

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT 06232
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting/School Library**

Members Present: Chairperson Gerard Cremé (virtual), Mike Beckwith, Steven Fuss, Caitlin Greenhouse, Shannon Louden, Celeste Willard (virtual)

Members Absent:

Administration: Valerie Bruneau, Superintendent
Taylor Parker, Principal

Others: Anne Cremé (virtual), Brianne Lanzieri (virtual), Doris Maldonado Mendez (virtual), Kelly and Matt Haggerty (virtual), Kirstina Frazier (virtual), Charlene DelMastro (virtual), Lisa Hopkins (virtual), Erin Boris (virtual), Jen McGoldrick, Jennie Morrell (virtual), Joanne Hebert (virtual)

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by S. Louden, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Comments from the Public – None.

3. Communications

- S. Louden received an e-mail this morning from Eric Anderson that the crack sealing/mastic repair project was approved by Board of Selectmen.
- Received C. Bernard's resignation from the BOE dated October 11, 2023.

4. Approval of Minutes

S. Fuss made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2023 Regular Board of Education Meeting, seconded by C. Greenhouse. Discussion, several changes noted.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

M. Beckwith made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting, seconded by G. Cremé. Discussion, several changes noted.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

5. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items

S. Louden asked to add Agenda Item 7.E.1.a. – Discussion Regarding How to Manage Joint Meeting Tomorrow if Chairperson Cremé is Unable to Attend

6. Celebrations

- Happy Birthday to Chairperson Cremé. Cupcakes will be delivered.
- Principal Parker introduced new teacher Jen McGoldrick.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson’s Oral Report – Nothing to report.

-S. Louden reported that the new policies (approved at the September meeting) are provided for BOE members in their final format. These policies will be printed and put into a policy manual and will be updated on the website as soon as possible.

B. Superintendent’s Report – Supt. Bruneau reported on the event with Congressman Joe Courtney recognizing districts that received mental health grants. Tomorrow she will present at Performance Matters in Hartford on summer programs and securing grants for summer programs. Bus contract with DATTCO in renegotiations, contract is shared with Marlborough, Hebron, and RHAM. Negotiations must take all parties’ concerns and needs into consideration. Increase in enrollment in the preschool program. Principal Parker and Supt. Bruneau have been working together to plan for the incoming students as they cannot fit into the existing space. Looking at a full-day program, funded by School Readiness, Smart Start and tuition; confident there will be enough children to fill another classroom. Can accommodate up to eighteen (18) children, with an estimation of opening the classroom in November. Once students enroll, a better sense of the cost for the remainder of the year can be ascertained.

C. Principal’s Report – Principal Parker reported on Back to School Night, which was a big success; Book Fair did very well – thanked PTO for their support. Together with the Reading Teacher she is starting a ten-day professional development program (ten days throughout the year). Attended first Regional Curriculum Council meeting with Hebron, Marlborough and RHAM. Working with our regional districts to share resources and ideas. Enrollment up to 208 children as of today.

D. Financial Report

T. Smith not in attendance. S. Fuss asked question regarding Object 109 Summer Expenses. Supt. Bruneau noted we are waiting for grant funds to reimburse for those expenses. Also discussed Object 610 Speech; these costs are shared with the District of Scotland. Half of all expenses are billed to Scotland every two months, so the usage of this object will vary from month to month while waiting for payment from the other district.

E. Items for discussion and action

1. Update on Joint Meeting with BOS, BOF

C. Greenhouse reported tomorrow is the joint meeting with BOS and BOF. In person meeting, there is not a virtual component. Asked Principal Parker to be available with the OWL for Chairperson Cremé can attend if he is still under the weather. Principal Parker noted she can record if needed using her Zoom account. Packet for meeting has been sent out. Hope is to move forward collaboratively so that all Boards can work together for the town. Will vote for a Moderator at the meeting, several potential candidates for Moderator will be at the meeting. Town Attorney will be present, suggested BOE has a representative from CABE. Chairperson Cremé thanked the BOE members for their work in organizing this meeting and working on a way for him to attend virtually.

1a. Discussion on Process for Chairperson Cremé to Attend Joint Meeting Virtually if Necessary – See above.

2. Update on Upper-Level Parking Lot Paving Project

S. Louden reported on her discussion with E. Anderson regarding crack sealing. C. Greenhouse recommended waiting for any decision until after the joint meeting tomorrow to see what policy may come from that meeting.

F. Liaison reports – No report

S. Louden: CIP meeting in October. New terms start November 21, 2023 if anyone would like to join the CIP Committee.

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

9. Other Action Items – None.

10. Upcoming Meetings

A. Regular Board Meeting – November 8, 2023

B. Items for Next Meeting

11. Adjournment

C. Willard made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m., seconded by S. Fuss. No discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

**Respectfully submitted,
Dawn M. Longley, Clerk**