

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, May 6, 2021
Virtual Meeting

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

Others participating: Interim Superintendent, Claudia Bach, Asst Superintendent for Curriculum and Learning Sandra Trach, Asst Superintendent for Student Services, Sara Stetson, COO Stephen Nembirkow and Jess Porter, Human Resources Director

I. Regular Meeting

Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Chairperson Scully called to order the meeting at 6:00 PM and the Committee immediately voted to meet in Executive Session. The Regular School Committee 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:

Susan McCready moved to meet in Executive Session pursuant to G.L. chapter 30A, section 21(a), for purpose (2) to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Specifically superintendent). The Committee will reconvene in regular session at approximately 6:00 P.M. Motion seconded by Tracey Spruce. 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

The Chair resumed the Regular Meeting at 6:04 PM.

Agenda changes: Rescheduling the Middle School Chromebook Pilot and WA-P26 to establish a revolving account for student technology rentals/

A. Recognitions/Communications

In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week and National Nurses' Week, Dr. Bach acknowledged Andover teachers and nurses who have all stepped up to the plate this year and are now welcoming back the students. The School PTO/PACs also recognized the Teachers and Nurses as well.

The Andover Coalition for Education is running the Race for Ace fundraiser this week and participants can give special recognition/gifts to an educator. The Andover Theater Arts and Music is presenting "Songs for a New World" running tonight outside of the Collins Center and over the weekend. The event includes a live auction and next week they will be holding a fundraiser. The Senior Center, now called the Robb Center, has completed their renovation. The Center is twice as big and will be having a grand opening in June.

Sandy Trach recognized the AHS Leadership Team for the incredible work they are doing to help us return to in-person learning. The in-person registration school link sent out to AHS parents closes on Friday night, May 7th.

Sara Stetson also recognized our nurses and teachers most particularly; Director of Nursing Rita Casper, who has done an amazing job this year and also for arranging vaccination opportunities for staff and students. Sara recognized Director of School Social Work Services, Joe Yarid on showing the film on bullying titled 'Up-Standers' to parents and to a panel of AHS students led by AHS Social Worker Abby Levin.

Steve Chinosi reported that the second annual Virtual Student Showcase is coming up in a few weeks as is the Global Pathway Scholars Endorsement Ceremony.

Susan McCreedy thanked Student Services and Joe Yarid for the showing of 'Up-Standers' which was an excellent film. She also let the community know that the WESP School Building Committee is holding a virtual Community Forum on Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00 PM. Information on how to access the forum is available on the school website.

Lauren Conoscenti reported that the School Committee Informal Forum will be held next Thursday at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Shannon Scully announced that Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th under a large tent. There are many important articles for school and town that day. There is also an important election coming up on June 15th to vote to approve a debt exclusion for the construction of West Elementary/Shawsheen Preschool Building.

B. Public Input SC Remote Mailbox: There is one item pertaining to the AHS reopening.

C. Response to Public Input

D. Education

1. West Elementary/Shawsheen Preschool (WESP) Building Project

a. Project Update by Paula Colby-Clements

Many talented members of the Community have been working on this project to bring it to the voters at Town Meeting on June 5th and also at the ballot box on June 15th. The update included a video created by a private group of community members in support of the new West Elementary and Shawsheen Preschool Building Project. Paula provided additional updates noting that the MSBA Board voted unanimously to approve the projects with very little question. The total cost of the project budget voted by the Board is \$151,661,968 and that means there is a total maximum grant of \$38,442,820 (total cost with contingencies).

May 19th will be their final community forum for questions and answers. They opted to go the Construction Manager at Risk route and the RFP had gone out to bid with interviews happening over the next few weeks. They have pre-qualified six firms who are interested and by May 18th we will have a recommendation from the Selection Committee; however we cannot hire that firm until July once the voters have approved the project.

