

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 5, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. McCready, Chair
L. Conoscenti
E. DiCesaro (left at 8:30pm)

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

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute the Flag

Ms. McCready, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of January 5, 2023, to order at 7:00pm in the School Committee Conference Room.

A. **Recognitions/Communications**

Dr. Parvey reviewed her school visits since the last School Committee Meeting. The Excel Program hosted a “snack shack” at High Plain Elementary; Doherty Middle School held a food drive for Bread and Roses; the ribbon cutting for the playground at High Plain Elementary took place; and Shawsheen Pre-school held a Holiday sing-along. Tours of Danvers High School and Arlington High School will take place to see other high schools that have been renovated or recently constructed.

The Administrative Update included an Andover High School Building Committee meeting; a West Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-School Building Committee; and a webinar entitled “Understanding By Design” regarding the next steps with our curriculum. Office hours with the Superintendent will be held on January 25, 2023, at 7:30pm in the School Committee Room.

Dr. Riley informed the School Committee that curriculum training of “Understanding By Design” is going very well.

Mr. Taverna added that a tour of Brookline High School was conducted today.

Ms. DiCesaro informed the School Committee that SEPAC will have an online speaker on January 11, 2023, regarding school based special education testing.

Dr. Conoscenti provided an update regarding the Andover High School Building Committee which is narrowing down options. Community tours of Andover High School will be given January 11, 2023, from 5:30pm-7:00pm and the tours will be led by students, followed by a community forum. Additional tours will be given January 21, 2023.

Mr. Wright informed the School Committee that MLK holiday will be a “give back” day. Bancroft PTO is hosting Andover Service Day for the community to participate.

Ms. McCready informed the School Committee that on December 21, 2022, the contracts were signed for West Elementary/Shawsheen Preschool and provided updates. A virtual meeting will be held January 18, 2023. Budget hearings with Principals and Department Heads are scheduled for January 10, 2023.

B. **Public Input** – None.

C. **Response to Public Input** – None.

D. **Education** -

1. REDI Equity Presentation. This is a Superintendent Professional Practice Goal. Dr. Parvey, Dr. Riley, and Jason Levene, Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, reviewed the material covered in the REDI training, including that Equity Progression is a 6-10 year process. Dr. Parvey would like to contract with an expert to conduct an independent equity audit to provide data on APS progress in this area. She is looking to contract with a recommended expert.

Discussion and questions by the School Committee followed.

Dr. Riley reviewed the next steps and the work currently being done with NELMS, Data Wise and curriculum alignment and training ongoing. Implicit bias training will be conducted for all administrators.

Mr. Wright asked if Dr. Parvey could present this information to DEI Committee.

Mary Robb thanked Dr. Parvey for being supportive of career goals and successes. As an educator she has felt more valued this year than ever before.

E. **Continued Business**

1. District Strategic Roadmap Community Survey Results

Nicole Kieser presented the survey results. The survey was open from December 5th through the 16th. She reviewed the outreach and audiences that replied. The survey defined the mission statement, core values and vision and how the community views that. 146 responses were received from students, parents, staff and others. Nicole reviewed the breakdown of the positive comments, concerns and areas for improvement for each respondent group for the mission statement, core values and vision.

Sophia Miele shared the student perspective and asked if listing extracurricular activities might provide more definition. Some students felt it was describing the ideal student and they did not fit in.

Ms. Spruce stated that it appears from the survey responses that students are looking for something different than parents from an APS education, and the need to find a way to mesh the two. Discussion followed regarding thoughts while reviewing data and how to articulate what the School Committee is putting forward and what words capture everyone.

F. **New Business**

1. Policy Updates – First Reading

a. Policy JJH School Sponsored Trips and Travel

Ms. Spruce reviewed the proposed revisions to the policy to address trips being cancelled, including guidelines for sponsoring faculty and their responsibilities. Families need to clearly understand the cancellation and refund policies clearly. A few of the changes include a minimum of two chaperones per trip for international trips, the parents receive a separate document with a clear summary of deadlines and cancellation policies, and the state department alert status must be presented to the School Committee.

Discussion and suggestions followed, including adding approximate dates when presented to the School Committee to Section D paragraph 15b and adding “the sponsoring faculty member” to paragraph 15d.

The School Committee discussed the availability of travel insurance and the best way to convey the opportunity to purchase travel insurance to the families. The School Committee should receive a copy of the travel insurance documents.

The School Committee discussed how the advisory language changes frequently and the importance of the sponsoring faculty member signing up for emails to receive the alerts to monitor the safety levels in real time.

2. Financials-November

Mr. Taverna reviewed the November financials with salary restructuring ongoing. We are on target to be on budget at the end of the fiscal year.

Consent Agenda

1. High Plain Elementary from Andona Society to promote SEL \$1500.00;
2. AHS from AHS PAC for teacher wish list grantees \$4,219.00;
3. AHS from Andover Coalition for Education for STEM equipment \$13,766.00;
4. District from Andover Coalition for Education for Fall 2022 Innovation Fund \$12,592.00.

A motion 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 4-0.

A motion was made to adjourn the Andover School Committee meeting by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 4-0.

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. REDI Presentation
3. District Strategic Roadmap Community Survey Results
4. Policy JJH
5. November Financials
6. Consent Agenda