

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Thursday, August 26, 2021

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

Others participating: Superintendent Dr. Parvey, Business Manager Paul Syzmanski AHS Liaison Jeffrey Connors.

I. Regular Meeting

Call to Order/Moment of Silence

Chairperson McCready called to order the meeting at 600 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.

II. Executive Session:

Tracey Spruce moved to meet in Executive Session pursuant to G.L. chapter 30A, section 21(a), for the following purpose: Purpose (2) to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, namely Assistant Superintendents because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Committee. The Committee will reconvene in regular session at approximately 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: S Scully, L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, and S. McCready-Y. Motion passes 4-0. Paul Murphy was not present at time of opening.

III. Regular Meeting Resumes

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.

B. Recognitions & Communications

Paul Syzmanski met with town personnel this morning regarding the construction on Shawsheen Road that will continue throughout the month of September. This will cause delays getting in and around the WMS and AHS campus and feeder streets, and delays will be experienced with bussing. The construction company has agreed to not work for a 75-minute window around arrival and dismissal to facilitate bus and parent transportation in/out of the campus. An informational communication will be going out to the Community and families are asked to plan ahead. There will be officers helping to control the traffic on Wednesday, September 1st and Thursday, September 2nd. Additionally, bus companies are facing driver shortages. We are asking everyone to be patient when driving on Shawsheen Road and adjacent streets.

Committee members thanked staff, students, and parents who made AHS Freshman Orientation, informal parent meetings, and elementary meetups a success, and all expressed excitement at the start of the school year.

C. Public Input - none

D. Response to Public Input

E. New Business

1. COVID Planning including Quarantines and Test Protocols
Director of Nursing, Rita Casper acknowledged that several of the school nurses came to a meeting today for a review of COVID guidelines and said they will continue to follow DESE and DPH guidance (which is subject to change over time). In general, the goal is to have students in school as much as possible. Information will be going out to parents and staff concerning testing, contact tracing, masking, and other risk mitigation protocols. Other protocols from last year will be discontinued, including one-way hallways, various band/chorus restrictions, and capacity limits on buildings. Distancing is discontinued in all areas with the exception of asymptomatic students, who will be distanced 3' at lunch. Flu vaccines are no longer required although they are recommended. Rita shared the revised protocols for close contacts, symptomatic testing, and "test and stay". She is not recommending pool testing at this time.

Shannon Scully would like to see us maintain the greater spacing requirements as we start the school year, especially during lunch, when students will be unmasked. To the extent it is operationally possible, Shannon advocates for a more conservative start with greater distancing. Tracey Spruce is concerned with the contradiction between and lack of contact tracing in cafeterias and the differential guidance between masked/unmasked students. This is especially concerning at the elementary level. Dr Parvey assures that principals are all committed to doing whatever they can to ensure safety and where appropriate to socially distance. Lauren Conoscenti asked that school principals have really clear guidelines on how lunch is handled for elementary schools in particular, and to communicate these promptly.

Paul Murphy thought the information to be helpful and thanked Rita for trying to lay it out as clearly as possible. Jeffrey Conners asked if the gym spaces used last year for lunch will be available for use this fall. AHS Principal Caitlin Brown said they are going to re-create some norms how people sit at and use the tables and will be setting up some desks so they are apart from each other. They also have a tent outside that can be used. The Committee thanked Rita Casper for her report.

Caitlin Brown said AHS has a program where a counselor and teachers work collaboratively to bring a student that who is out of school for a length of time up to speed. Teachers will have face time with students for H-Block and will be able to see students in Google meet and touch base with them for any concerns regarding their work. Schoology is where work will be posted so they can have access to the student's work.

Dr. Parvey said additional information will be presented at the September 2nd School Committee Meeting.

F. Education

1. Andover High School Handbook 2021-2022

AHS Assistant Principal Scott Darlington reported on the AHS Handbook for 2021-2022, noting that there aren't a lot of substantive changes to the handbook this year. Two substantive changes include the following:

~ Honor Code: Plagiarism, addition p. 39, adding in steps to make clear to teachers meets with the student to and to send an email to parents

~ AP Exam Addition, p. 22: Students are only allowed to register for an AP exam if they are enrolled in the course at Andover High School.

Scott Darlington responded to the questions from the School Committee members.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the AHS Handbook for the 2021.2022 school year as presented with the additional modifications to the cafeteria policy (to remove 2020-21 Covid protocols) as discussed. Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y,

L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, S. McCready-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

G. Continuing Business

1. Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning Agreement

Dr. Parvey said the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning position has been vacant since the end of June and a lot of tasks have fallen to her. Now that we have hired someone who will be starting full-time September 13th, we would like to provide eight transitional days that will assist with the opening of schools and tasks that come out of the Office of Teaching and Learning.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the request to provide the transition work agreement between the Andover School Committee and Dr. Julie Riley for up to and including eight transition work days on and between August 16, 2021 and September 9, 2021 at per diem rate of \$618.00 per day and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the School Committee, Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to District
2. Surplus/Supply Inventory Disposal
3. SC Meeting Minutes: June 17, 2021, June 25, 2021 and July 15, 2021 with edits.

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

I. **Adjournment**

At 8:58 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Tracey Spruce the Andover School Committee adjourned from the meeting of Thursday, August 26, 2021.

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

Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

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Recording Secretary