

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT 06232
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting/School Library**

Members Present: Chairperson Gerard Cremé, Mike Beckwith, Chris Bernard, Steven Fuss, Caitlin Greenhouse, Shannon Louden, Celeste Willard

Members Absent:

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

Others: Anne Cremé, Brianne Lanzieri (virtual), Kimberly Person (virtual), Jennie Morrell (virtual), Beata Zieba Gadomski (virtual), Melissa Loteczka (virtual)

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Comments from the Public – None.

3. Communications – None.

4. Approval of Minutes

S. Louden made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting, seconded by C. Bernard. No discussion, no changes.

5-0-2 (PASSED)

S. Louden made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting, seconded by C. Greenhouse. No discussion, no changes.

6-0-1 (PASSED)

5. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items

C. Willard made a motion to amend 7.E.3. to read Possible Action in place of No Action Needed, seconded by C. Greenhouse. No discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

6. Celebrations

C. Greenhouse reported that there has been great feedback with regards to the curriculum changes implemented by Principal Parker.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson's Oral Report – Thanked Principal Parker for a great job with the school's curriculum and opening. Thanked S. Loudon for working on policy reviews, also thanked C. Willard for taking on the work to get the parking lot going, and C. Greenhouse for taking on the project of getting the three local boards together for meetings.

B. Superintendent's Report – Agreed to host a forum with Congressman Joe Courtney to discuss Mental Health grant possibilities. Schools in the area will gather here at AES to look at trends in school mental health and how each district plans to spend their funds. Supt. Bruneau will also present at Performance Matters Forum for the State of Connecticut, and will facilitate discussion on writing and implementing effective summer enrichment programs. Amazing opening of school, Principal Parker does a great job at making sure things are done collaboratively.

C. Principal's Report – Seems to be the smoothest opening yet. Presented on Smarter Balanced Assessments. Last year there was 100% participation from the students. Reviewed the data from the testing from 2022-2023 School Year. Principal Parker reported on what the test results tell us, and how they will guide the work of planning moving forward. AES has some amazing gains, especially in the percentage meeting their growth targets. Kudos given to Mrs. Hazen for her work in Science enrichment. We have seen great Science scores. Reviewed curriculum changes that have been implemented. Waiting for the waiver from the State regarding Reading curriculum.

D. Financial Report

T. Smith reviewed the financial reports with the Board.

E. Items for Discussion and Action

1. Board of Education Policies – Updated Policies

S. Loudon reviewed the updated policies. Began with 1000 series policies which focus on Community Relations. Compared AES policies to the CAFE recommendations for policies. Explained Board creates policy and regulations to adhere to policies are the responsibility of the Superintendent or Principal. Policies will be sent via e-mail, and then will have them on screen and in packets for voting purposes. Discussion on how to present them to parents and families after they are completed.

S. Louden made a motion to approve policy changes to policies 1000, 1110, 1110.1, and 1112, as presented and amended, seconded by M. Beckwith. Discussion regarding language in the policies.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

2. Discussion of Joint Meeting Plans with BOS, BOF

C. Greenhouse sent a survey regarding availability for meetings dates and a request for positive feedback to ensure a collaborative meeting. The survey was sent to 24 people from the three Boards, 17 have responded thus far. All respondents indicated October 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. as an available date. Respondents also indicated that a clear and focused agenda will be helpful to ensure the meeting is productive and collaborative. Agreed to ask Carol Lee to be moderator.

3. Update on Upper-Level Parking Lot Paving Project

C. Willard reported on the status of the Upper-Level Parking Lot Paving Project. Per discussion with E. Anderson, the Town will not accept a check payable to Constantine's, only a check payable to the Town. Board discussion regarding how to move forward to make the project happen and fix policies for the future. Still concerns by half of the members about school law and the Town Charter supporting BOE.

S. Fuss made a motion to change the check in the amount of roughly \$125,000 currently encumbered to Constantine's and transfer those funds to the Town, seconded by C. Willard. Discussion.

Roll call vote:

C. Greenhouse - Yes
S. Louden – No
S. Fuss - Yes
M. Beckwith - No
C. Willard – Yes
C. Bernard – No. Changed vote to YES
G. Cremé – No

4-3-0 (PASSED)

F. Liaison reports – No report.

8. Comments from the Public on Agenda Items

-Jennie Morrell (virtual) noted that Taylor and Val have a good handle on what is needed for students, especially younger students.

-Beata Gadomski appreciated the curriculum discussion and presentation of information regarding testing results. Regarding the paving situation, feels that funding project is the right thing to do.

-Brienne Lanzieri feels that there is a need for relationship building across all Boards of the Town. Hopes joint meetings can facilitate this.

9. Other Action Items – None.

10. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Regular Board Meeting – October 11, 2023
- B. Items for Next Meeting

11. Adjournment

C. Willard made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 p.m., seconded by C. Greenhouse. No discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Longley, Board Clerk