

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 16, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. McCready, Chair
L. Conoscenti
E. DiCesaro
T. Spruce, Vice Chair
S. Wright

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

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute the Flag

Ms. McCready, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of February 16, 2023, to order at 7:00pm in the School Committee Conference Room.

A. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey shared her school visits at Sanborn Elementary for the Read Along program, the Chinese New Year performance at the Doherty School, High Plain Elementary for second step SEL lesson and Andover High School DEI Student Advisory Council where the nurses discussed how to provide more culturally proficient care for AHS students.

Dr. Parvey continued with her drop-in visits at Shawsheen Pre-School, South Elementary, and Doherty Middle School. Thoughts and ideas were shared from educators such as the need for a full-time pre-school social worker, SEL support and information where to find that support. There is also a concern about equitable distribution of the special needs programs.

Dr. Parvey's Administrative Updates included REDI presentation to the Andover DEI Commission, attendance at AHS Building Committee meeting, ABC Scholars prospective families meeting, and AHS Project Team meeting.

Dr. Reilly thanked the instructional coaches for attending the School Committee meeting tonight. She reviewed the SEL Research Grant to be combined with the RULER work happening.

Mr. Taverna attended the production of the Lion King at Wood Hill. Guide Post is conducting the second week of on-site safety visits this week.

Ms. Spruce provided a progress report on the West Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-School construction, the steel beams are up, and the flooring is being worked on. There is a time lapse video online. Gilbaine is doing a great job getting the students involved in the construction project. The next informal forum of the School Committee is scheduled for February 28th at 7:00pm virtually.

Mr. Wright attended the DEI Committee meeting where the REDI program was presented.

Dr. Conoscenti attended the community forum for AHS Building Committee on February 6th at the Memorial Hall Library and it was fully attended. The next community forum will be held on March 13th at 7:00pm at the Memorial Hall Library.

Sophia Miele advised the School Committee that the students are all looking forward to February vacation.

Ms. McCready attended the Sanborn PTO read along event. She thanked Gilbaine for involving the students in the West El/Shawsheen construction project.

B. Public Input – None.

C. Response to Public Input – None.

D. Education

Presentation: Elementary Math & Coaching – Beth Miner stated that we are in year one of implementation of Eureka² Math curriculum. She reviewed the Launch 2022 Training, fall 2022 workshops and winter 2023 workshops held. Grade level topic planning sessions were held. She shared some feedback from the teachers. Parent support through in-person workshops and one virtual workshop are helping the parents understand the curriculum. There is constant contact with families from Eureka² Math and at home practice samples. A \$100,000 grant was awarded for high quality instruction materials and will be used for professional development for Eureka² Math through August 31, 2023. The district can reapply after that date. The district has the infrastructure to continue the work moving forward which puts us in a good position for additional grants. Merrimack College Fellows will also be working under this grant.

Steve Fink added that mathematics from APS stays with the students.

Jason DiCarlo reviewed the Elementary Content Coaching vision for APS which is developing a culture of adult learning. Fall 2022 was content focused coaching with coaching support continuing in late fall 2022 and winter 2023.

APS coaches survey was sent to teachers to obtain their feedback. 130 responses were received. A few statements received were provided to the School Committee. The rating system was reviewed. Moving forward 2022-2023 will be building trust and relationships, 2023-2024 will build the culture of adult learning.

Ms. Spruce noted some might view “coaching” as a negative, and asked how “coach” was made a positive term. Mr. DiCarlo explain it helps to build credibility and you find the positives and successes. You are not coaching because of a deficiency, but to build the culture of adult learning.

E. New Business

1. AHS Building Committee

a. Presentation: Update on Building Project

Mark Johnson reviewed the previous work done in 2016 with the Comprehensive Facility Plan through 2017 and the 2022 AHS Facility Study. Public meetings, charrettes and community forums are being held along with tours of AHS.

Programming at AHS has been reviewed with the architects so they understand how

the school works and how students learn. The draft Project Timeline, feasibility study and other dates for recommendations were reviewed. Five different site development options were presented including a parking structure and an upgrade to the Collins Center. In the public forums held to date, Campus 2 with a new auditorium has been the favorite. The evaluation criteria and construction options were reviewed and discussed. Traffic will be reviewed and student learning during construction will be reviewed. All of the spaces in the Science Wing are undersized and will be removed as they do not meet MSBA standards. There are leaking pipes, and other upgrades that need to be done to comply with current building code. Ms. DiCesaro asked for more detail regarding the Open Studio. This space will be available in the cafeteria after school to questions and engagement with students and teachers.

Mr. Wright asked if future capacity is being considered. The construction is being based on 1900 students.

b. Presentation: AHS Education Plan

Caitlin Brown presented the collaborative effort with the Building Committee to drive the design for the building project. This provides context and programmatic goals for future teaching and learning practices. Overcrowding and lack of adequate space to meet educational needs are something the teachers and students face every day. Core educational principles such as authentic learning spaces, SEL quiet rooms, project spaces and teacher collaborative spaces are needed. We are making data informed decisions during the process. A 9th grade academy would provide a specific space for 9th grade programming.

Steve Fink added that it would be beneficial to have specifics of the design by department. Caitlin Brown reviewed the specific design requests by the English department.

2. Policy Updates – First Readings:

a. Section D – Policies on Fiscal Management

b. Policy KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools

MASC recommended edits to Section D, Policies on fiscal management. Ms. Spruce reviewed the edits. Legal Counsel has reviewed the document and nothing substantive has changed; the legal references were updated.

Policy KCD contains updates to legal references and cross references.

F. Continuing Business

District Strategic Roadmap: Mission, Core Values and Vision

Ms. McCready reviewed the past discussions from February 2, 2023.

Proposed Mission: “Educate our students to be resilient, engaged, lifelong learners, compassionate community members, who are critical thinkers, collaborative problem solvers and positive contributors to a diverse and rapidly changing society.

All students belong, strive and thrive”.

Core Values – Ms. Spruce suggested keeping the word “excellence” and changing the

definition. Sophia Miele added that students attribute excellence to STEM students. Revised Core Values “Strive to meet my full potential and persevere when faced with adversity.”

Vision – “We are diverse, yet cohesive, connected, collaborative and energized.”

Revised “We are diverse, yet cohesive, connected and collaborative.”

Mr. Taverna suggested adding an additional bullet point. It was agreed to add “We create a culture of belonging and inclusivity”.

Revised: “Our staff reflects, respects, supports and embraces our diverse families.”

Revised: “We are a community of lifelong learners and we each pursue our personal and professional goals to achieve our own definitions of success.”

Revised: “We are the best place to learn, to work, to serve.”

A motion to move the Andover School Committee to vote to approve the Mission, Core Values and Vision as presented and amended was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 5-0.

G. Consent Agenda

DESE competitive grant \$100,000 for high quality instruction materials.

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

A motion was made to adjourn the Andover School Committee meeting at 9:32pm by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Ms. DiCesaro and unanimously approved 5-0.

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. Elementary Math and Coaching
3. Update on AHS Building Project
4. AHS Education Plan
5. Policies KCD and Section D
6. Consent Agenda