

**School Committee Meeting
Minutes of April 4, 2019**

Members in Attendance: Chair, Shannon Scully, Vice-Chair, Paul Murphy, Joel Blumstein, Susan McCready, and Tracey Spruce.

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Berman, Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Sara Stetson, and Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach, and AHS Liaison Ben Roldan.

I. SC Regular Open Session Meeting- Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room located in the School Administration Building.

II. Executive Session

Tracey Spruce moved for the School Committee to meet in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 30A, sec. 21(a) for Purpose 3, to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with union personnel, specifically the Instructional Assistants unit, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Andover School Committee, and to reconvene in Open Session not to return to executive session. The motion was seconded by Joel Blumstein. Roll call: P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, T. Spruce-Y, J. Blumstein-Y, and S. Scully-Y.

III. SC Regular Meeting Resumes 7:03 PM

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

A. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair thanked the students and faculty of Andover High School for the wonderful artwork displayed in the School Administration Building and School Committee Room.

B. Reorganization – Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2019-2020

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2019-2020 School Year

The first order of business is to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson after the Town Elections on Tuesday, March 26. These roles will take effect after Town Meeting in May.

Paul Murphy moved that Joel Blumstein be elected as Chairperson of the Andover School Committee for 2019-2020 effective at the conclusion of the 2019 Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Susan McCready. Joel would be honored to accept. No other nominations or discussion. Roll call T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, J. Blumstein-Y. motion passes 5-0.

VICE CHAIR:

Joel Blumstein asked if there were any motions for vice-chair person. Susan McCready moved that Tracey Spruce be elected as Vice Chairperson of the Andover School Committee for 2019-2020 effective at the conclusion of the 2019 town meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Murphy. Tracey is in favor of accepting the position. Roll call T. Spruce-Y, S. McCready-Y, S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, J. Blumstein-Y. Motion passes 5-0.

C. Recognitions & Communications

The Robotics Club, Team Thunder, is going to the FIRST Worlds Tech Challenge in Detroit this month, this year's challenge theme is Space. The AHS Students showed a power point of how they began planning their project and development of their robot. To learn more, please visit their website at www.Andoverrobotics.com.

D. Public Input

Dr. Berman attended the Wood Hill Middle School play 'Man of La Mancha' that was performed in both Spanish and English and wonderfully done. Congratulations to the students and their teachers, Norma Villarreal and Kate Murray.

Dr. Berman also attended International Heritage Night Book Tasting at High Plain Elementary for parents. Pam Lathrop worked with Joslyn Allen to work with the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, meaningfulness of diverse books.

Sandy Trach thanked ACE for a wonderful March Madness event and their generosity in supporting the schools.

Joel Blumstein reported on the West Middle School principal search, they are about half-way through the process.

Paul Szymanski reported that three Alice Drills were held on March 27th, March 28, and there is one today at West Elementary. The goal is for all 10 schools to have had two unannounced drills by the end of the year. Lobby Guard is in process of being installed in the schools which is very successful as a deterrent to access the schools. They are making progress on the electronic signature for the School Warrants. A vendor meeting is scheduled for April 25th. Plan is to have an integrated school and town program.

Due to the extreme winds last night, South Elementary lost power affecting four major telephone poles and the fiber network that was compromised in two locations. Police and Fire were on site and emergency response plans put into effect to maintain security. The Fire Alarm System was operational, but the phones were out and reverted back to an analog system to be able to place outgoing calls and transferred the main number onto a cellphone to retrieve outside calls. It is expected that South School will be fully operational by next Monday.

Joel Blumstein congratulated Paul Murphy and Shannon Scully on winning their School Committee seats in last week's election. Thank you to everyone who ran and all who came out to vote. Paul and Joel are hosting the informal School Committee Forum on Saturday, April 6th at 9:00 AM. At Memorial Hall Library.

Susan McCready thanked Sandy Trach for facilitating and running an efficient search for the next principal of West Elementary School. Susan also reported that the West Elementary School Building Committee met this morning and the OPM Subcommittee Committee has submitted their selection of an OPM Project Manager. They will meet with PMA, who are currently working on the Ballardvale Fire Station and who have done many school building projects. The group also toured Bancroft to get an idea of things to consider for the West Elementary School Building Project.

Tracey Spruce spoke about updates to Student Sexual Assault Policy ACAB and ACR currently in the School Committee Policy Manual. Revisions made to establish a policy so that students would feel comfortable coming forward. The School Committee's expectation is that the highest priority will be placed on the victim's safety. Victims will not be placed under any restrictions or otherwise subjected to negative actions.

Shannon Scully said Policies are living documents and can be changed when necessary. She announced that tonight's agenda has changed and they will be talking about the Fusion Academy agenda item at a future meeting. Thank you to the students and art teachers at AHS for the wonderful display of Art in the School Administration Building. She also congratulated students at the Bancroft school on their Variety Show, All Bands Night was fantastic, and the Junior District Music Concert held in Wakefield was unbelievable.

E. Response to Public Input

Michelle Houlihan, Fusion Academy, thanked the district members for reviewing the information they have submitted. She is available for any questions and for any support the School Committee needs in making the best decision for the community.

Kerry Costello, said members of the AEA and student government will be offering free childcare at the Collins Center during Town Meeting. In recognition of Instructional Assistant's Day in April she hopes that the School Committee and the Instructional Assistants unit can reach an agreement soon. In addition, she stressed the importance of the need to fund the program to address the social-emotional needs of students at AHS. They need the alternative programs at the secondary level and can't afford to not offer them. Dr. Berman said that the Administration is equally as concerned and are planning on a middle school program which they piloted at DMS and hopefully next year will be able to provide at all three middle schools next year.

