

Andover School Committee
Thursday, May 19, 2022
School Committee Room

School Committee Chair, Susan McCready opened the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the School Committee Room.

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 Paul Szymanski, Asst. Superintendent Dr. Julie Riley, AHS Student Government, Justin Jin.

III. Moment of Silence/Salute to the Flag

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

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey said this is a busy time of the year across the Andover School District. She shared pictures of projects exhibited by the AHS Capstone students on Monday. She had a great time sitting in with the WHMS Faculty at their meeting and attended the AHS Student Government Meeting where they talked about homework. On Monday May 16th, she attended the 16th Annual Capstone Showcase that included AHS and elementary students work that highlighted the many things they think about. Today, she attended CAPS Ted talk with great reflections and presentations. Dr. Parvey also attended the Andover DIVERSE Town Hall today.

Administrative updates:

Dr. Parvey attended the following:

Emergency Management Working Group, ACE Quarterly Meeting, TeamWorks International Meeting, Superintendent's Administrative Team Meeting on May 18th with Dr. Christine Cipriano to discuss results of the Social Emotional Learning Survey.

Andover Annual Town Meeting: Dr. Parvey was happy to be part of the conversation with the community and thanked the community for supporting the APS school budget.

Attended: Middle School Focus Group Meeting with parents and a Focus Group with Bancroft parents to talk about characteristics they are looking for in a new principal.

In addition, meetings were held to discuss administrative searches for the Executive Director of Special Services, and the Executive Director of Secondary Instructional Operations.

Personnel Announcements.

Dr. Parvey welcomed George Puddister, Executive Director of Human Resources and Laura Reinholm, our new Business Manager, who will both be starting their new positions with Andover Public Schools on June 6, 2022.

Covid Update: Dr. Parvey reported that there has been an increase in our Covid numbers, although the cases are random and spread out across the Andover School District; there were 113 cases last week and 91 cases this week. While people are testing positive, the symptoms are significantly milder than they were at the beginning of the pandemic. Masks are optional, but the district does encourage frequent testing; at home testing kits are available for students and staff.

Dr. Riley reported on the work SAT has been doing with Dr. Cipriano related to the analysis of our teacher data collected over the school year. We are one of many districts across the country who participated in this study. Dr. Cipriano will be working with our administrative staff looking at how the data is expressed within each school and different supports that we can start to engage with for our teaching staff and support their work with students.

Dr. Riley also reported that the Vision of the Graduate work has started and recognized Lauren Conoscenti who joined them at their recent meeting. This is a K-12 experience, but to kick things off, their focus is currently at the High School. Dr. Riley also thanked all the Global Scholars, their parents, and teachers; it was exciting to see the happiness and the experience our students have.

Mr. Szymanski reported that the FY-23 School Budget was approved at last night's Town Meeting. He is working on the FY-23 Budget Book and is confident it will be completed before the end of the month.

Emily DiCesaro, along with Sandis Wright and Justin Jin, attended School Committee "School" on Saturday; the information was very useful and well presented.

Emily DiCesaro, School Committee Liaison to SEPAC, reported on their May 10th Meeting the focus of which was communication and outreach to Social-Media to get their presence known. SEPAC has scheduled the following meetings: May 24th they are holding a Parent Networking Night at 34 Park, June 7th there will be a meeting on Board of Elections, and on June 7th their meeting will include SEPAC volunteer opportunities for the Special Olympics on June 9th. Sandis Wright also reached out to SEPAC to encourage them to participate in Heritage Night at Bancroft.

Tracey Spruce reported on the Informal School Committee Forum she and Lauren hosted on Saturday. The Committee will be organizing a schedule of meetings including virtual sessions for the summer. Informal Sessions will continue to be scheduled on a weekday morning, a weeknight, and a Saturday morning to try to accommodate all the different schedules families might have.

Tracey Spruce also spoke about the Capstone Showcase presentations by the AHS students on Monday which was very impressive. She recognized Rebecca D'Alise for her incredible work with the students; the students' enthusiasm for their topics was infectious. In addition, Tracey congratulated the cast and crew of the play, "The Dining Room," held at AHS last weekend and thanked AHS Drama Director, Susan Choquette for her ongoing support of the Drama program at AHS.

Sandis Wright suggested sharing the materials received at "School Committee" School with the community; they could be beneficial to reinforcing the School Committee's roles and responsibilities. Sandis thanked Dr. Parvey for her comments on Town Hall and giving youth a chance to share their perspective and have a voice; especially outside of or in addition to the school. Mr. Wright also recognized Hannah Tolla, who leads the Youth Working Group. It's great to see a platform to give youth an opportunity to share their voice and be recognized. When they launched Andover DIVERSE

a few years ago, the response to the Community-wide Survey, specifically the Youth Survey, wasn't where they wanted it to be. They have been working to recreate a youth survey which is being launched tonight and can be viewed on the DEI Commission Facebook page. Other activities are being planned for our Youth. Additional updates will be provided at future Committee meetings.

Lauren Conoscenti participated in the Vision of a Graduate today and found it to be inspiring and exciting to think about who our students are, and what values we have when we think about an Andover education.

Justin Jin congratulated the AHS seniors on their upcoming graduation. Justin also shared that he was elected President of the AHS Student Government for the next school year and will be stepping down from his position as liaison to the Andover School Committee effective in September. Sophie Emilie was selected to be the next School Committee Liaison. The Committee welcomed Sophie.

Susan McCready congratulated: the Capstone and Global students, Dr. Parvey for the great job at her first Town Meeting, the Community for their support of our students, their education, and the teachers and staff that work on their behalf. Congratulations to Melanie Cutler for receiving the Educator of the Year by the Andover Rotary this evening.

C. **Public Input**

D. **Response to Public Input**

E. **Education**

Dr. Julie Riley reported on the two field trips to be approved this evening. AHS teachers, Rebecca D'Alise and John Jannetti, provided information on the trip for AHS students going to the Amazon Rainforest in Peru. Erica Frisk, Art/Photography teacher at AHS is also going on the trip and if they can access WiFi in the Forest, they will upload student journaling and photos. There is some financial aid available and will be part of the presentation to the students/families.

1. **AHS Field Trip – Peru/Amazon Rainforest February 17-25, 2023**

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for AHS School Students to travel to Peru from February 17-February 25, 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 Emily DiCesaro. Motion passed 5-0.

2. AHS Field Trip – Baja, Mexico April 15-23, 2023

AHS Science Teacher, Jennifer Rodier, provided information on the student trip to Baja, Mexico for an Ecology Project during the 2023 April Vacation (April 15-23) for students in grades 10-12 who have taken Biology, Environmental Science, Marine Biology and Oceanography or Marine Science. AHS teacher Melanie Cutler will also be going on this student trip. They will be investigating marine habitants, spend a night camping on the beach, snorkeling and when collecting data it may be with seals or the Crown of Seals Sea Star. A parent /student online meeting will be held next week to discuss the trip. Financial Aid information was shared with the Committee.

Lauren Conoscenti moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for AHS School Students to travel to Baja, Mexico on April 15-23, 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 Emily DiCesaro. Motion passed 5-0.

F. New Business

1. Financials (April 2022)

Mr. Szymanski reported on the April Financials which are showing a positive balance. If they do have unencumbered dollars available there may be an opportunity to purchase curriculum before the end of the school year. Mr. Szymanski will work with Dr. Riley on student curriculum opportunities.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Grants and Donations – AHS Donation for the Robotics Club from First Technical in the amount of \$1,149.00.

2. School Committee Minutes:

April 1 Workshop, April 28, Workshop and April 28 Regular Session.

On a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Emily DiCesaro, the Andover School Committee voted to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

H. Adjournment

At 8:10 P.M. on a motion by Tracey Spruce and seconded by Emily DiCesaro, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of May 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Recording Secretary