obstacles: There is a shortage of devices; we have a promise date of October but are not confident in that promise and disappointed that they cannot find the quality of equipment they would like.

Deliverer of iPads to first graders are all managed by CHAMP and most importantly, we can download applications to the iPads. We discovered that our vendor has encountered a significant problem the past few days. There has been a failure between Apple and Champ effecting hundreds of school districts across the country. Kids in first grade this week experienced challenges because they could not download some of the key software we had planned to offer. Kindergarten children were supposed to receive their iPads on Monday. We have worked on approaches to resolve the problems as best we can, and working on a new approach tomorrow.

AHS Principal Caitlin Brown reported on opening day at AHS. It was a great day and wonderful to see students back in school. Students were happy to be together and working hard to follow the social distancing rules. She was impressed with students, staff, and the Administrative Team on the incredible job they have done.

The School Committee are all very grateful to see kids back in school today and thanked everyone for their hard work in making this happen. We are a community, a family, and have to care about one another whether in our buildings or not. Today was a great start.

E. Continuing Business

2. Policy Updates: First Readings (no action taken)

a. **EBC Supplemental**: This is an interim policy for the extent of the pandemic to aid school committees and districts in quickly addressing any items that might come up during the COVID -19 emergency. It identifies key areas where changes may need to be made.

b. **EBCFA, Face Coverings**

The SC adopted policy EBCFA for Face Coverings on September 3 2020. A school staff member brought forward a suggestion to clarify when face masks are permitted to be removed. Face masks are not required when there is a distancing of 6', when outside, and while eating and drinking at designated snack or lunch periods.

F. New Business

1. Student Fees

Caitlin Brown reported that students will be charged a \$50 fee per semester for parking at AHS, to track and monitor who is coming in and out and using parking lots. They will work with families to support them on the fee. They are not charging parking fees for the month of September.

Susan McCready reported that she filed a disclosure of a financial interest in general school fees in anticipation of this evening's discussion/votes on fee changes that may impact her family, specifically athletic fees. ; Tracey Spruce also filed a disclosure but failed to identify the parking fee as part of her disclosure so she will abstain from voting on the parking fee Both Susan and Tracey have children who attend AHS who will be directly impacted by these votes The law allows for SC members to participate in such voting so long as the necessary disclosure is filed.

Dr. Berman has been working with Steve Nembirkow and they are prepared to cover losses in parking fees. Shannon Scully is open to lowering the fee to \$25 per semester which would be non-refundable. Dr. Berman and Caitlin Brown agreed with this suggestion as did the other members of the School Committee.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee voted to approve the reduction of AHS parking fees from \$200/year to a \$25 non-refundable fee per semester with the option to revisit the fee should we be fully in person for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 4-0-1. Tracey Spruce abstained.

AHS Athletic Director Bill Martin reported on the Athletic Fees that will begin a month later than usual. He recommends the following:

\$300 per athlete for a reduced Fall I Season (or any reduced season); Full Seasons: \$450 (any student that paid the \$300 during a reduced season and plays multiple seasons

would then owe the balance of \$150 for their 2nd season). Should we go past the halfway point in the season, the fee would not be refunded. They will not be adjusting the coach's stipends unless negotiated with the AEA. They ended up with a positive balance in the budget because of the spring sport cancellations they did not incur costs for bussing, etc.

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed 2020-2021 AHS Athletics Fees as presented. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Sara Stetson reported that due to COVID-19 regulations, they have had to move from a full-day to a half-day Pre-School Program, therefore, they have to make an adjustment in the fee for Pre-school Tuition. Dr. Berman said we did compensate for this reduction in the budget.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the reduction of Pre-school Tuition for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The motion was seconded by Tracey Spruce. Roll call: L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

2. SEIU Local 888 (Food Services) Contract

Susan McCready provided a summary of changes to the Food Services Employees Contract which she worked on with Former Asst. Superintendent Paul Szymanski to negotiate.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the contract with the Service Employees International Union, Local 888, Food Services for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 as presented and to authorize the Chair of the School Committee to execute the Agreement. Motion seconded Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

G. Consent Agenda: Grants/Donations to District; Minutes

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Minutes of July 16, 30, August 19 and 31. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, Spruce-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

H. Adjournment

At 8:55 PM, Paul Murphy move to adjourn the meeting of September 17, 2020. The motion was seconded by Laura Conoscenti. Roll call: S. McCready-Y, P. Murphy-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Dee DeLorenzo, Recording Secretary (rev)