

Andover School Committee
Thursday, June 16, 2022
School Committee Room

The Chair opened the Regular Meeting at 5:30 PM and the Committee immediately moved into Executive Session.

Participants from the School Committee: Chair Susan McCready, Vice Chair Lauren Conoscenti. Members: Tracey Spruce, Emily DiCesaro, and Sandis Wright.

Others participating: Superintendent Dr. Magda Parvey, School Business Administrator Keith Taverna, Asst. Superintendent Dr. Julie Riley, AHS Student Government, Justin Jin.

II. Executive Session

Tracey Spruce moved to vote to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for the following purposes: Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to bargaining and litigation with unionized personnel, the Andover Education Association (AEA) Unit A, because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and Purpose (4) to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. The Committee will reconvene in regular session at approximately 7:00 PM. Motion seconded by Lauren Conoscenti. Roll call: E. DiCesaro-Y, S. Wright-Y, L. Conoscenti-Y, T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

III. Regular Meeting Resumes/Moment of Silence/Salute to Flag 7:00 PM.

A. The Regular Meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey shared her Superintendent's report on school visits and other activities she recently participated in across the school district. Administrative updates included a list of the many meetings, focus groups, and other professional meetings and learning held in the district.

School visits: Special Olympics Event held at North Andover High School, Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2022 at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, High Plain Grade 5 Celebration, Bancroft Moving Up Ceremony, Doherty Middle School Graduation Ceremony and also the First Annual Retirees Breakfast Celebration held in the Robb Center.

Administrative Update:

- West Elementary/Shawsheen Community Forum on Tuesday, June 7th.
- Bancroft Principal Candidate Site Visits on Monday, June 6 and Wednesday, June 8th.
- Elementary Focus Group Meeting on Thursday, June 9th.
- Interviews for Pre-K-5 Math Coach Candidates on June 9th and June 10th.
- Evaluation and Superintendent Entry Plan Findings Executive Summary Report submitted on Friday, June 10th.
- SAT Meeting on Wednesday, June 15th.

Dr. Riley recognized the Andover School Principals for their fabulous work throughout the year and the year-end celebrations each of which were very heart warming and a true

representation of what is being done in our schools. She also thanked Claudia Wester for inviting her to attend the presentation on Innovation Labs Delightful Interventions that showed what we are able to offer our students. Dr. Riley is proud of the work being done at Andover High School. Susan McCready and Lauren Conoscenti attended as well.

Keith Taverna thanked the school principals who have welcomed him into their schools and to meet their staff. He also welcomed Laura Reinholm, the new School Business Manager to the Business Office.

Emily DiCesaro was happy to be invited to the graduation ceremonies. She attended the 2022 AHS Graduation, Bancroft Grade 5, and DMS Grade 6 ceremonies. She also provided an update on SEPAC who is trying to increase their presence around the district and who had a table at the Bancroft Heritage Night on June 9th. They are encouraging parents to fill-out the SEPAC Survey. They also have amended their bylaws to include a student representative. The next meeting will be held on August 9th via Zoom.

Tracey Spruce also attended the 2022 AHS Graduation which was an uplifting event. In addition, she attended the Sanborn School graduation and loved that there were two AHS 2022 graduates and Sanborn alumni at the graduation who gave some words of wisdom to the graduating 5th grade class.

Lauren Conoscenti attended the AHS graduation, and the South Elementary and Doherty Middle School Moving Up Ceremonies; thank you to all the principals and school staff for putting on these ceremonies this year.

Lauren also shared the results of the School Committee Informal Forum at Memorial Hall Library that she and Susan McCready hosted. They had a great conversation with seven parents from all different levels, talking about mental health services, cleanliness at the AHS campus, concerns about kindergarten class size, school staffing across the different schools, and the right size of an elementary classroom. Parents were concerned about school safety and what the school district is doing to keep the students safe. Lauren and Susan shared information on the safety training that takes place across the district. The next informal forum will be scheduled on Tuesday, July 12th at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Sandis Wright attended Heritage Night at Bancroft Elementary School. It was incredible to see the community come together again in person, and they had a great turnout. He also attended the moving up ceremonies at Bancroft and High Plain Elementary Schools, both were quite uplifting and moving. Last week he attended the end-of-year concert for Bancroft and South School 4th and 5th grade students participating held at DMS.

Susan McCready also recognized and thanked all of the school principals, assistant principals, administrative assistants, teachers and all other school staff who worked very hard to prepare for the end of year celebrations. It is clear from programs, slideshows, balloon arches, certificates, etc., that it is an exhausting time of year but it is incredible what the staff does to make our students feel very special. She had the pleasure of going to the end of year ceremonies at AHS, HPE West EL and WMS which were all wonderful. Congratulations to all of our graduations. Tonight is the final end of the year School Committee meeting.

The Superintendent's evaluation will be held on June 27th at 5:00 PM in the School Committee Room. The Committee welcomes input from anyone in the community until June 20th. Individual committee evaluations will be submitted to the Chair who will then compile a composite evaluation that will be given to the Superintendent in public as required by law. The two former School Committee members, Paul Murphy and Shannon Scully, who worked with the Superintendent for the first nine months of her tenure, will be completing the evaluations as well.

