

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT
Board of Education
Meeting Wednesday, October 9, 2024
7:00 pm
School Library/Virtual Meeting**

Members Present: Celeste Willard, Eric Becker, Gerard Cremé, Mike Beckwith, Caitlin Greenhouse, Brianne Lanzieri, Shannon Louden

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

Others: E. Landry (virtual), Fuss & O'Neill, Jeff Murray (virtual), Jen McGoldrick (virtual), Lisa Hopkins (virtual), Jennie Morrell (virtual), Ann Cremé

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Chairperson Willard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Comments from the Public – None.

3. Communications – None.

4. Student Celebrations – None.

There will be a presentation by Mrs. Hopkins and the 5th Graders next month regarding Red, White, and Blue Schools. Superintendent Bruneau announced that the school will be honored along with 10 other schools for this award.

5. Approval of Minutes

S. Louden made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2024, Special Board of Education Meeting, seconded by G. Cremé. B. Lanzieri's first name was misspelled. There was no other discussion.

5-0-2 (PASSED) E. Becker and C. Greenhouse abstained

6. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items – C. Willard would like to add Item 12. F Approve Playground.

C. Greenhouse made a motion to add Approval of the Playground Installation to the Agenda, Item 12. F, seconded by B. Lanzieri. There was no discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

7. Other Celebrations – Gerry’s birthday 10/10!

8. Fuss & O’Neill Presentation, Q&A on Bathroom Project

Ms. Landry from Fuss & O’Neill attended to present the proposal for the Bathroom Project. 7/17 – proposal for renovation of bathrooms, fully compliant and updated fixtures. All-inclusive proposal; 5-6 weeks’ time to complete project; full architectural scope included (60% of fee); additional proposal for HAZMAT – important to include this scope.

Questions:

Confidence in subcontractor? – Very confident, all work done by experienced people.

SD Phase – Workshop to discuss what budget is; how to understand financial constraints, scope.

Town quote was half as much, why? – It didn’t include structural support and is limited to general architectural.

Some issues pertaining to buildings built in the 1950’s, HAZMAT is typical, which is why the 2nd proposal is provided, the connection of new piping to old piping - the proposal is inclusive of these things.

What happens if the pipes are rusted? – They have been inspected and this is not expected.

What is bidding for? – This is for potential contractors, to walk the project with them and answer questions, and this is standard.

Is this prorated and would we get a return? – No, it is a lump sum unless there is a known contractor you’d like to go with.

Ms. Landry left the meeting.

9. Jeff Murray Presentation (BOS) Regarding Addition of Fans to AES Gym

Sent email with videos; everyone understands problem in the gym with heat rising and inefficiency for heating. Mr. Murray presented his proposal on adding fans, which will be more beneficial when solar panels are installed.

Questions:

Replace fans? – This will be adequate rather than adding them to existing fans.

Are there other districts doing this? – No, but popular in Europe. Using existing conduits and power replacing the fans. Project can be done in phases and doesn’t have to be done all at once since the existing fans aren’t operational. Would like to be completed by this winter.

Single phase? – Not a problem.

Any benefits in summer? – No because there’s no air conditioning.

Vendors? – All similar in cost, but electrical should be cost compared.

Who pays? – Town Fund Board of Finance approved \$20,000.

Jeff Murray left the meeting.

10. Principal Taylor Parker Presentation of Student Benchmark Assessment Scores (SBAC)

Principal Parker shared the Smarter Balanced Assessments Report. The BOE would like more information about the work of the Interventionist; this will be provided in November.

11. Reports

A. Chairperson's Oral Report

C. Willard – Watched Board of Selectmen meeting on 9/9/24, talked about projects including parking lots, projects to be completed if funding is there; plumbing top priority, bleachers, gym floor, fans, Board of Finance on 9/25/24 new member elected.

B. Superintendent's Report

Supt. Bruneau – Curriculum acceleration; are up to 241 students and this is significant when planning; incoming students not always on the same level, biggest impact preschool and 3-6th grade, but sometimes they require additional resources. Created a program with RHAM where Andover student with exceptional needs can attend there for a Math class, transportation is planned and being utilized. Making sure that needs are being met.

