

ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 18, 2023

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

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

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

Ms. Spruce, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee of May 18, 2023, to order at 7:20pm in the School Committee Conference Room.

B. Recognitions/Communications

Dr. Parvey attended the Andover High School Spring Orchestra, Chorus and Band performance where the seniors were recognized. She also attended the Town Leadership Academy where the residents learned about APS. Dr. Parvey also attended the C3 Meeting with school-based teams, the ACE quarterly meeting, the MVSA Academic Scholarship luncheon and her regular visit to Andover High School. She attended the Emergency Management working group where an update on cyber security was presented and attended the Addressing Hate in Sports Conference hosted by the MIAA and DESE to learn how to mitigate hate in sports.

Dr. Parvey also attended the M.A.S.S. Superintendents Meeting, NSIP Virtual Meeting, West Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-School Building Committee progress meeting, and the Townwide PTO luncheon meeting where she received feedback from parents regarding outreach and an increase in volunteering, which has taken place recently.

Dr. Parvey's drop-ins continued with visits to High Plain Elementary, Shawsheen Pre-School, West Middle School, South Elementary, Bancroft, Wood Hill Middle School, West Elementary and Andover High School. The meetings continue to be well received by teachers and staff.

Office hours will be held virtually on May 19, 2023, at 9:30am which is the final scheduled office hour for the school year. 13 people have signed up to attend.

Dr. Riley attended the Middle School Parent Focus Group to analyze the middle school schedule and great feedback was obtained. The next phase is obtaining the student feedback with a survey in early June. The ELPAC parent meeting was held last night, which Dr. Riley attended.

Ms. McCready attended the Leadership Academy with Dr. Parvey where there were 20 community members in attendance asking questions. She thanked Jemma Lambert for coordinating and organizing the academy. She also attended the Global Scholars Endorsement Ceremony held last night. The Townwide PTO has its closing meeting where the middle school schedule, 9th grade academy coordinator position and Dr. Parvey's office hours were discussed.

Dr. Conoscenti informed the School Committee that the next Andover High School Building Committee meeting will be held on May 31st at 7:00PM at Memorial Hall Library. She also attended the middle school Band, Orchestra and Chorus performance held at Doherty Middle School.

Ms. DiCesaro also attended the Global Scholars Endorsement Ceremony, and the a cappella Festival in Chelmsford where a group from APS performed. She also informed the school committee that the SEPAC meeting was held last Tuesday.

Mr. Wright attended the ELPAC meeting and stated that there are resources readily available to families. The DEI Youth Working Group will be meeting May 25th to review the results of the Youth Survey and collaborate regarding recommendation for next steps. He also attended the Band, Orchestra and Chorus Spring performance at Doherty as well as the C3 Meeting held at Bancroft where the work was anchored in achieving equity so that all students can excel. A vendor was selected to conduct the equity assessment of APS.

Ms. Spruce attended the West Elementary/Shawsheen Pre-School Building Committee meeting. She reviewed the progress made to date and the cost contingencies were reviewed at the meeting. Teachers are trying out options for furniture and selecting what they need for their classrooms. Impacts to the roads and traffic around the school was discussed at the meeting and the best way to communicate to residents.

Sophia Miele, SAG, informed the School Committee that student elections will be held next week, and everyone is getting ready for the end of the school year.

C. Public Input – None

D. Response to Public Input – None

E. Education –

Pre-K-Grade3 5 ELA Presentation – Jason DiCarlo and Maura Donoghue presented the information to the School Committee. Ms. Donoghue stated that the focus is on learning and observing and understanding curriculum decisions that have been made in the past. How do these choices benefit the students. Every student has the right to a quality elementary education. Through multiple classroom visits, Mr. DiCarlo and Ms. Donoghue have been able to identify trends, build connections across content areas, and identify next steps. Principals and Assistant Principals are working to unify school improvement goals, building cohesion, supporting and reinforcing literacy initiatives, and identifying and planning for changes and next steps. Reading Specialists are reimagining literacy data meetings, streamlining a tiered intervention model to ensure equity and success for all students with consistency. The Reading Specialists are experts in their field and are