F. Education

1. Elementary Social Studies Curriculum – Adrienne Bock, Beth Delforge

Adrienne Bock and Beth Delforge presented information on the Social Studies curriculum to explain the K-5 integrated curricular framework that is focused on exploring the concepts of community, civics, and culture. The curriculum includes an instructional approach with focused thinking-centered classrooms, performative understandings, and trainings. A review of the progress made in Year 1 also provided. Lauren McCarron and Lisa McDonough reported on the learning that occurs in their classrooms and the interest it has sparked with their students.

A grid was distributed showing the focus of each elementary grade level for each school year and what is encompassed within each topic.

Information on including OCON into Arts and Literacy through partnerships in the community (Addison Gallery, Historical Society, local family cultures, artifacts). The Performance Cycle builds community through strategies that support the text and personalizing the learning to make meaning of the topic at hand. Experience of the training at the OCON Institutes centered on four core texts about creating learning communities where people want more. Another component is the Thinking Routines to create thinking and wondering strategies, See Think Wonder, Think Puzzle Explore; What Makes You Say That? I used to Think... Now I think... Final Component is the seven Civic Dispositions.

Discussion: On the Social Studies curriculum

Are there things in the existing curriculum that wouldn't be covered? There are trade-offs, information and the service of conceptual understanding. Given the limited time and because the resources have been less than hoped for, teachers have made up their own instructions that leads to a lot of inconsistencies. The goal isn't to teach everything but to get kids to know some things that will excite students to want to know more. There are still state standards that will have to be adopted, there is divergence and depth vs breadth some overlaps and focus on information in the frameworks and use as a guideline. State Frameworks provide for flexible options.

What is happening in the classroom now as opposed what would occur in the future. The framework includes existing themes and what's different is that the School Committee is being asked to approve the framework, not the curriculum. At this point, there isn't a concrete unit, they are still refining the curriculum. The School Committee would be approving paying for curriculum books and materials that have been curated to support topics. It is a different process with conducting professional development and some purchasing before approval by the School Committee vs School Committee approval then purchases and professional development.

They are ready to move ahead and would like the School Committee's approval.

There is concern by the School Committee about the amount of teacher professional development that will be required and they would like to have an idea on the number of teacher days that would be required. The School Committee doesn't have a sense of what it will cost going forward and what they are being asked to approve and would like an idea of what the investment would be for for next year.

G. Continuing Business

1. Fusion Academy Application

To be rescheduled for a future meeting.

2. FY20 Budget Updates

Superintendent Berman outlined his recommendations on how best to utilize the additional Chapter 70 funds of \$250,000. His recommendation is to add 2.5 positions and use the remaining funds for stipends and elementary math software. Dr. Berman has previously provided a listing of unmet needs and program improvements to be considered to implement using the additional Chapter 70 funds.

This chart includes the positions/items he is proposing the School Committee approve for the FY-2020 Budget using the additional Chapter 70 funds.

Positions/Item	Recommendation
Psychologist for AHS (0.5 FTE)	\$33,961
Data and Financial Analyst (1.0 FTE)	\$90,000
Engineering Teacher (1.0 FTE)	\$67,921
Advisor and coach stipends (4 to 12)	\$ 7,000

Elementary Dreambox math support software	\$30,000
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Kindergarten enrollment is returning to the enrollment number of previous years at approximately 300 students are enrolled as of today and they expect the number will increase to the 360-370 range by the beginning of the school year providing well balanced classes and will not have to hire more staff.

Kerry Costello, President of the AEA, asked if the SC will be voting on the entire chart and to consider that AHS will not need an additional 1.0 Engineering Teacher when there are few offerings for AP classes for the Humanities. An Engineering Teacher is not a priority they need to look at the entire student body and student voices. Vote a total dollar amount on the needs presented.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the recommendations presented by the Superintendent and Assistant of Finance for utilization of \$250,000 in the recommended FY20 School Budget with the understanding that rather than specifying an Engineering Teacher position for AHS, specify it as a teaching position at AHS. Paul Murphy seconded the motion. The School Committee voted 5-0 to approve.

3. FY20 Warrant Articles:

The Committee will vote in support of the following general housekeeping warrant articles.

Article 11A. Grant Program Authorization

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager to apply for, accept and enter into contracts from time to time for the expenditure of any funds allotted to Andover by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the U.S. Government under any State or Federal grant program, or take any other action related thereto.

Article 11E. Contracts in Excess of Three Years

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 12(b) to authorize the Town Manager or the Superintendent of Schools to solicit and award contracts for terms exceeding three years but no greater than five years, including any renewal, extension or option, provided in each instance the longer term is determined to be in the best interests of the Town by a vote of the Selectmen or the School Committee, as appropriate, or take any other action related thereto.

Article 11F Accepting Easements

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee to accept grants of easements for streets, water, drainage, sewer and utility purposes or any public purpose on terms and conditions the Board and the Committee deem in the best interests of the Town, or take any other action related thereto.

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Articles 11A, 11E, and 11F as listed under the General Housekeeping Articles. Tracey Spruce seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

H. New Business

1. Instructional Assistants Memo of Understanding

Joel Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Instructional Assistants dated March 2019 as presented. Tracey Spruce seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

I. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants in order

2. Minutes – Feb. 28, 2019, March 15, 2019, and March 21, 2019

3. Grants/Donations to District:

On a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Susan McCready, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

J. Adjournment

At 9:35 P.M. on a motion by Joel Blumstein and seconded by Paul Murphy, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 4, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

ddd/ts