

**Andover School Committee**  
**Thursday, September 16, 2021**  
**School Committee Room**

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

**Others participating:** Superintendent Dr. Parvey, Asst. Superintendent Dr. Julie Riley, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sara Stetson, Business Manager Paul Szymanski, and AHS Liaison Jeffrey Connors.

**I. Regular Meeting**

**Call to Order**

Chairperson McCready called to order the meeting of the Andover School Committee to order 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](http://www.andovertv.org).

**II. Executive Session:**

Tracey Spruce moved for the Andover School Committee to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for the following purpose: Purpose (2) to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, namely Assistant Superintendents and Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to bargaining with unionized Therapists Association, because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining 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, P. Murphy-Y, T. Spruce-Y, and S. McCready-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

**III. Regular Meeting resumed at PM 7:22 PM**

**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**

Dr. Parvey reported that she attended the Middle School Open Houses this week and will be attending the Elementary Open Houses on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

The School Committee welcomed Dr. Julie Riley to the School Committee Meeting. Julie has been visiting the schools and is excited about being in Andover.

Lauren Conoscenti reported that SEPAC Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and information is posted on the SEPAC Facebook page.

**C. Public Input**

Courtney Betts 11 Pasho Street: The bus situation is not working. It takes 45 minutes to get home on bus 27 or 24, last year it took 15 minutes. Our children sit in anxiety not knowing if their bus will show up. Parents wait at the bus stop at 3:45 pm. Our principals are doing an amazing job of alerting parents when busses actually leave the school. The ripple effect has affected more people and areas. What does the School Committee plan to do about this?

Cristina Addesa, 66 Chestnut Street, heard that it is not just an operations issue (shortage of bus drivers) it is also the compression of the school day that is causing the problem. Children are exhausted by the end of the day. The compression issue will be year-long. How do we address this as a community?

**D. Response to Public Input**

A number of communications have gone out today Mr. Szymanski has met with the executive team of the bus company to problem-solve this matter and going forward, bi-weekly meetings will be held. The bus company is in the process of hiring and training new bus drivers. Paul Szymanski reported that the problem we were all concerned about was the shortage of bus drivers. We have tried to increase communications on both sides and have had surveys going out. Parents were concerned that busses were over capacity and we are trying to make possible adjustments. Group pick-up changes called 'batching' was explained by Paul. They are improving communications weekly.

Shannon said this is a result of multiple events and the change in school start time is not one of them. There is a shortage of busses and bus drivers and there are no longer B runs.

**E. Education**

1. English Language (ELL) Summer Program Presentation was provided by Dr. Jorge Allen, Vivian McNeeley, Deirdre Carty-Forss, and Peter Otis.

The ELL Summer Program is held every summer for ELL students in grades 1-8 across the District. This summer, the theme centered on mindfulness. Deirdre Forss reported 73 students from grades 1-8 participated with the assistance of kids in the AHS Global program. They met for three weeks from 9-12 and had breakfast daily.

Peter Otis, also part of the ELL Summer Program, talked about the curriculum and the theme they deciding on before they began. To complement the mindfulness theme, they used anchor texts for the students that were the central part of the curriculum. The artists they contracted with and special activities were all tied into the theme. They use Common Core journals (math, reading, and writing). They want the students actively engaged in group work all the time so they promote listening, speaking, and writing skills. This year they had math mysteries Thursdays. There are two teachers in every classroom and

volunteers who work independently with kids. Thank you to Dr. Allen who has allowed us to let the curriculum evolve and provided the materials that the kids need.

Vivian McNeely is an artist and participated in the NEAL Institute, the Art & Literacy Program, for 3–years. She taught language through the arts. Dr. Allen approached her to join the summer program to create the curriculum to teaching language through the arts. To make ELL summer school the place where kids want to go.

The Committee thanked the teachers for their presentation.

**F. New Business**

1. Policy GCD – Paid Holidays

Susan McCready would like for the Committee to vote to update Policy GCD to include the new Juneteenth Independence holiday.

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept Policy GCD as presented. Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Capital Improvements Project FY23

Janet Nicosia, Director of Plant & Facilities presented a short PowerPoint to the Committee on the following CIP Articles. The CIP is a 5-year plan developed through the input of the School Department, Paul Szymanski, Dr. Parvey and meeting with principals once a year. Janet explained what items fall under each of the following lists that make-up the CIP.

- a. SCH 1 – School Wide Maintenance Projects (priority projects)
- b. SCH 2 – Projects by Building (smaller projects)
- c. FAC-3 – Town and School Security Projects
- d. SCH-5 – Major School Projects
- e. FAC 7 – Town/School Energy Initiatives

Requesting:     \$870,000 for SCH-1  
                      \$741,500 for SCH-2  
                      \$265, 000 for FAC-3  
                      \$975,000 for FAC-7

3. ESSER III Grant

A. Public Input

The Committee will accept Public Input tonight on the Esser III grant.

Dr. Parvey reported that a survey was sent out to the community with 100 responses received to date. We are gathering stakeholder input and tomorrow she is meeting with Town wide PTO to talk about how we can best meet the needs of the community. The responses from the community show that they are looking for social emotional learning and mental health

support. The grant allows us to supplement but not supplant what we can do. The grant is for \$1.2M and the deadline to submit the grant is October 24, 2021.

Shannon is concerned with bringing people(resources) in to support the needs using grant funds that will not be there when the grant money expires.

Sara Stetson reported that another way they are going to seek public input is that she and Christina Ryan will be holding drop-in sessions for parents to ask for their input on what they think we should do with the ESSER grants.

#### 4. Financials – FY21 Year End

Janet Wright and Paul Szymanski have requested School Committee approval to transfer unencumbered funds from available expenses to salary which the school committee will need to approve. The request is consistent with SC policy DBJ, Budget Transfer Authority.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a request by the Business Officer to transfer unencumbered funds in the amount of \$69,017.82 from General Expenses to offset negative salary balances in the General Fund. Motion seconded by Paul Murphy. Motion passes 5-0.

#### G. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to District – AHS Punchard Trust in the amount of \$1,218.21 for the Hailstorm Project and \$2,000 from ANDONA for the West Middle School Classroom Library.

Paul Murphy moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Motion passes 5-0.

#### H. Adjournment

At 8:52 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Lauren Conoscenti, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn from the meeting of September 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee DeLorenzo*

Dee DeLorenzo

Recording Secretary