

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT 06232
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting/School Library**

Members Present: Chairperson Gerard Crémé, Mike Beckwith, Chris Bernard, Steven Fuss (arrived late), Caitlin Greenhouse, Shannon Louden, Celeste Willard

Administration: Valerie Bruneau, Superintendent
Taylor Parker, Principal
Terri Smith, Finance Manager

Others: None

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson G. Crémé called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Comments from the Public – None.

3. Communications

- A. E-mail from Paula King from BOS thanking BOE for participation in celebrations for Andover's 175th
- B. E-mail from Eric Anderson, Town Administrator, to BOE & BOF regarding BOE financial procedures

4. Approval of Minutes

C. Bernard made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting, seconded by C. Greenhouse. No discussion, no changes.

5-0-1 (PASSED)

5. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items

S. Louden made a motion delete item E.1. Board of Education Policies – Updated Policies from the agenda, seconded by C. Willard. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

G. Cremé made a made a motion to add agenda item E.5. Discussion to draft a letter to the BOS and BOF to begin collaborative meetings between town boards, seconded by S. Loudon. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

6. Celebrations – None.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson’s Oral Report – No report.

B. Superintendent’s Report – No written report. Supt. Bruneau reviewed grant statuses.

C. Principal’s Report – No formal written report. Summer months are used to prepare for the next school year; cleaning and planning are in process. A new Speech Pathologist began for summer school and will continue into the fall. ESY began last week. Offering a ½ day PreK program end of July/early August for children starting PreK in the fall, will be a nice way to help them transition.

D. Financial Report

Reviewed financial reports as presented. With start of new school year, BOF will get a monthly summary after every BOE meeting to ensure collaboration and transparency among the Boards.

E. Items for Discussion and Action

1. Board of Education Policies – Updated Policies

Item deleted, see Agenda Item 5 above.

2. Town of Andover Audit 2021-2022

Supt. Bruneau reviewed the Andover Audit with the BOE members, noting only the specific areas that pertain to the BOE and AES. Discussion regarding audit as it pertains to AES procedures.

3. BOE Resolution

BOE members have concerns that the BOS has not formally accepted or rejected the BOE MOU that was presented to the BOS and discussed jointly at the BOE meeting of June 14, 2023. Eric Anderson, Town Administrator, verbally rejected the MOU at a recent P&Z meeting. Board discussed how to respond and move forward ensuring that the BOE maintains its position in the discussions. A draft resolution from Jessica Smith, Attorney for the BOE was distributed and reviewed. It was determined that the best next course of action was that Chairperson Cremé will write a letter to J. Maguire of the BOS asking for a formal, written response to the MOU with a deadline of Aug. 8, 2023. Based on BOS response to this letter, the BOE will determine next course of action at Aug. 9, 2023 meeting.

Further discussion of resolution and language within it tabled to next month.

4. Initial update on Development of Strategic Long-Term Plans

Development of strategic long-term plans in three areas: technology, facilities, and curriculum.

Supt. Bruneau noted that the facilities section of the plan is being worked on, there is a need to review what is currently in the facilities plan and align with what should be in there (i.e. adding in the furniture from classrooms, etc.). Facilities plan will be presented in the coming months once it is completed.

Principal Parker reviewed the curriculum plan with the BOE. Waiting to see if approval is given for the AES waiver (ours was not one of the 6 approved Science of Reading programs). As the year progresses and this plan is implemented, they will adapt and amend it as needed. I-ready is being discontinued as it is not in line with AES teaching practices. AES will begin using DIBELS as a norm-referenced reading predictor assessment.

Principal Parker outlined the technology plan for the BOE members. Utilizing the ITSE standards, which encompass seven standards for students around the use of technology. There was discussion on the timeline for replacing equipment and maintaining subscriptions and software. Some discussion about AI (i.e. ChatGBT) and if a policy should be created with regard to the use of AI. It was decided that at the elementary level there isn't the same level of concern as there might be in higher grade levels and there was not a need for a policy at this time. Discussion of cell phone policy: Principal Parker and Supt. Bruneau noted there is no concern regarding cell phone use in the classrooms, students do not use them during school.

5. Discussion to Draft a Letter to the BOS and BOF to Begin Collaborative Meetings Between Town Boards

At the June 14, 2023 BOE meeting with 2 BOS members present, there was a suggestion of collaborative meetings between all three boards at a minimum of two times per year, with quarterly joint meetings being ideal. C. Greenhouse requests BOE approval to draft and send a letter to the BOF and BOS to get this partnership started.

C. Willard made a motion to allow C. Greenhouse to draft a letter to the BOF and BOS for quarterly or semi-annual meetings of the boards with such meetings to begin in September of 2023, seconded by S. Fuss. Discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

F. Liaison Reports

School Readiness Liaison: Supt. Bruneau reviewed the recent statutory change regarding the minimum age for children entering Kindergarten. Beginning with the 2024/2025 school year children will need to be 5 on or before Sept. 1 of that school year (previously the child had to be 5 prior to Dec. 31 of the respective school year). This will cause some changes in the AES plans moving forward, including a 2024/2025 redistribution of students remaining in PreK rather than moving on to Kindergarten. Discussion. The Board will remain mindful of this upcoming change and in future months will make a plan to communicate with and gather information from the community.

8. Comments from the Public on Agenda Items – None.

9. Other Action Items – None.

10. Upcoming Meetings

-Regular Board Meeting – August 9, 2023

-Items for Next Meeting – Superintendents Evaluation, Board of Education Resolution, Updates on Strategic Planning, Board of Education Policy Updates.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by C. Willard at 8:44 p.m., seconded by S. Loudon.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

**Submitted Respectfully,
BOE Clerk, Dawn Longley**