

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 28, 2023

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

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

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

Ms. McCready, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of April 28, 2023, to order at 8:30 am in the School Committee Conference Room.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey's Administrative Updates included her school visits at Andover High School's Art Show at the Robb Center, Warrior Way at South Elementary which is a mentoring day with the high school students, South Elementary's 4th grade state float parade, a luncheon for TOP students who prepared 756 "go bags" for the district, and also attended the Andover High School Faculty Meeting.

Dr. Parvey's Administrative Updates included attendance at Effective School Solutions Discussion, Sanborn Principal interviews, preparation for the Andover Leadership Academy, RULER Group meeting, Teacher Evaluation Training, Town Meeting preparation, West Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-School Building Committee meeting, and Mass REDI Meeting. Drop-ins continue with upcoming visits to High Plain Elementary, Shawsheen Pre-School, Bancroft, Wood Hill Middle School, and West Elementary. This is an opportunity to speak directly with staff in their school buildings.

APS was honored with the *Best Communities for Music Education* from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. The award is given to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. This is the second year in a row APS has received this award.

Mr. Taverna informed the School Committee that this is school safety week and there are practice drills being done at all the schools. There are drills for bus evacuation and ALICE training ongoing. Ms. Michaud's class at Andover High School is working on improving signage at the high school. This is a great educational process with project-based learning.

Ms. DiCesaro attended Bancroft School's talent show. She also reports that the SEPAC annual needs survey is coming out in early May to gauge community needs.

Ms. Spruce stated that the feedback from the teachers regarding the drop-in visits has been very appreciative. The teachers appreciate the opportunity to have these conversations.

Dr. Conoscenti attended the Andover High School Building Committee meeting before April vacation. The next meeting is May 22nd in the School Committee Room. Walk Bike Andover made a presentation to the Building Committee about the importance of ensuring accommodations for students who walk or ride bikes to school. Updates regarding the cost of the “Add Ons” to the high school project was also presented at the Building Committee meeting.

Mr. Wright informed the School Committee that an informal forum was held virtually with 6 to 7 parents attending with many great questions.

Ms. McCready reminded everyone that Town Meeting is May 1st at 7:00pm and childcare is available. There is a School Committee meeting posted for 5:45pm, however there is no need to meet prior to Town Meeting. She attended the West Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-School Building Committee meeting where change orders with credits back to the project and student engagement were discussed. The next meeting is May 16th. Ms. McCready congratulated Principal Lathrop for being awarded Principal of the Year.

C. Public Input – None

D. Response to Public Input – None

E. Education - None

F. New Business

1. **Field Trip:**

International Sea Perch Challenge, UMaryland, College Park, May 12-14, 2023.

Mr. Sanborn presented the field trip to the School Committee. The Sea Perch club at the high school will be attending and competing in 2 events, one in the pool and one on land, both using the robot to maneuver an obstacle course. The students will present to the judges and present a 3-minute video. The students will be driving to Maryland in a van and staying in a hotel, not in the dorms.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Andover High School students to travel to the International Sea Perch Challenge to be held at the University of Maryland, College Park from May 12-14, 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” was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

2. **Andover Junior Football League (AJFL) Shed Replacement on Doherty MS Field.** Ryan Murphy presented the project to the School Committee. The shed located at the Doherty field holds practice gear and uniforms. It will be replaced with a 10’x20’ prefab shed in the same location. DPW will help with removing the existing shed. Due to the size of the shed, no permits are needed. Mr. Wright asked who would be responsible for repairs. AJFL is responsible for repairs and maintenance of the shed.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one story 10'x20' prefabricated shed to replace the existing Andover Junior Football League shed on the Doherty Middle School field as presented was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. DiCesaro and unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

3. Proposed Transportation Contracts (4) – One Year Extensions

- a. Regular Education School Year – Trombly
- b. Extra-Curricular, Field Trips and Athletics – Trombly
- c. Out of District Special Ed School Year – North Reading Transportation
- d. Out of District Summer – North Reading Transportation

Mr. Taverna informed the School Committee that the transportation contracts are for 3 years with two one-year extensions for a total of 5 years. This is the last extension under this contract. As part of the extension process, pricing was discussed with Trombly and NRT. Both companies must honor the price provided in the contract but may negotiate a lower price. Both are holding the original price in the contracts for year 5. The buses are fully staffed this year and 2 buses will be added next year. Trombly is on track to staff 42 buses in the fall.

Dr. Conoscenti asked if we would need 42 buses in the fall. K. Taverna replied that the routes will be set for 40 buses and then determine if additional buses are needed, if not, we have substitutes and get a credit at the end of the year. Mr. Wright asked about fuel costs and increases. Fuel is charged at a set rate unless the price increases 15% then we will receive an invoice and if it is reduced by 15%, we will receive a credit. Electric buses and their future use were discussed.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to extend for one additional year, an existing transportation contract for regular route buses effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 to Trombly Motor Coach Services, Inc., of Dracut, MA pricing per contract dated June 18, 2019 was made by Ms. DiCesaro, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 5-0.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to extend for one additional year, an existing transportation contract for extracurricular, field trips, and athletic transportation effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 to Trombly Motor Coach Services, Inc., of Dracut, MA pricing per contract dated June 18, 2019 was made by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 5-0.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to extend for one additional year, an existing transportation contract for Out of District Special Education Student Transportation Services – School Year Program effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 to NRT Bus, Inc. of Methuen, MA pricing per contract dated June 18, 2019 was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Ms. DiCesaro and unanimously approved 5-0.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to extend for one additional year, an existing transportation contract for Out of District Special Education Student Transportation Services – Summer Programs effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 to NRT Bus, Inc., of Methuen, MA pricing per contract dated June 18, 2019 was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Dr. Conoscenti and unanimously approved 5-0.

4. 2022-2023 School Year: Last Official Day for Students and Teachers – The District used 3 snow days this school year. The last school day for students will be Friday, June 16, 2023, which is a half-day for students and the last day for faculty will be Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve Friday, June 16, 2023, a half-day, as the official last day for students for the 2022-2023 school year providing there are no more storm days prior to June 1, 2023, was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 5-0.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve Tuesday, June 20, 2023, as the official last day for teachers for the 2022-2023 school year providing there are no more storm days prior to June 1, 2023, was made by Ms. DiCesaro, seconded by Ms. Spruce and unanimously approved 5-0.

5. Approval: Revised Town Warrant Article 5- FY24 Capital Projects Fund – The Town will borrow \$1.3 million less reducing the annual payment by approximately \$66,375 to \$537,625 for Doherty Improvements. Mr. Taverna stated that all 3 boards will have discussed this revision before Town Meeting. Mr. Spruce asked if next year we could collaboratively discuss the use of the funds and suggested that future funds go to projects that are not already accounted for with other funding.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article 5, FY2024 Capital Projects Fund for a total of \$4,190,000 was made by Dr. Conoscenti, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 5-0.

G. Consent Agenda

- 1. Grants/Donations to District – Andover High School from Teradyne for Andover High School Robotics Club in the amount of \$1,000.**

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote 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 9:35am by Ms. Spruce, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 5-0.

Submitted By: _____ Approved _____
Lynn Viselli, Recording Secretary 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. AHS Sea Perch Club Field Trip
3. AJFL Shed Replacement
4. Consent Agenda