C. Public Input

Darlene Ohlenbusch, Excel Program Teacher and Andover resident spoke about the proposed loss of an Excel teacher at AHS. Darlene read a prepared statement about the role and support of the District Excel teacher who are in charge of students in grades 9-12 and the responsibilities of these teachers. The Excel Program is a powerful program.

Betsy DeFosse, AHS Health Teacher spoke about the Health Connection Course she teaches with the Excel Teacher at AHS. The students come to them with significant challenges and have individual needs that require constant support. It is concerning that this position is so valuable and could become obsolete.

Karen Berrios, Brookside Drive, spoke about her son who recently completed his freshman year in the Excel Program at AHS and shared how important the role of the teacher is in this class. It is imperative that there remains a high teacher to student ratio in the Excel Class.

D. Response to Public Input

The Chair shared that the School Committee does not make these type of staffing decisions, the Superintendent and her administrators make these decisions. However, based on past experience, nothing is finalized until the August meeting. The \$96M budget includes the full head-count, there have been no cuts. She has confidence in the principals and administrators that they will do the right thing for our kids.

E. Education

1. Math Curriculum (K-5) Presentation

The Eureka Math Program was presented by Math Program Coordinator Katherine Richard, South School Principal Brenda Lee, and Sanborn Principal Jason DiCarlo. Dr. Parvey thanked Katherine Richard on the work that went into this process.

Katherine Richard shared that the process included a Math Curriculum Council made up of 32 elementary teachers representing all grades from the five elementary schools as well as three school administrators, an assistant principal and math coaches, as well as the Director of Data, Hannah Tolla.

The presentation included information on math data from MCAS and NWEA and the Curriculum Review process as well as the phases that include the steps for implementation, launch, support, and the core elements of the program. Katherine Richard was very passionate in her presentation of the decision to adopt the K-5 Eureka Math Curriculum Program for the Andover Public Schools. They have hired two additional elementary math

coaches for a total of four as well as a program coordinator for the elementary level. This will be the “Year of Math”.

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adopt the K-5 Math Curriculum for the 2022-2023 School Year as presented. Motion seconded by Emily DiCesaro. Motion passes 5-0.

F. New Business

Middle School Field Trips

1. WMS Field Trip, July 26-July 1, 2022. E-Cybermission National Competition, Washington, D.C. WMS teacher Kelly McDonald explained that two students are finalists in the National on-line STEM Competition for students in grades 6-9. The students will be attending along with Kelly McDonald and parent chaperones. The students created a prototype that detects smoke, gives the coordinates and sends a text message alerting the officials.

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for West Middle School Students to travel to the E-Cybermission National Competition in Washington DC on June 27- July 1, 2022 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 Emily DiCesaro. Motion passed 5-0.

2. DMS Field Trip, Panama, February 18-25, 2023

John Gibbons provided an update on the DMS Panama trip that was approved over a year ago and which was rescheduled. The number of eligible students is 42. Julie Riley will confirm the number of students in the fall. The form will be amended to include 7th grade students that have already registered.

Tracey Spruce would like the Committee to discuss, at a later date, the possibility of ensuring financial assistance is more widely available in meaningful amounts so that all students have access to these types of trips.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for DMS Students to travel to the Panama during February vacation break on February 18-23 2023, as presented and discussed 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 Emily DiCesaro. Motion passes 5-0.

English Language Education Program Coordinator Position & Job Description 2022-2023

Dr. Parvey explained that this is not a position that currently exists in the district and is an area that needs its own focus. This is not a request for an additional FTE. A teacher position will be repurposed into a coordinator position.

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to create the position of English Language Education Program Coordinator beginning in the 2022-2023 school year as recommended by the Superintendent and as presented. Motion seconded by Emily DiCesaro and voted 5-0 to approve.

Tracey Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the new job description for the position of ELE Program Coordinator for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. Motion seconded by Emily DiCesaro. Motion passes 5-0.

School Improvement Plans – 2nd Reading

Suspension of Approval and Submission Deadline

Emily DiCesaro moved that the Andover School Committee vote to modify the Submission deadline in Policy BDFA-E-2 – “Submission and approval of the School Improvement Plan” from June 1 to October 1 for this calendar year. Motion seconded by Tracey Spruce. Motion passes 5-0.

Budget Transfer Request

Sandis Wright moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a request by the Business Office and recommended by the Superintendent to transfer unencumbered funds in the amount of \$475,000 from the Salary Account to the General Expense Account to offset negative General Expense Balances as needed. Motion seconded by Tracey Spruce and voted 5-0 to approve.

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

1. Grants/Donations. Sanborn from the Alliance Energy LLC \$500 and \$200.00 for the WMS WEB Program from the Andona Society.
2. SC Minutes: Triboard Meeting April 21, 2022

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

H. Adjourn

At 8:45 P.M. on a motion by Lauren Conoscenti and seconded by Emily DiCesaro, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of Thursday, June 16, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary