

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT 06232
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting/School Library**

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

Members Absent: Steven Fuss

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

Others: Kirstina Frazier, Jennie Morrell (Virtual)

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Comments from the Public – None.

3. Communications – None.

4. Student Celebrations

Mrs. Frazier presented the Math program. Illustrative Mathematics used for grades 2 and 3, will be expanded through grade 5 next year. Big Ideas used for 6th grade, which is same as used for the middle school. K and 1st teach the standards, curriculum created by the teachers. Mrs. Frazier led the BOE members through a sample lesson.

5. Approval of Minutes

S. Louden made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting, seconded by. C. Greenhouse. Amended to include Ms. Lionberger in attendance under “others”.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

6. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items – None.

7. Other Celebrations

8. Reports

A. Chairperson's Oral Report

Wished the moms a Happy Mother's Day. Attended Town Budget Meeting on May 1, 2024. No questions on BOE budget, a few questions on enrollment. Referendum next Tuesday, May 14. Teacher Appreciation Week is in full swing. Worked with Supt. Bruneau and sent letters to BOS and BOF. Letter to BOS re: MEP. E. Anderson looking at retaining a company to do walkthrough. J. Maguire will have on BOS agenda for next meeting (Monday) to determine funding. BOF meeting on May 22, BOE will be on agenda to discuss allocation of surplus.

B. Superintendent's Report

Supt. Bruneau reported that coming to end of afterschool grant, some funds have been reallocated. May 23 Family Night/Night of the Arts, families will be able to make their own backpacks. Students and families can pick five items to put in their bag – including games, books, gift cards, activities to be done during summer break or vacations (i.e. long drives, etc.). J. McGoldrick will be overseeing the COOLsummer program. Meeting next week to review and get program set up. Mental health programs through AHM and preschool boot camp will also be held over the summer. Ordering supplies for preschool rooms. Stove and refrigerator through Food Service has been delivered – funded by funds received during COVID. FOIs went out to E. Anderson today. Teachers and Taylor did a fantastic job getting through the NAEYC Accreditation process. Proud of the entire staff for their hard work and effort.

C. Principal's Report

Principal Parker noted the NAEYC visit was fantastic. There was a lot of hard work on the part of staff. Portfolio is approximately 500 pages and the teachers do not get extra time. They committed to the process and we embody the NAEYC standards. Focusing on end of year activities. SBAC testing started well. Teachers report children are happy during process with pride and seriousness, but not a sense of anxiety. Working on different ways to support children through the process. Congratulations to Lilli Godwin, selected for the finals for Invention Convention. May 23 Evening of the Arts and Book Fair. 6th grade Step Up will be coming up. Last day June 13th, and Professional Development Day on June 14th. Pavement in upper and lower lot has “popped up” after sealing. Reached out to E. Anderson, he looked at them and will see if Public Works can fix them. This is a safety hazard that needs to be addressed. May 30th RHAM Art Celebration Night with a concert, some AES students will have art displayed. Field Day and 6th Grade party on June 5th.

D. Financial Report

T. Smith reviewed the financial reports as presented. No discussion about reports in packet. Discussion about overages on specific line items, due to purchasing books for Reading program and unexpected repairs to the upper playground. Status of meetings with Town Treasurer.

E. Liaison Reports

B. Lanzieri, School Readiness – Meeting on April 18th, was unable to attend. Principal Taylor reported that the meeting included updates on tuition, Smart Start and School Readiness grants, incorporating literacy into the classrooms. Next meeting tomorrow, May 9, 2024, will discuss filling 16 School Readiness slots and how to engage with families.

C. Willard, PTA – Dinner was well attended. May 29 is Talent Show, recommended that BOE members attend. Raffle tickets on sale, will pick winners at Evening of the Arts. Contest for students to design the next AES shirt.

F. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

a. New IED Policy – Second Reading

S. Louden made a motion to approve the new IED Increasing Educator Diversity Policy 4111.3, seconded by M. Beckwith. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

b. Kindergarten Policy – Second Reading

S. Louden made a motion to approve the new Admission to the Public Schools on or before age 5, Policy 5111.2, seconded by G. Cremé. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

c. Capital Policy – First Reading

S. Louden presented the new policy. Recommends a tri-board committee to determine what would constitute a capital project. Discussion regarding policy. Suggestions include having tri-board committee oversee capital projects and how to handle budget for capital projects. Add that capital project will be in the nature of a major improvement or repair, discuss if only the BOE should bring requests for projects. S. Louden will make changes discussed and share with Robert to bring to the next BOF meeting. S. Louden will also present it to the BOS.

d. Liaison Roles

Chairperson Willard noted that the roles were e-mailed to BOE members and also hardcopies available to review. Discussion regarding facilities liaison role and if that person should have responsibility to the tri-board committee, members of tri-board committee would report back.

C. Greenhouse made a motion to approve the liaison roles as presented, seconded by B. Lanzieri. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

G. Comments from the Public on Agenda Items

J. Morrell commented on the NAEYC process, appreciated that it included the Kindergarten and the benefit of developmentally appropriate practices.

Ms. Frazier thanked Celeste & Gerry for their kind words sent via e-mail for Teacher Appreciation.

H. Other Action Items – None.

I. Upcoming Meetings

a. Regular Board Meeting – June 5, 2024

b. Items for Next Meeting – Update on Capital Policy, Update on MEP, Update on PreK expenditures, Discuss date for Board Evaluations & Setting goals for next year as well as Supt. Bruneau's evaluation.

J. Adjournment

S. Loudon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m., seconded by G. Cremé. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Longley, Clerk