

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT
Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting/School Library**

Members Present: Dr. Caitlin Greenhouse (Chairperson), Gerard Cremé, Brianne Lanzieri, Alicia Lee, Marcie Miner (virtual), Sharon St. Rock

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

Others: In-Person: Anne Cremé
Virtual Attendees: Kirstina Frazier, Jamie Tilden-Bailey, Liz Lokiec, Ashley Johnson, Melissa Loteczka, Jessica Waine, Dr. Patricia Kelly, Anna Glowacki, Charlene DelMastro, Dianne Grenier, Julie Gourdet, Kim Person, Scott Person, Michelle Lorentz

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Statement

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Greenhouse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Comments from the Public

L. Lokiec – Acknowledged that she emailed the Board regarding a question that Val will address; also asked a question about being over budget and why the Board transferred money at the last meeting when we would still have a balance of over \$40,000 by her numbers.

J. Tilden Bailey – Thanked the BOE and Dr. Bruneau for their hard work and dedication in the budget process.

A. Glowacki – Here to hear more about the state of the budget and her job status.

3. Communications – None.

4. Student/Other Celebrations

Principal Parker shared that there were 5 days of school left, data will be shared during the principal's report, teachers and staff won the kickball game, and Reveur won the house championship.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Regular Meeting of May 13, 2026. The only note was that the vote amounts were off as A. Lee arrived late.

G. Cremé made a motion to approve the minutes from May 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting seconded by S. St. Rock. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

6. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items

None; the question asked by email will be addressed in the financial report.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson's Oral Report

Chairperson Greenhouse shared a message encouraging the Board to remain in a role of stewardship and professionalism and not to make the Board political, encouraging everyone to be ethical and moral during this budget season and beyond. The code of ethics requires a professional relationship with the superintendent and can be addressed during the evaluation process the Board follows. S. St. Rock thanked her for her words.

B. Superintendent's Report

Grants

They are lean right now, grants for preschool (Early Start) will increase, exact amounts to be determined later. All spots have not been filled yet; we are waiting to hear from more town residents for spots. Numbers will be updated over the summer. Smart Start grant will remain the same. Other grants will remain the same as well, though the numbers are down from previous years. The DRIP grant will assist with facility repair and maintenance. We are in the midst of applying for a special education grant, we may not receive it, but hoping for some amount to assist in programming.

Facilities

A few repairs need to be done for security, locks and doors that need to be fixed with grant. Bathroom project and Capital Plan updates will be discussed later on.

Budget

The Referendum will take place on Tuesday, June 16th. The Board will need to have a Special Meeting to discuss what will be done due to the reductions after the budget passes, similar to last year.

Possible actions to take after the budget passes were introduced, including: collapsing 2nd or 3rd grade, keeping 6th grade together and not hiring a teacher, repurposing a teacher to 6th, Library or Intervention being collapsed, Spanish being cut, Art cut to .6, Music, Gym can't be cut by state law, use of the 2% non-lapsing fund, liquidation of Norton account (recommended during the year but not as a budgeting strategy; B. Lanzieri does not support using this fund, she wants to save it for an enrichment opportunity), charging for the use of

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the gym (similar to what the Town is planning for the community center), request for the van we are using for special education transportation to be gifted instead of the Town charging us, teacher's union MOU to eliminate the line in contract for coaching stipend of \$3000; and cutting nursing or custodial services.

One decision that has already been made was to reduce paraeducators by 2 due to contract requirements to notify prior to the end of the year. We will leave those positions vacant (not abolishing).

Discussion during the budget proposals:

-A. Lee clarified that student needs are not the same as they were when we were in school and asked whether special education students would still receive proper support. Dr. Bruneau clarified the needs in the current 1st grade class and how over 50% of them have academic exceptionalities and ensuring they are all receiving what they need would be difficult in one classroom.

-Principal Parker did not feel comfortable saying which grade level she would be able to collapse at this time, due to fluctuating enrollment and personnel decisions.

-B. Lanzieri asked about the possibility of a combination classroom, Dr. Bruneau said with the current classes that exist, it is not an appropriate decision. She did it for two years to save money when the students had different needs.

