

Andover School Committee
Thursday, December 2, 2021
School Committee Room

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

Others participating: Superintendent Dr. Magda Parvey, Asst. Superintendent Dr. Julie Riley, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sara Stetson, Business Manager Paul Szymanski, and AHS Liaison Justin Jin.

I. **Regular Meeting**

A. **Call to Order**

Chairperson McCready called to order the meeting of the Andover School Committee at 6:04 PM in the School Committee Room and the Committee immediately voted to meet in Executive Session.

II. **Executive Session:**

Paul Murphy moved for the School Committee to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for the following purpose: Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to bargaining with unionized personnel, namely the Andover Administrators Association (AAA) Unit B, Andover Assistants, SEIU Local 888-School Custodians and Andover School Food Service, and (AEA) Unit A, 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: P. Murphy-Y, S. Scully-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

III. **Regular Meeting resumed at 7:40 PM**

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

The meeting began with a Moment of Silence in memory of Lauren Conoscenti's father who recently passed away. The Moment of Silence was followed by a Salute to the Flag.

B. **Recognitions/Communications**

Dr. Parvey attended the robot presentation of 'Kebbi' at Shawsheen Preschool which is the first preschool in MA to use this tool that helps children with special needs to unlock learning potential through unique robotic technology. Dr. Parvey visited High Plain Elementary and West Elementary School this week as well.

Administrative Updates:

Dr. Parvey participated in the following: New Superintendent Induction Program, West Elementary/Shawsheen School Bldg. Committee Meeting, APS Nurse's Meeting on contact tracing and the process, Superintendent's Administrative Team Meeting on Wednesday, Dec 1st, District Organizational Study on December 6th and the DESE Comprehensive Review held throughout the week of December 13th -17th.

Covid 19 Update: There has been an increase in cases due to the Thanksgiving break with 36 positive cases across the District as of December 2nd

Superintendent Office Hours:

The following items were discussed: Food Insecurity: eligible for federal and state services and support through Project Bread/Snap. restarting recycling and waste programs, and curriculum transparency. The theme of the student artwork hanging in the halls at Central Office is 'windows'. Students and parents are welcome to view the artwork.

Julie Riley attended the Andover Vocal Music Department's gala on Tuesday night and thanked all of the teachers and students on an amazing concert.

Shannon Scully thanked Bill Martin and everyone at AHS for getting them to Fenway Park for the AHS football game against North Andover. They attended the pre-game activities which was a great show of school spirit.

Tracey Spruce congratulated the AHS Girls' Field Hockey Team on winning their championship. She also congratulated the staff and students who performed and participated in 'Mama Mia' which was an outstanding show.

Lauren Conoscenti announced that the next School Committee Informal Forum will be held on Saturday, December 11th at Memorial Hall Library from 9:30-11:00 am.

Susan McCready reported that that Triboard Meeting of December 8th will be held at Memorial Hall Library starting at 7:00 PM. She also reported on the West Elementary -Shawsheen School Building Committee's meeting with abutters that provided information to show that we want to be good neighbors. A meeting will be held on Monday, Dec 6 to discuss the design status and on December 15, the Building Committee will hold a virtual meeting starting at 7:00 P.M

C. Public Input

D. Response to Public Input

E. Education

1. International Field Trip: AHS to Portugal (April Vacation 2023)

AHS faculty member, Brian Shea, reported on the proposed trip to Portugal for 30-40 students over April vacation 2023, for students currently in the 10th and 11th grades. The purpose of the trip is to deepen the students' cultural understanding, appreciation, and knowledge through the priceless experience of international travel. The tour is provided by EF Tours.

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed Extracurricular Trip for Andover High School Students to travel to Portugal during April Vacation 2023, April 14-April 23, 2023, 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 Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Update: Onsite Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) - Comprehensive District Accountability Review

Dr. Riley provided an update on the upcoming review by DESE who will be in the District beginning the week of December 13th focusing on DESE's six standards of effective district practices

defined in state regulations: Leadership & Governance, Curriculum & Instruction, Assessment, Human Resources, Professional Development, Student Support, and Financial and Asset Management. They will examine the system’s policy and practices that drive the day to day work of the school system. Andover is one of 17 districts who will participate in a review like this.

The review is a 3-prong approach and includes: Documentation of the Review Process, District Interviews, and classroom observations. We are currently in phase one of this process. The visiting team will follow a research-based observational protocol and a team will visit 8-10 classrooms in each school and in each grade level. The interview process will include focus groups consisting of District Leaders, School Leaders, Instructional staff (a range of staff will be participating), and two School Committee members will be interviewed as will the leadership of the Andover Educational Association and family members and students in Grades 6-12. DESE states that it will take about three months to produce a draft document of their review.

F. Continuing Business

1. Substitute Pay Rate Changes

Shannon Scully moved that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the recommendation from the Superintendent for the following Substitute Pay Rate changes effective as of January 1, 2022:

Substitutes	Current Daily Rate	Proposed Daily Rate
without a Bachelor’s Degree	\$75.00	\$85
with a Bachelor’s Degree or higher	\$85.00	\$100.00
who are retired teachers from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	\$105.00	\$115.00
*Building-based substitutes	\$125.00	\$125.00
*rates were increased last year		

The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy and voted 5-0 to approve.

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

1. Grants/Donations to District: AHS PAC

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Motion voted 5-0 to approve.

H. Adjournment

At 8:23 P.M. on a motion by Paul Murphy and seconded by Lauren Conoscenti, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of December 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary