Andover Board of Education ~ Special Meeting Agenda

We strive to create a safe educational environment that establishes a foundation for all students to become creative, moral, and compassionate people. We will provide the resources needed to support our educational practices with an understanding of our fiscal responsibilities to the community.

2025-2026 BOE Goals

- Elevate academic and social/emotional growth for all students
- Develop additional communication strategies to reach community members with clarity
- Update 6 Policy manual series
- Create a process to update a 1-5-10 year capital plan on a yearly basis

Date: August 5, 2026

Start Time: 7:00 pm

Location: School Library/Virtual Meeting

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Statement
2. Comments from the Public
3. Communications
4. Student/Other Celebrations
5. Approval of Minutes
   - Regular Meeting of July 8, 2026
6. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items
7. Reports
   A. Chairperson's Oral Report
   B. Superintendent's Report: Grant, Facilities & Budget
   C. Principal's Report: Professional Development & Curriculum Updates
   D. Financial Report
   E. Liaison Reports & Updates
8. Items for Discussion & Actions
   A. Item: Bathroom Project Update
   Action: Discussion & Possible Action
9. Comments from the Public on Agenda Items
10. Other Action Items
11. Upcoming Meetings
    - Regular Board Meeting – September 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
    - Items for Next Meeting
12. Adjournment

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87220610398?pwd=amFaOXZVMmhVakVPamo0N0JvWkF0QT09

Meeting ID: 872 2061 0398
Passcode: 200920
One tap mobile, +16465588656,,87220610398# US (New York), +16469313860,,87220610398# US

ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT
Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, July 8, 2026
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting/School Library

Members Present: Dr. Caitlin Greenhouse (Chairperson), Shannon Louden, Gerard Cremé, Marcie Miner

Administration: Dr. Valerie Bruneau, Superintendent
Taylor Parker, Principal
Dr. Jodiann Tenney, Finance

Others: In-Person: Scott Sauyet, Anne Cremé

Virtual Attendees: Dianne Grenier, Liz Lokiec, Scott Person, Kimberly Person, Jeff Maguire, Amber Pritchard

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Statements**
The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Greenhouse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening statement was that the bathroom project is coming along great and updates will occur later on in the meeting.

2. **Comments from the Public** – None.

3. **Communications**
Chairperson Greenhouse mentioned that she cc'd the BOE on communication that she has had with the BOS and BOF chair and communications regarding the bathroom construction project, all will be addressed further on in the meeting.

4. **Student/Other Celebrations**
ESY did start yesterday to provide services for some of our students and the teachers won the annual staff vs. 6th grade kickball game.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from Regular Meeting of June 10, 2026

Dr. Greenhouse made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting, seconded by G. Cremé. M. Miner made a note to change the word done to down in the superintendent's report.

3-0-1 (S. Louden abstained) (PASSED)

Minutes from Special Meeting of June 25, 2026

S. Louden made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2026, Special Board of Education Meeting, seconded by G. Cremé. No discussion.

4-0-0 (PASSED)

6. **Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items**
Dr. Greenhouse requested to add an executive session at Number 10 to discuss recommendations from our attorney, inviting the superintendent to the executive session. M. Miner noted that if someone did not receive a packet, the agenda and packet were delayed in being posted on the website due to vacation and the holiday.

4-0-0 (PASSED)

7. **Reports**

A. **Chairperson's Oral Report** – Chairperson Greenhouse had nothing new to report as the bathroom project updates will come later in the agenda.

B. **Superintendent's Report**

<u>Grants</u>
We did not receive a literacy grant that we were hoping for despite an excellent application and video worked on by Principal Parker. We are waiting on another grant, the High-Quality Special Education Incentive Grant. This is a highly competitive grant to increase funding for special education costs. If we were to receive this, we could utilize more resources to allow students to stay at AES rather than outplacement. Dr. Bruneau discussed how different small towns utilize some of the special education funding and the different types of programs created. Dr. Greenhouse asked if we did receive the grant, would it require us to take out of district students. Dr. Bruneau explained that it depends on how you write the grant, but we did not write it that way. We do not intend on taking in special education students from other districts.

<u>Facilities</u>
Bathroom will be discussed later, along with the snowblower issue.

C. **Principal's Report**
This week we are finalizing the Strategic Plan, which will be presented likely in September with state testing scores.

<u>Professional Development</u>
Various professional development opportunities are being scheduled. including PMT training (de-escalation strategies), CPR, and a Principal Leadership Retreat at EastConn in September. Principal Parker also participated in a leadership training in Detroit last month.

Curriculum Update

No big changes to anticipate, UFLI will move forward for K-3. Restorative practice work will continue, the state has put out some mandates regarding this and we will be continuing with that work. Principal Parker discussed what restorative practices are including: communication and conflict resolution, closing circles in the classroom, and valuing connection over correction. Three staff members attended a training this past year and will be working on a roll-out plan for the rest of the staff. Dr. Greenhouse asked questions about what parent communication looks like for behavioral concerns, Principal Parker noted that 6th grade did reflection sheets that had parent communication, 3rd-5th grade did reflection work in school. Any higher behavior concerns are communicated by Principal Parker to the family. M. Miner asked if summer school is happening, Principal Parker stated that for two days a week for the month of July there is Extended School Year (ESY) taught by our SPED teachers and related services staff, COOL summer camp is located here and run by one of our paraprofessionals, Hailie Kegler.

D. Financial Report

Dr. Tenney shared that the financial report was not in the packet before tonight as she wanted the most up-to-date version because of all the end of fiscal year wrap-up. With the 4.56 million dollar approved budget, plus the $97,500 from the 2% non-lapsing account, the current balance is approximately $126,000. If you take away the $97,500 that will be returned at some point, there is $29,000 left over, which is significantly less than 1% of the budget. Dr. Greenhouse asked when the budget will be finalized. Dr. Bruneau stated it would be the end of August with the last bills that are still coming in. Dr. Tenney said all the money was encumbered but not all bills have been received and she stands by taking the $97,500 to cover the BOE in case of any last-minute needs. All preliminary transfers were done, including $750 from Salary to Benefits, $5200 from Salaries to Repair and Maintenance, no motion required for these because they were previously approved preliminary transfers.
M. Miner stated she was looking for a list of repair jobs that she thought would be included in this month's packet. Dr. Tenney said that was not available this month due to wrapping up the budget. Dr. Greenhouse suggested tabling it until October. M. Miner asked about Edmunds and whether it should make it easier to see budget expenditures and whether we have major vendors. Dr. Bruneau said that information would be in there and Dr. Greenhouse suggested they look at it meaningfully before the next budget season to be sure we are careful and understanding of what the costs are. M. Miner asked if the $97,500 will go back to the 2% account. Dr. Tenney recommends waiting until the audit is done in case there is anything missed or additional funding needed.

E. Liaison Reports & Updates

CIP – S. Louden – None.

LGP – T. Parker – The group finished the parent survey with a great turnout from Andover parents, there was a small subcommittee that put together a community improvement plan based on the feedback to determine what the focus would be going forward. Now we wait to hear what the state says, funding has come for PD opportunities but we have to wait to see how it is allocated for the three towns. Dr. Bruneau mentioned that she received communication from the governor's office that preschool funding is there for future plans to mandate preschool in the future. Principal Parker noted that all grant spots are filled. Dr. Bruneau said that at the beginning of the year we will know the anticipated revenue from tuition and grant funding to give to the Board.

8. Items for Discussion & Actions

A. Item: <u>Bathroom Project Update</u>
Action: Discussion & Possible Action

Erik Sanderson's last communication was forwarded to the Board. We are currently approximately $35,000 over budget due to approximately $29,000 for the removal of asbestos insulation and approximately $3,500 for air quality testing. All demo is done with the possibility of additional support needed in the flooring of the boy's bathroom due to the demolition. Fuss & O'Neill is examining to determine from an engineering standpoint. We are still on schedule to complete before school starts, if anything changes it will be minor things to complete that will not affect the start of school.

Dr. Bruneau shared about legislation from April 2025 regarding PFAS remediation testing. The state lowered the threshold of what is allowed in the water. Districts need to complete 2 tests, 6 months apart, while the building is in regular use. We completed the first test and passed, with the second being done in November, we do not anticipate any issues.

The first bill for the bathroom project was received. Dr. Bruneau and Dr. Tenney will review and get in touch with the Town Administrator to pay it when received out of the capital fund. Dr. Greenhouse made note that this contract is a very well written one that is more fair than previous ones written on both the Town and school side, and will be used as a model in the future.

B. Item: <u>Capital Plan – Snowblower Purchase</u>
Action: Discussion & Possible Action

The snowblower was purchased in 2009 and finally died due to large snowfall this past winter. Dr. Bruneau met with Eric from Public Works and asked about sharing services or a snowblower for next year but they are unable to with no extra manpower or snowblower to borrow; she also met with Matt Streeter and was informed that they also don't have any extra they can offer. She and Scott Ledoux went through quotes from W.H. Preuss & Sons, $3,899 (considered a good price as they paid $2600 in 2009), Tractor House, $4799, and an additional company for either $4199 or $3999 (plus shipping costs). The lead time for receiving is 12-16 weeks. S. Ledoux and Dr. Bruneau felt that W.H. Preuss & Sons is the best option as we are considered tax exempt and there are no shipping costs. Dr. Bruneau discussed with Rob from the Board of Finance and the preferred method is to email the quote and request to the BOF and CIP, knowing that we want it ordered by August.

S. Louden made a motion authorizing Dr. Greenhouse to write a letter to BOF and CIP requesting the purchase of the snowblower from W.H. Preuss & Sons, seconded by G. Cremé. No discussion.

4-0-0 (PASSED)

M. Miner made a note that with her business, she talks to her maintenance director and wanted to ensure that we did the same. She also inquired about what was being done with the old snowblower, due to it not being repairable. It would not be given away as the parts are not used anymore. We do have a small snowblower for sidewalks, it is not on the Capital list because it didn't meet the threshold.

C. Item: <u>August 12th Regular Meeting</u>
Action: Vote to Cancel

S. Louden made a motion to cancel the August 12th Regular Meeting, seconded by Dr. Greenhouse. No discussion.

4-0-0 (PASSED)

9. **Comments from the Public on Agenda Items** – None.

10. **Other Action Items**

A. Executive Session

S. Louden made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss recommendations from their attorney, inviting the Superintendent, Dr. Bruneau to attend, seconded by G. Cremé.

4-0-0 (PASSED)

Returned from executive session at 9:09 p.m., motioned by S. Louden and seconded by G. Creme.

There was a subsequent public motion made by S. Louden "to allow the chairperson, Dr. Greenhouse and the Superintendent to move forward with the recommendations from the attorney to second steps as discussed." Seconded by G. Cremé.

YES vote by Dr. Greenhouse, G. Cremé, and S. Louden, NO vote by M. Miner.

3-1-0 (PASSED)

11. Upcoming Meetings

- Special Board Meeting/Board Retreat – August 5, 2026, 4:00 p.m. (for policy work)
- Regular Board Meeting – ~~August 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m.~~ (CANCELLED)
- Items for Next Meeting – None.

12. Adjournment

S. Louden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m., seconded by G. Cremé. No discussion.

4-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,

Jen McGoldrick, Clerk