-M. Miner asked about whether the paraprofessionals were part-time at some point and that accounted for increased costs. Dr. Bruneau explained about paraprofessional pensions and the increased costs.

-C. Greenhouse asked about whether we have a legal requirement regarding Library or other specials. There are mandates that teachers get their required prep time and lunch but not about specific specials with the exception of PE.

-S. St. Rock stated that Library isn't just checking out books, it is so much more than that, research and presentation skills are introduced. Those skills would need to be put back on classroom teachers to teach.

-M. Miner asked for clarification on roles of the intervention team, specifically the math specialist. Dr. Bruneau clarified that they are also interventionists and conduct small groups and go into classrooms to assist. They also work with some 504 students, a requirement.

-Discussion continued regarding the possible cut of Spanish and how that would lead us to a disadvantage when they get to RHAM as Hebron and Marlborough both have Spanish. Art being cut would lead to larger class sizes in the classroom which is difficult when it is so hands-on. Music would be difficult to cut due to various programming needs and then it would have a domino effect for years here at AES and at RHAM.

-M. Miner asked for clarification on the number of paraprofessionals; Dr. Bruneau and Principal Parker explained IEPs and 504s and individual education needs. B. Lanzieri reminded us that outplacement of students would be far more expensive. M. Miner recommended cutting paraprofessional hours. Dr. Bruneau said that does not work with their current assignments, which includes driving the van. S. St. Rock asked for clarification on the fact that cutting any more paraprofessionals would violate required hours for student support. There are NO regular education paraprofessionals.

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- Use of the gym is about 50/50 between the school and the town, about \$5000 of the cost is from others using the gym.
- M. Miner said that we should discuss income that could come in, out of towners could pay more; Dr. Bruneau reminded her that is the preschool budget and it wouldn't help balance the general fund. M. Miner continued to ask about substitutes for preschool teachers and paraprofessionals, which would not save money in the general fund. Preschool money stays in preschool.
- M. Miner asked about savings for the fans; Dr. Bruneau explained that we don't have a complete year of data yet and we did not have data from before the gym fans were put in,
- S. St. Rock said anything else cut will put us at risk.
- G. Crémé appreciated the work done to present the list and can't understand how we would cut any of this, he is embarrassed by the town not voting in favor of the budget.
- S. St. Rock asked for a rough dollar amount for each item to make decisions at the special meeting.
- Communication from Liz Lokiec on the Board of Finance referenced the Zoom presentation from earlier this year regarding the anticipated school enrollment of 200 K-6 students and then 70 PreK students. PreK is not represented in the general fund. Estimates were made based on Plan of Conservation and Development (PCOD) data along with our own trend data. Principal Parker said there are already 26 kindergartners registered. M. Miner asked for clarification on why enrollment has grown, was it because of preschoolers and out of town students? Dr. Bruneau clarified that was not the case, some out of towners came into the school and then chose to move to the town. Chairperson Greenhouse brought a point of order that we are not talking about preschool anymore. M. Miner expressed her frustration and a point of order was decided again.

C. Principal's Report

Data Update

DIBELS is the state required reading assessment for K-3rd grade, we administer for K-6th grade, this is the highest predictor of success in reading; we achieved 71% at or above grade level at the end of the year, national scores were 64% at or above grade level. We are seeing gains from where students ended last year and where they are ending our current year. S. St. Rock asked for clarification on the red area students on DIBELS, Principal Parker explained that those students are being supported by intervention support. Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) scores were also discussed as the most important standard prior to comprehension for how students are reading, our school is ending the year at 75% proficiency! Growth scores were also celebrated, with students making excellent growth and maintaining proficiency.

mCLASS Math assessments were given K-5th grade. This assessment gets to student thinking. We are ending the year at 77% proficiency, our SBAC proficiency score was 53% last year. National score for mCLASS Math was 65% proficiency.

iReady scores were also reviewed, 3rd-5th grade completed it in March and 2nd grade completed in May. For Math, 62% were at or above grade level, for ELA, 63% were at or

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above grade level. Intervention decisions were made in March to allow students to perform at their best level on state testing.

Curriculum Update

UFLI was piloted in K-3rd grade, all teachers will be moving to this curriculum next year. Social Studies will continue to be worked on next year.

G. Cremé shared his appreciation for the work that Principal Parker has done to achieve these results. He shared his concerns with the possible cuts affecting this success. Principal Parker shared her appreciation for the staff and the work they do each day.

D. Financial Report and Transfers

Dr. Tenney shared that we are in better shape than expected financially, but since we were close to being within budget we needed to take from the 2%. If we do not need the \$97,500 that was transferred, we can transfer it back to the 2% non-lapsing account. She operates on the better safe than sorry method to ensure we can cover all costs. Dr. Bruneau explained the need to do that because we do not have another fund to pull from in case of emergency. Also, 40,000 is less than 1% wiggle room in the account in case of other expenditures. The \$16,000 SEED money that needed to come through from the Town was taking time and we needed to ensure we had the funding elsewhere until it arrived in our account; teacher salaries came out better than expected due to two maternity leaves (some of which was unpaid) which was why the sub line was over; electricity, oil and heating was better than expected; awaiting diesel and van bills from Town. Dr. Tenney brought some things to the Board's attention to be aware of where the overages occurred for future budgeting plans. FICA and Medicare budgeting were short this year, which caused her to go back and re-budget for next year.

Dr. Tenney corrected the account number from 002432 to 002650 in the budget transfer request form, Instructional Tech-Small Equipment.

Repair and maintenance was discussed previously, M. Miner asked about what expenses occurred that we weren't expecting. Dr. Bruneau asked to table that discussion until 8.B. when the Capital Plan is to be discussed.

G. Cremé made a motion to approve the budget transfers, seconded by C. Greenhouse. M. Miner voted to oppose and the motion was tabled until later in the meeting.

5-1-0 (TABLED)

E. Liaison Reports & Updates

CIP – S. Loudon – None.

PTA – B. Lanzieri – None.

LGP – Dr. Bruneau – Early Roots Collaborative met for a family meeting with parent ambassadors. Hebron, Lebanon and Andover are the three towns represented in the ERC.

Insurance Consortium – Dr. Bruneau – Noted that a meeting did occur in the last month, with Heather Van Cara from the Board of Finance attending.

8. Items for Discussion & Actions

A. Item: Bathroom Project Update

Action: Discussion & Possible Action

Secondino and Sons met with Chairperson Greenhouse on Tuesday, a signed contract does exist that our lawyer, Dr. Bruneau and Erik Sanderson worked on. Both sets of lawyers reviewed multiple times. Erik will provide weekly project updates. Demolition will start on the afternoon of June 17th due to possible abatement concerns. The contract for Erik Sanderson to provide oversight was reviewed, the cost will be \$125 an hour for Erik Sanderson for 8 weeks, not to exceed \$8950.

B. Lanzieri made a motion to sign the contract to have Erik Sanderson do the oversight of the bathroom project, seconded by G. Cremé.

S. St. Rock asked to see the contract. M. Miner asked for clarification on the contract length and type. C. Greenhouse clarified which contract they were voting on.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

B. Item: Capital Plan

Action: Discussion

The Plan will be completed during the summer. Updates to the kitchen were completed previously. Maintenance/Lawn Care that will need to be addressed is considering purchasing a new snowblower, we will put it on next month's agenda to see if we need to go to the Board of Finance for approval for funding.

Paving and Parking Lot – There was a sinkhole in the parking lot that appeared last week that was located next to the drain, thanks to Erik Johansen from the Town for fixing it. Conversations have been made to the BOS regarding the parking lot.

The RLE program that will encourage energy efficiency will be occurring, pipe wrapping will be done but there are small leaks or cracks in the pipes that need to be addressed. Heating components' measures for efficiency will be investigated. RLE will do their own inspection.

M. Miner asked when the Capital Plan was given out, Dr. Bruneau said she will email it to her.

Boiler room repairs were discussed, it has already been encumbered due to the need for repair, but will be completed in July.

The Music department was added to the Capital Plan due to the age of the instruments and the likely need to replace many instruments at one time, and use of capital funds could come into play at that time.

C. Item: Budget Transfers

Action: Discussion & Possible Action

M. Miner had a question about the instructional tech costs. Dr. Bruneau explained it has been 5 years since we could catch up on the number of Chromebooks and Viewsonics. The cost of \$15,000 was to get the technology we required. Some special education costs came up that required us to use technology funding for those students. M. Miner asked how many Chromebooks were purchased. Dr. Bruneau explained that it was also teacher laptops and Viewsonic screens, and the budget has been cut repeatedly, and we cut the technology costs. Chairperson Greenhouse reminded the Board of a presentation of the inventory that K. Frazier did a year ago and will share.

B. Lanzieri made a motion to approve the budget transfer form as presented by J. Tenney, with the updated account number for instructional technology, seconded by G. Cremé.

M. Miner asked for clarification about the HVAC costs and Dr. Bruneau said a list of jobs will be presented at the next meeting. S. St. Rock said this has been discussed throughout the last several meetings.

5-0-1 (PASSED- M. Miner abstained)

9. Comments from the Public on Agenda Items

D. Grenier – Speaking on behalf of Mrs. Claus, says thanks for inviting her in to read to students and allowing her to visit the children.

C. DelMastro – Taught at AES for over 20 years, reviewed what we teach our children about community and the role they have in the town; during the budget process, we forget the students and the hurt that will occur due to the cuts, sorry to hear the Town has put the BOE in this position.

Dr. Patricia Kelly – Expressed thanks for the discussion of the budget cuts, and the results of the DIBELS was enlightening, expressed disappointment in Board communications.

L. Lokiec – Expressed disappointment in the response to her emailed communication and question regarding the enrollment report.

10. Other Action Items

None; we will wait to set a Special Meeting after the Referendum on Tuesday. Dr. Bruneau reminded everyone about Step-Up on Friday.

11. Upcoming Meetings

- Regular BOE Meeting – July 8, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
- Items for Next Meeting – None.
- Special Meeting – August 5, 2026, 4:00 p.m., for Board Retreat and Meeting; Policies, Board and Superintendent Evaluation will occur.

12. Adjournment

S. St. Rock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m., seconded by A. Lee. No discussion.

6-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,

Jen McGoldrick, Clerk

Grants/Tuition/Expenses FY26
as of 06/03/2026

Account Id	Description	25/26	25/26	25/26
PREK REVENUE YTD:		FY25 C/O	Anticipated FY26	Actual Cash Rec'd
009-250-0909-0000	PreK Tuition Revenue (NG)		\$ 155,566.00	143,907.00
009-250-0909-0119	PreK Early Start Tuition		\$ 60,480.00	54,303.20
009-250-0909-0219	PreK Smart Start Tuition		\$ 31,940.00	21,912.00
	PREK REVENUE TOTAL YTD	4,129.80	\$ 247,986.00	226,122.28
				224,251.20
				\$ 19,505.23
PREK TUITION EXPENSES: (Local Tuition)		Expenses	Encumbered	Total Expenses FY26
009-101-0909-0000	PreK Certified	\$ 116,453.00	\$ -	\$ 116,453.00
009-102-0909-0000	PreK Non-Cert Salaries	\$ 71,073.51	\$ -	\$ 71,073.51
009-106-0909-0000	PreK Subs	\$ 9,600.00	\$ -	\$ 9,600.00
009-610-0909-0000	PreK supplies	\$ 7,619.46	\$ -	\$ 7,619.46
	PREK TUITION TOTAL:	204,745.97	0.00	\$ 204,745.97
EARLY START (Early Start) PREK 2026:		Anti Budget FY26	25/26 Expended	25/26 Encumb
009-101-0965-1001	PreK Early Start Salaries	132,000.00	105,249.48	26,750.52
	PreK Early Start Competitive Total	132,000.00	105,249.48	0.00
				26,750.52
SMART START PREK 2026:				
009-101-0976-1001	PreK Smart Start Ops - Inst Salary	65,000.00	55,090.84	9,909.16
	Smart Start Total	65,000.00	55,090.84	0.00
				9,909.16
Total Anticipated 2025-2026 Revenue:				
\$247,986.00 (Local Tuition)				
\$123,000.00 (Early Start Grant)				
\$65,000.00 (Smart Start Grant)				
For a total of \$435,986.00				
Less 399,951.00 (Total anticipated salary expense for eight (8) staff				
\$36,035 for supplies/classroom expenditures				