Grants - Lull in offerings; still have Title IV, Title I, IDEA- Special Education; working on School Mental Health Grant; receive Smart Start Grant each year.

Facilities – Meeting with new Custodian frequently to keep updated on maintenance; electrical needed to do some rewiring for washer and dryer; overhead door, elevator, fire inspections done; boiler serviced. Leak in air conditioner in 221, over six years old and failing and needs to be replaced (\$7200). Asbestos to be scheduled. Scott keeping photo records of work; working on prioritization.

C. Principal's Report

Principal Parker – Professional Development coming up; Indigenous studies on Friday for 3-6 from a Mohegan grant we were awarded; coach from Bookworms coming to be in classrooms and give feedback, this was paid for from the Right to Read grant.

D. Financial Report

T. Smith – Discussed the report that was provided. C. Greenhouse asked about the Tuition amount budgeted – this should remain the same.

E. Liaison Reports

School Readiness – B. Lanzieri, meeting is after BOE on 10/29/24; will report in November.
PTA – C. Willard reported; had meeting, Trivia Night, lining up things.

12. Items for Discussion & Actions

A. Item: Gym Project

Action: Vote to Approve Addition of Fans to AES Gym

C. Greenhouse moved to approve the installation of new fans in the gym as outlined by Jeff Murray, seconded by G. Cremé and there was no discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

B. Item: 2025 BOE Meeting Schedule

Action: Vote to Approve 2025 BOE Meeting Dates

S. Louden moved to approve the 2025 BOE schedule of the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., seconded by G. Cremé and there was no discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

C. Item: Non-Certified Contract Agreement

Action: Vote to Approve Non-Certified Contract Agreement

Tabled until November BOE meeting because it has not been ratified by non-certified union.

D. Item: STIF Account

Action: Discussion/Possible Vote

C. Willard reported. She has been discussing the Short-Term Investment Fund with the Town. They earn a high rate of interest. Interest could be used to fund a Capital Fund. Can towns have more than one of these accounts? – Yes.

Can a BOE open one? Yes. There would be transfers from the BOE to the Town to fund if we did this. She reported that she spoke with the Auditor, a lot of back and forth of funds. Admin of account is Town Treasurer, but asked if T. Smith can co-Admin? – Yes.

Can the BOE take money out of the 2% non-lapsing account and put into STIF? – Yes, but all interest goes into the Capital Fund. Accrued interest would be reinvested into the 2% not go into Capital Fund, but the BOE could authorize a transfer.

Wasn't this already set up to go into a STIF account? – C. Greenhouse will follow up.

2% non-lapsing is rainy day fund, could it be lost? – Don't know.

BOE 2% non-lapsing is for BOE at its discretion. If it were to move to a STIF, the interest will be restricted to Capital. Needs further investigation. G. Cremé would like to see it in action rather than do this now; C. Greenhouse would like the details ironed out.

C. Greenhouse and C. Willard to get more information to bring to the November 2024 meeting.

E. Item: Financial Liaison for Budget

Action: Discussion

M. Beckwith – Start earlier rather than later, a budget liaison to get better familiar with the process. Would like to take the lead on this with BOE approval. To give the Board information and thoughts to consider. Maybe streamline the process. This will be added to the Liaison Reports.

F. Item: Playground

Action: Vote to Approve Playground

Raised the money and the equipment is on its way and will be installed by November. There will be a special meeting to go over the designs with the planner so they can be reviewed and questions asked prior to voting and installation.

13. Comments from Public on Agenda Items – None.

14. Executive Session – For the Purpose of Personnel Matter

S. Louden moved to go into Executive Session For the Purpose of Personnel Matter at 9:11 p.m., seconded by G. Cremé.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

15. Other Items

16. Upcoming Meetings

- Regular Board Meeting – November 13, 2024
- Items for Next Meeting – Fuss and O’Neil bathroom proposal, SBAC more information for the BOE, Vote to approve non-cert contract, Budget initial update, STIF

Board of Education members who will represent the Board at the BOS/BOF or watch and be ready to report out:

October: Caitlin
November: Mike
December: Shannon

January: Bree
February: Eric

March: Gerry
April: Celeste

17. Adjournment

S. Louden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 p.m., seconded by G. Cremé. No discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Longley, Clerk