

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

SC Meeting
November 3, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. McCready, Chair
L. Conoscenti
E. DiCesaro

T. Spruce, Vice Chair
S. Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Parvey, Superintendent
K. Taverna, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration
J. Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Sophia Miele, SGA student representative

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

Ms. McCready called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:03pm.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey made a number of school visits, including Doherty Middle School, South Elementary, Andover High School and all exhibited Halloween spirit. There were 104 AHS inductees to National Honor Society. Dr. Parvey thanked Brian Shea for his hard work on the ceremony.

Dr. Parvey reviewed Administrative Updates, including TeamWorks International. Professional development included Ribas training for all administrators regarding teacher evaluations.

Dr. Parvey congratulated teacher Shannon Siviski on the birth of baby Charlotte.

Dr. Riley also acknowledged the National Honor Society ceremony and thanked Brian Shea. The district data is being analyzed and will be shared with the School Committee for next steps. Classroom walkthroughs continue observing the literacy and math programs.

Dr. Riley will be meeting with the Middle School principals to discuss scheduling needs and hope of the principals. Professional development was held on October 21st where a 5-part series was held at Andover High School. Dr. Riley reviewed the classes offered for the teachers to participate in. Eureka math training continues.

The Institute for Learning coaching model is content focused coaching and helps build vision around Middle School math and curriculum. Updates to the APS website will be made including the new literacy program for grades K-5.

Mr. Taverna informed the School Committee that the Doherty Middle School project planning is ongoing with work to begin this summer. The additional costs of the West Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-School construction continues to drop and may come down again before the Special Town Meeting. The NEMLEC training meeting was held to discuss next steps for safety. Mr. Taverna is working with Youth Services to partner for future projects.

Ms. DiCesaro attended Halloween at Bancroft School. SEPAC is hosting a workshop on understanding an IEP on November 8th virtually and pre-registration is recommended.

Ms. Spruce informed the School Committee that a West Elementary community information session was held to answer questions and receive feedback. The next information session will be held virtually on Saturday morning at 10:00am.

Mr. Wright also attended the Halloween gathering at Bancroft School. Next week is a DEI meeting. November 15th is Heritage Night at the Bancroft School where the diversity of families is celebrated.

Ms. McCready also thanked Brian Shea for the National Honor Society ceremony. The interaction between the students and teachers was nice to observe. Andover High School swim and dive are the MVC champs and will be competing in sectionals and states; the Marching Band won a gold medal at MICCA; and there are a number of fall sports competing in post-season play. The West Elementary deficit continues to come down and the information sessions continue.

Sophia Miele, SAG Representative, added that Student Government is hosting the School Pep Rally is scheduled for November 23rd before the Thanksgiving football game.

C. Public Input – None.

D. Response to Public Input – None.

E. Education

1. Fine Arts Update

S. Walsh provided an update on the Fine Arts program to the School Committee.

The West Elementary School created a scarecrow which was made up of a yarn doll created by every 5th grade student. He reviewed the highlights of the year so far including Middle School and High School Band Night, Gold Medal won by the High School marching band, and the launch of AP Art at the High School to name a few. The SEL In Action Grant is in the second year of a \$50,000 Grant received to assist with developing curriculum and strengthening instruction, work with teaching artists and providers, purchase of diverse texts for students, and purchase of supplies and materials to support curriculum. Upcoming APS performances were reviewed. Elementary band and strings are incorporated into the school day this year. There are over 600 students signed up in grades 3-5 with smaller group instruction. The students are in class by level not by grade.

F. New Business

1. Winter Guard Program: MOU Andover/North Andover

The program started last year as a trial and is working for both schools.

A motion that the Andover School Committee approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Andover and North Andover school districts for the 2022-2023 school year winter guard program as presented was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Ms. DiCesaro and unanimously approved 5-0.

2. Capital Improvement Projects

- a. IT-1 Annual Staff Device Refresh
- b. IT-2 Annual Student Device Refresh
- c. IT-3 Infrastructure
- d. IT-4 Document Digitization

Paul Puzzanghera informed the School Committee that all IT spending is separated into 3 articles, IT-1, IT-2, and IT-3. IT-1 and IT-2 received full funding from free cash, IT-3 is 40% funded and IT-4 is on hold.

The changes were reviewed with grade 2 students receiving new Chromebooks for 4 years; 700 teachers received new devices; extending the life of elementary Chromebooks by repurposing for MCAS and spare machines; the rental program is growing; the price of an iPad has increased and there are no longer CARES, ARPA or ESSR funds available after 2023.

The reduction in these funds will impact timing to upgrade the wireless network infrastructure, purchased in 2013-14 and has now reached end of life. The wireless network system which will not be upgraded in FY24, but is still stable, although stagnating. Classroom projectors are at the end of life; and upgraded art and music devices at end of their lease next year. Sustainable funding for IT-1 and IT-2 continues. Discussion following about replacing iPad and iMacs and the possibility of choosing another vendor other than Apple; the absence of impacts to safety and security without a wireless upgrade; and recycling of electronics.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the FY24 Capital Improvement Projects for IT-1 Annual Staff Device Refresh; IT-2 Annual Student Device Refresh; IT-3 Infrastructure; and IT-4 Document Digitization as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 5-0.

3. FY24 Preliminary Budget Calendar

Mr. Taverna presented the draft budget calendar and reviewed the dates, including working with the Town Manager, budget meeting dates, Town Manager's recommended budget release date, and Town Meeting date of May 1, 2023. Ms. Spruce asked that the Town Election date be corrected to reflect March 28, 2023.

4. Preliminary Budget Development Assumption

Mr. Taverna provided a red-lined version for review. He explained that compensatory student services will be increased again this year. He is working on a Town Meeting Warrant Article with Student Services, DESE and DCF regarding reimbursement for foster care transportation and services. This requires a vote of Town Meeting and MOU. He reviewed collective bargaining dates, utility costs, and the special education private school tuition increase of 14%.

Ms. Spruce asked about financial assistance for families to participate in school trips.

Mr. Taverna stated there is a Donation Account with funds for this type of aid and the application process was recently updated. This fund has sufficient funds through FY24, and research is being done to fund through other avenues.

Ms. Spruce also asked if there is still a substitute teacher shortage and school nurse shortage. Dr. Parvey will follow-up on this information.

5. School Committee – Superintendent Protocols

Ms. McCreedy reviewed the establishment of the protocols. MASC recommends they are reviewed and voted upon yearly.

Ms. Spruce would like to add the new communication protocols referenced with the hyperlink to them in paragraph 5 and suggested other edits. Discussion followed regarding the clarity of governance vs. operational decisions. Dr. Parvey added that where appropriate the School Committee would be advised but not every decision is appropriate for the public due to confidentiality. Ms. McCready will update the protocols as discussed and the School Committee will vote on them at the next meeting.

G. Consent Agenda

School Committee Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2022.

A motion was made to move the Andover School Committee to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 5-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the Andover School Committee meeting by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Ms. DiCesaro and unanimously approved 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36pm.

Submitted By: _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary

Approved _____
Date

Per the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the following is a list of documents that were either distributed to the Andover School Committee before the meeting in the packet or at the meeting.

1. Agenda
2. Capital Improvement Projects
3. Consent Agenda
4. Preliminary Budget Calendar
5. Preliminary Budget Development Assumptions
6. School Committee-Superintendent Protocols