ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT
Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting/School Library

Members Present: Gerard Cremé, Brianne Lanzieri, Alicia Lee (virtual), Shannon Louden, Marcie Miner, Sharon St. Rock

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

Others: In-Person: Anne Cremé, Kirstina Frazier
Virtual Attendees: Charlene DelMastro, Katie Dixon, Stacey Kaufman, Melissa Loteczka, Kim Person, John Rambo, Christine Randazzo, Jamie Tilden-Bailey, Toriana Williams

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Statement**
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by S. Louden followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

3. **Communications**
A lot of communication has been received between BOS and Town attorneys, but no additional communications have been received.

4. **Student/Other Celebrations – Presentation of Spring SBAC Results**
Principal Parker started by stating that DIBELS was shared at the end of last year, this presentation is on SBAC results from the spring. Our 3rd-6th graders take the assessment in both Math and Reading, with 5th graders also taking the Science assessment, we had about 110 testers this past spring. Our proficiency for ELA was 73, up from 64.8 last year. Our Math proficiency was 69.4, up from 53.2 last year. Our growth rate in ELA was 68.7% and our Math was 67.5%. Our average percentage of target achieved for ELA was 84.3%, and 85.6% for Math. Our district performance index has increased from last year to this year as well. Our students who take the alternative assessments also scored proficient or above proficient, sample size is too small to include percentages due to potentially identifying information.

A map was shared of the districts that scored higher than us in ELA and/or Math, these are the districts whose proficiency rates we are aspiring to reach. There was clarification on the Education Reference Groups (ERG), these are districts with similar demographics, and we outperformed many of the districts in our ERG. The strategic plan for this school year has only shifted a little, we will be deepening the strategies that are used in the classroom.

Principal Parker shared that we have completed our beginning of year Math assessments for 3rd-6th grade, we are starting the year at 72% proficiency for mCLASS and i-Ready, we are happy to see we haven't lost that growth and will continue to move students forward. B. Lanzieri asked about the different groups of students (including those who met their growth goal and those who didn't). Principal Parker and Dr. Bruneau shared that there wasn't a large difference between groups, each group of students moved up in proficiency, the high-needs group moved faster but all students are moving, including our high-achieving students.

The K-2 team has brought the work up in early Reading skills and Math to help them get ready for testing. Curriculum work continues including piloting the Open SciEd Science curriculum and working on Social Studies curriculum in 5th and 6th, with the goal of aligning with RHAM to ensure readiness for middle school.

B. Lanzieri asked about whether the new Kindergarten age requirement will have an impact on scores in the future. Principal Parker said that this is expected to have a positive effect in the future and part of the reason the state made this requirement. S. Louden asked what we attribute the success to? Principal Parker said that high impact teaching strategies have had a great impact in the classroom, along with consistency in the teaching, class size, and data teams. Dr. Bruneau discussed observing teachers at data teams and their dedication to planning individually for each kid and for the whole class simultaneously. G. Cremé thanked the staff and recognizes the effort that the staff has put in. M. Miner asked if we were to put this in a press release, how would we word it? Principal Parker said it is not a one-shot deal, we need to continue to build consistency, every kid is an enrichment kid because they all have an ability to go deeper in different areas, "Put the gas on and keep going".

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from Special Meeting of August 5, 2026

G. Cremé made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2026 Special Board of Education Meeting, seconded by M. Miner. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

6. **Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items**

M. Miner made a motion to discuss the proper way to gain information, S. Louden asked her to be more specific about her request. M. Miner asked about how we get money from the Town, access to bank statements, repair and maintenance records, and transfer funds information, there was no second to the request. S. Louden stated that she will take the request back to C. Greenhouse for next month. M. Miner responded that she doesn't understand why no one seconded, S. Louden stated that personally, she trusts that the Superintendent and the Chair of the Board review all financial records.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson's Oral Report

S. Louden shared congratulations to the school and is proud of the work that has been done, including the Board pushing budget issues to pass.

B. Superintendent's Report

Grants

The High-Quality Incentive Special Ed grant program is up and running. The $225,000 will cover items such as: BCBA services, BCBA or RBT training services, supplies needed for the program. This grant will expand what we are offering, it will not be received again but we are setting up the program appropriately and using the money wisely. The program is named SOAR (Supporting Opportunity, Access, and Relationships). S. St. Rock asked a question about the grant the PTA had previously received, wondering if the school can also apply. Dr. Bruneau stated that most of those grants are generally for smaller organizations, the amounts are not large enough for a school sized expense.

Facilities

Many items were completed over the summer including: fire extinguisher deficiencies fixed by Encore; a heat detector fixed; fire inspection for sprinklers, and pest control. Projects that need to be completed will be done under grants including a safety and security project outside of the gym door due to snow build up and ice dams, and there is a need for a snow rail. Two prices were reviewed: Silk City $17,000 and Eagle Ribbon $8,750. The school will be contracting with Eagle Ribbon. For preschool, we received an additional $20,000 through Early Start and Smart Start grants. We will be addressing two safety issues including the availability of outside safe space for students by adding additional fencing (waiting on quotes) and repaving the preschool black-top.

C. Principal's Report

Professional Development

We completed several trainings over the summer and the beginning of the year including: Restorative Practices-closing circles- restorative questions; PMT and CPR/First Aid training; PK/K NAEYC updated standards and increased accountability; SOAR program training with a BCBA (DTI and data collection). Principal Parker will be participating in a few upcoming trainings including the SCALE initiative assessment audit, coaching program for districts to ensure we are assessing using best practices and developing assessment guides; through EASTCONN co-leading, a connected leadership training; TEAM training for district facilitators, more of a coaching model for beginning teachers. Certified staff will be attending an Election Day PD sponsored by the union on innovation in the classroom.

D. Financial Report

Dr. Tenney shared that there is a little bit of carryover from last year. We have an increased tuition line due to increased costs for some families. The expenditure report was discussed and questions were raised about the cleaning line that appeared already predicted to be over. Many cleaning projects were completed over the summer but we may need to reallocate amounts. Printing costs have been encumbered and more may be added next year since we aren't using books as much; EFS and MBR reports were due over the summer; grants will be reflected on a spreadsheet next month. Facilities/Maintenance information will come soon.

E. Liaison Reports & Updates

CIP – S. Louden – Did not meet, nothing to address.

LGP – T. Parker – On Friday the 19th, there will be a community meeting at AHM.

8. Items for Discussion & Actions

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

We are 95.9% done. The Town did an inspection but there were a few things left to complete/fix, i.e., 2 damaged tiles. Kara's bathroom is completely finished. We anticipate the project to be done by next week.

B. Item: <u>Board Policies</u>
Action: Discussion & Possible Action

S. Louden stated that the 1000s and 7000s were sent out, D. Kane redlined them and sent them out. S. St. Rock asked about the policy regarding the fee for the gym, discussion continued about what types of organizations qualified for this exemption and it was determined to look more into this and potentially establish rental fees. S. Louden suggested for future policy edits, that she could email red-line copies and make it a shared document so that everyone could comment, but not edit the documents, streamlining the process. S. St. Rock requested a link for policy review from CABE be included for ease of access.

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

10. Other Action Items – None.

11. Upcoming Meetings

- Regular Board Meeting – October 14, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
- Items for Next Meeting – Policy work 7000s and 9000s; Finalization of Bathroom Updates, Possible State Results (Accountability Index)

12. Adjournment

G. Cremé made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m, seconded by S. St Rock. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,

Jen McGoldrick, Clerk