

Thursday, August 11, 2022
School Committee Room

Participants from SC: Chair Susan McCready, Vice Chair Tracey Spruce, Sandis Wright; Emily DiCesaro. Others Participating: Superintendent Dr. Magda Parvey, Asst. Superintendent for Finance, Keith Taverna and SGA student, Justin Jin. SC member, Lauren Conoscenti and Asst. Superintendent, Dr. Julie Riley were absent.

Chairperson Susan McCready called to order the meeting of the Andover School Committee at 9AM in the School Committee Room. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence in memory of Ms. DiCesaro's father who recently passed away. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey welcomed new members of the APS staff who have started in the district between April and August 2022: Jennifer Starr, Executive Director of Technology Integration and Digital Literacy; George Puddister, Assistant Director, Human Resources; Shereen Rancourt, Executive Director of Secondary Instructional Operations; Jason DiCarlo, former Sanborn Principal now Executive Director of Elementary Instructional Operations; and Michele Bissell, Director of Grants and Related Programs.

Ms. DiCesaro gave a report on her attendance at a recent well attended SEPAC meeting. The agenda covered plans for the school year, board elections and the results of a parent survey they would like to present at a November SC meeting. *Ms. Spruce* spoke on the July 12 virtual SC forum which she hosted with Ms. DiCesaro. Attendees asked whether the district will use only digital textbooks or will continue to use hardcover textbooks. Jennifer Starr who attended the meeting later told Ms. Spruce that this was an ongoing district conversation with no decisions made yet. A question on reducing the amount of homework given was also raised, and SC members said this was an individual teacher decision made at the school level. Next informal forum is Friday, August 12 at 9:30AM with a link available on the website. No reports were given at this time from *Mr. Taverna, Mr. Wright, SGA Student Justin Jin* and *Ms. McCready*.

Public Input:

Steve Fink, Community Member, who started the Environmental Studies internship 12 years ago with AHS Faculty member, Melanie Cutler, spoke at the meeting. Former students have let him know the impact of the studies in their lives. Last year, 2 AHS students interned in the West Elementary/Shawsheen project working on solar panels and this year the intern opportunity will be available again. He also told the SC about the Environmental Retreat at South Church and the need of deep engagement with the Community. The focus is on what the school community thinks of the environment; green curriculum development; solar panels and broader green facilities/projects. Students' involvement is always welcomed but would like input from everyone as well. He hopes the interns will attend a future SC meeting.

New Business – National Grid Easement Request

Ms. Nicosia's request is to bring underground electrical service to the new West Elementary/Shawsheen building. This is a standard housekeeping task. The easement will come off Beacon Street. The easement also gives National Grid the right to provide maintenance for the property at any time.

Ms. Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee approve the National Grid's Easement request for the West Elementary/Shawsheen Preschool Building Project as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and passed unanimously on a 4-0 vote.

West Elementary/Shawsheen Project Update

West Elementary SBC Chair, Joel Blumstein, reported on the West Elementary site. Construction documents are fully completed and out to bid. Most of the work now is on getting ready for the start of the school. The [West Elementary Student Arrival & Dismissal](#) chart with new parent drop offs will be on

the website. Fencing will be going up shortly with new designated parking signs. Playground structures have come down, but there's a new play area. The bus loop will remain as is, but there will be a new car drop off pattern, which all cars exiting onto High Plain Road. Police presence will be on site at the beginning of the school year to assist drivers. There will be communication going out to families via Blackboard and on the website posting all these changes. Special instructions for Bridge families will be sent out separately. Monthly communication during the school year will also be sent out.

AHS Building Committee: SC Member Appointment

Ms. McCready explained the Town Manager has established the AHS Building Committee, which is comprised of Town Mgr, Andrew Flanagan, Superintendent Dr. Magda Parvey, AHS Principal, Caitlin Brown, Mark Johnson & Shannon Scully (from AHS Facility Study Committee), 3 other Community Members, a School Committee Liaison, a FinCom Liaison, and a Select Board Liaison. Lauren Conoscenti has volunteered to become the SC representative to this committee. Ms. McCready said she would also investigate the possibility of an AHS Building project webpage to be created for public information on their work.

Ms. Spruce moved that the Andover SC vote to appoint Lauren Conoscenti as the SC representative to the Andover High School Building Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously passed on a 4-0 vote.

FY22 Budget Transfer Request

As discussed in June, Mr. Taverna, said the Business office moved money from the Salary Account to the Operating Expense Account. Now they would like to move back funds from the Operating Expense Account to the Salary Account as they close out the fiscal year. This will allow them to make the final journal entries and balance the FY22 journal books.

Ms. DiCesaro moved that the Andover SC vote to approve a request by the Business Office and recommended by the Superintendent to transfer unencumbered funds in the amount of \$161,751.50 from the general expense account to offset negative salary expense balances as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously passed on a 4-0 vote.

Transportation Contract Update

Mr. Taverna said the original contract with Trombly is for 40 full-size buses as part of the FY23 budget. But the present extended 1-year contract stipulates only 38 buses. Therefore, the proposed amendment will reinstate the 40 full-size buses which is already budgeted. Electric buses may be part of the future and are on order. Communication will be going out to parents on bus routes and any other important transportation updates.

Ms. DiCesaro moved that the Andover SC vote to approve the amended transportation contract with Trombly Motor Coach Service, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously passed on a 4-0 vote.

FY23 Per Diem Rates (Substitute Teachers and Nurses)

Dr. Parvey explained the request which she hopes will enable the district to be competitive with local districts. It has become challenging to hire substitute nurses, in particular (i.e. the district is competing with hospitals to hire per diem nurses). In regard to teacher substitutes, for the time being, the proposed rates are very competitive compared to the local districts. That may change in December when the minimum wage rate goes up to \$15/hr. Some members were skeptical about the small rate change making a difference, but Mr. Taverna noted the change from what the district paid in December 2021. He also said the Committee would get an update in October.

Ms. DiCesaro moved that the Andover SC vote to accept the recommendation from the Superintendent to increase substitute pay rates as of July 1, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously passed on a 4-0 vote.

Substitutes	Current Rate	Proposed Daily Rate
without a Bachelor's Degree	\$85	\$90
With a Bachelor's Degree or higher	\$100	\$105

Who are retired teachers from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	\$115	\$120
Building-based	\$125	\$130
Nurses	\$200**	\$400

Consent Agenda

Ms. McCreedy noted the major donation from HPE PTO of \$30,000 to the HPE playground project plus other donations. She welcomes the reintroduction of the grant pie chart. Consent Agenda also includes SC May 5 Meeting minutes and a list of various school surplus inventory.

Ms. Spruce moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously passed on a 4-0 vote.

Adjournment

Ms. Spruce moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright. Motion passes 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:07AM.

Sincerely,

Alison Phelan
 SC Recording Secretary