helping design and implement the literacy website which will be broken down by key elements at all grade levels. Literacy Coaches are assisting in the design of an Elementary Literacy Website, supporting curriculum coherence, and pacing and assisting in the reimagining of Literacy Data Meetings. They are also facilitating peer visitation to colleagues' classrooms at other schools. Teachers are participating in team meetings, providing constructive feedback, participating in literacy lab and sharing their successes and challenges. The feedback received from the teachers was very positive. Dr. Parvey added that this will provide consistency with learning over all the schools in the district.

Dr. Conoscenti asked the about the timeline of ELA reading curriculum review. This will be decided after review of Phase 1 of Elementary ELA within a couple years. Ms. DiCesaro asked if feedback had been received from the community or parents. The Reading Specialists are meeting with parents and having conferences with the teachers. Ms. Spruce added that it was great to see the collaboration in action.

F. New Business

1. Proposal to post a dedication sign on the South School basketball court.

Katie and Lyla Carli, with Principal Lee, are hoping to present a gift from the 5th grade class. The 5th grade class has purchased new basketball hoops and has paid for restriping of the courts and would like to add a dedication sign for Mr. Garibaldi, the PE teacher who is retiring. They would like to dedicate the basketball court to him. Lyla read her statement about Mr. Garibaldi to the School Committee.

Ms. Spruce stated that under Policy FF and KCD the Superintendent has the authority to accept gifts on behalf of the schools. Ms. McCready asked if the school community was in agreement with the dedication. Principal Lee stated that School Committee approval is the first approval and then they will follow up with the PTO and other community members. Dr. Conoscenti asked if the wording could be changed to not restrict the use of the property as it should not be a singular use court. Ms. Spruce suggested dropping the word basketball and using "court".

2. Policy Subcommittee: Policy JJH-School Sponsored Trips and Student Travel (first reading)

Ms. McCready met with Mr. Wright and Dr. Riley to review changes to the policy. Ms. McCready reviewed the proposed changes with the School Committee. Mr. Wright added that the goal of the policy is for students to travel safely and gain experience from the trip.

3. Field Trips: DMS International Trip to Italy, France and Spain-February 2024 Tabled.

4. Job Description: AHS 9th Grade Coordinator

Principal Brown, Shereen Rancourt and Dr. Riley have worked together on the job description for this position and present it to the School Committee for approval. This position will support 9th grade students in their transition to high school by engaging and collaborating with families, students and staff to coordinate the 9th grade education experience for all 9th grade students. This position will help students with the integration SEL and academic support to ensure the ongoing success through high school and beyond.

Ms. McCready added that parents are excited about this new position and the support it will bring to the students.

Mr. Wright added that this position will meet the elevated rigor of high school, time management, organization and the parents are excited about this.

Ms. Spruce added that this position will require working beyond the school day.

A motion that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the recommended job description for the Andover High School 9th Grade Coordinator as presented and amended was made by Ms. McCready, seconded by Mr. Wright and unanimously approved 5-0.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Grants/Donations to District – Sanborn PTO to Sanborn Elementary for Winter Explorations Chess Club in the amount of \$2,850.00.

South School PTO to South Elementary for Principal Discretionary in the amount of \$3000.

South School PTO to South Elementary for Tiger Academy in the amount of \$3,160.00.

AbbVie Employee Engagement Fund donation to South Elementary in the amount of \$20.00.

Andona for West Middle School to West Middle School for WEB Program in the amount of \$2,000.

2. Minutes from April 28, 2023.

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

A motion was made to adjourn the Andover School Committee meeting at 8:45pm by Mr. Wright, 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. Policy FF and KCD
3. Policy JJH
4. Proposed 9th Grade Coordinator Job Description
5. Consent Agenda