If all goes accordingly to plan with two favorable votes, there will be a lot of work putting together construction documents, prepping and securing the site. There will still be input from educators and community members. The new building will sit behind the existing building and we will not have to move the students over the next year. We are hoping the School Committee unanimously votes in favor of the Article.

b. Town Meeting Warrant Article 15

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee recommend approval of Annual Town Meeting WA-15 West Elementary School Design and Construction. Motion seconded by Paul Murphy. Roll call: T. Spruce-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, and S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Environmental Club: EV Chargers at AHS

Joyce Losick-Yang, Sustainability Coordinator for the Town, thanked the SC for working with the Environmental Club on this project. She also thanked the students for reaching out to her and Janet Nicosia, Director of Facilities on this effort.

There will be little to no charging outside of school hours. The charger will not be near public transportation, eateries, shopping or the library. The only other users would be from sporting events, Town meeting events, concerts, or extended year services and Open House events. Since AHS is only open 50% of the calendar year, 260 hours of charging per vehicle demand could be met by school chargers. They would expect about 8 hours of access per school day with 1,440 hours of charge per year by a single charger that could accommodate eleven vehicles. The recommendation today is to only install one unit, but to make room for a future unit installation. The upfront cost per unit totals \$16,557 and the total cost per year would be just under \$2,953.20. If we can achieve 100% occupancy the charge would be net neutral. They are considering a charge of \$1.00 per hour which would be in line with other charging stations nearby.

Scott Darlington, AHS Asst. Principal, provided an overall view of the Town and School responsibilities. The School Dept. will be in charge of the overall maintenance, after the fee is collected, the School Dept. would pay \$75 and the Environmental Club will be raising funding.

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the School Committee approve the installation of a Dual-port Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station at the Andover High School. Motion seconded by Tracey Spruce. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, and S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee authorize the Superintendent or her designee to execute any necessary service agreements in compliance with applicable law and District Policy DJ Purchasing, to maintain and operate the Andover High School Electric Vehicle Charging Station, and to make deposits and withdrawals for that purpose using the existing Student Parking Revolving Fund. Motion seconded by Tracey Spruce.

Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, and S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee set the initial user fee for use of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at AHS at \$1.00 per hour for the initial six months of operation. The Committee will review an initial EV Charging Station Usage Analysis not more than six months after the EV Charging Stations begin operation, and with recommendation from the Superintendent, consider revising the user fee to achieve cost-neutrality at the end of the first year. Motion seconded by Susan McCready. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, and S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

3. High School Learning Model Updates (remote/hybrid/in-person)

Dr. Bach reported that Sandy Trach, Asst. Superintendent, AHS Asst. Principal, Scott Darlington and AHS Principal, Caitlin Brown put out a much-awaited announcement to families on Monday announcing that students from grades 9-12 will be coming back to in-person learning on Monday, May 17th with the exception of the Remote Academy Students.

A team from the District Office and AHS have been meeting and working on all of the alterations needed to open the school. Because of the space limitations, the High School has been their most challenging school to open. Scott Darlington said they are estimating the number of desks and configurations for each classroom; it has been a challenge to green-lighting the rooms. They need school monitors (lunch and hall) as well as substitutes.

After receiving recommendations from DESE, Andover is cautiously optimistic about the overflow of students. Lunches will be modified and they will be installing tents so classes could be held outside (weather permitting). They have worked with IT and Paul Puzanghera on installing new wiring in the field house. Interior and exterior access points will be established so they can have Wi-Fi in the Field House by May 17th with hotspots in other areas of the school. The Andover Facilities Department has been partnering with us to complete the task of opening AHS.

An email went out to AHS parents asking for confirmation if their students will be returning to in-person learning or participating in Remote Academy. The questionnaire also included questions on transportation. Sandy Trach said the registration data is extremely important and is to be returned by May 7th. Parents should contact AHS if they have lost the link which is unique to each student.

The School Committee has received a number of questions from parents on AHS students returning to in-person learning which were compiled and sent to AHS Administration. Scott Darlington provided information on the questions submitted by parents and by the School Committee. Caitlin Brown will be holding grade level parent meetings to answer their questions and Scott will follow up with her on posting the questions and answers.

a. AHS Transportation Policy for Spring 2021 / AHS Start Times for Spring 2021

Transportation: Hannah Tolla, Data Analyst and School Transportation Coordinator Cindy Button provided information on bussing.

In the 2019.2020 school year, approximately 600 students were bussed to AHS, which is why filling out the registration form is so important because it will impact the different bussing options. As of 3:30 PM, 154 families have indicated they would like bus transportation. Cindy Button looked at the responses which were imported directly into the routing software; students requesting bussing are scattered across the district and she will be speaking to Trombly Bus Company about extra busses if we need them.

Dr. Bach said they are committed to not having to change the current bus schedule. When they have more accurate data, they will know if they need to add more busses or, if necessary, change the schedule to return to a 7:45am start time. Until then, they are staying with the existing schedule. They hope the School Committee could support them to revert to pre-pandemic school start times if they have to.

A discussion followed on the possible number of students who would be requesting bus ridership, amount of time available in between runs, the number of busses they would need, and to vote on bussing for students in Grades 9-12. All options will be explored, the issue is the time in the afternoon in which bussing will be challenging. Dr. Bach said they are requesting a contingency for a vote tonight.

Shannon is concerned if they vote tonight to change start times, the information could be confusing depending upon how the registration turns out. . It sounds like a 2-week problem. After 3 years of trying to get a later start time at AHS, she is not inclined to go back to the previous start time given the capacity to solve the very real need to transport students.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion on student bussing for grades 9-12 and start times at AHS. They discussed having a contingency vote on start times, but they do not want to return to pre-pandemic start times. It is too confusing to have a vote on contingency plans.

4. Vaccine Clinics for Students and Staff

Rita Casper reported that they are providing vaccines on Tuesday and Friday to students age 16 years of age and over with a second dose the week of May 31st. Paperwork must be submitted by parents as soon as possible.

5. Field Trip Approvals

a. WMS to Belize February 2022

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for WHMS students to Belize on February 19-26, 2021 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". Lauren Conoscenti seconded the motion. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

b. Resubmission of AHS International Trip to France October 7-17, 2021

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for AHS students to France on October 7-17, 2021 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". Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

6. Financials

Steve Nembirkow reported on the March 2021 Financials. We continue to move in a positive direction with an ending balance for the year of \$200,000. There is a lapse in personnel and some balances in the expense category. We expect to have a surplus for April through June and are taking significant steps to bring the balance down with targeted spending. At the end of May, we will have a better picture as to the ending balance.

E. New Business

1. Last Day of School

On March 2 there was a power loss due to a storm and West Elementary did not get their power back so school was cancelled. DESE has denied us a waiver for West Elementary so they are required to make-up the school day. It can be a half-day as long as they are meeting in-person. West Elementary students will have a full day of school on June 16th and a half day on June 17th.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve Wednesday, June 16 as the last official day for students for the 2020-2021 school year providing there are no more storm days with the exception of West Elementary School who will have to make up a half day of school closure day on March 2nd. Motion seconded by Paul Murphy.

Roll call: L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y.

Motion passes 5-0.

Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee approve June 17th as the last day of school for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year providing there are no more storm days.

Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: T. Spruce-Y, P. Murphy-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Letter in support of the West Elem Shawsheen School Project

Susan McCready reported on the request to send a letter to the Andover Townsman from the Andover School Committee in support of the West Elementary/Shawsheen Preschool Building Project to tell how we got here and what this means to the District in terms of the study done in 2016 and how this is a strategic part of what we plan to do for facilities in the future. Joel Blumstein has been organizing different people to write in on various themes.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Tracey Spruce. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, S. Scully-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

F. Adjournment

At 9:17 P.M. Susan McCready moved that the Andover School Committee adjourn from the meeting of Thursday, May 6, 2021. Motion seconded by Paul Murphy.

Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y.

Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary