

**ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANDOVER, CT
Board of Education
Meeting Wednesday, March 12, 2025
7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting/School Library**

Members Present: Caitlin Greenhouse (Chairperson), Eric Becker, Mike Beckwith, Gerard Cremé, Brianne Lanzieri, Shannon Loudon, Celeste Willard

Members Absent:

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

Others: Amanda Beloin (virtual), Allison Bech (virtual), Ed Smith, Katie Dixon, Kirstina Frazier, Everly Loteckza, Melissa Loteckza, Erik Loteckza, Jennie Morrell (virtual), Anne Cremé (virtual), Jessica Stack, Buddy Stack, Harry Lykotrafitis, Mr. and Mrs. Lykotrafitis

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

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

2. Comments from the Public

Amanda Beloin – congratulated everyone involved with Invention Convention.

Ed Smith – would like to meet with Supt. Bruneau & Principal Parker regarding the Science Bowl Program and introducing it to elementary levels. Gave an overview of the program, run by Dept. of Energy. Is also president of the Connecticut Botanical Society. Looking to incorporate a program with elementary, middle, and high school students for a botanical research program, presented some ideas of what this might look like. CODE – Coalition of Diversity and Equity – asked Shannon to present this to the BOE.

3. Communications – None.

4. Student Celebrations

Principal Parker spoke about the Invention Convention. Children start in September/October to identify a problem and begin to invent a solution for this problem. All 4th grade students participate, other students can participate as well. Mrs. Dixon supports all of the fourth grade students. Mrs. Frazier supports Mrs. Dixon and any of the students not in 4th grade. Students presented to a panel of four judges - Gerry & Anne Cremé, Tess Grous, Robert Laser, and Erik Loteczka. Two finalists, Buddy Stack and Wynston Greenhouse, will present at finals held at UCONN in May. Seven honorable mentions were presented for various achievements.

Mrs. Dixon & Mrs. Frazier introduced the students who presented their inventions:
Harry Lykotrafitis (PreK) – Dribbling Course
Everly Loteckza – Yoga Suite (award for visually appealing board)
Buddy Stack (Finalist) – Mail Notification System
Wynston Greenhouse (Finalist) – Kid’s Ski Rest to attach to a regular adult rest on a ski lift

Proud of all inventors! Thanks to the staff and BOE for supporting this event. C. Willard thanked the staff for all of their hard work, and noted that the amount of work that was done in school was helpful for families.

Congratulated Everly, who won the school Spelling Bee last month, and represented the school at the State Spelling Bee last weekend, she did a great job!!

G. Cremé commented on the students’ presentations and said their ability to speak about what they did and why was incredible. Highly recommended that BOE Members try to attend in the future.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 12, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting

S. Louden made a motion to approve the minutes from February 12, 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting seconded by G. Cremé. No further discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

6. Opportunity to Add or Delete Agenda Items

Principal Parker would like to add a motion to allow the Principal and Superintendent to set a date for Summer COOL Camp, will be added in as #9A, received a request to use the building in the summer.

7. Other Celebrations

Supt. Bruneau noted it is Board Appreciation Month and there is a small thank-you gift for all of the Board members. Ran into a former Board member who recognized the importance of the Board and benefits of the trainings and conferences available to Board members. “What you do matters, and your training!!”

8. Reports

A. Chairperson’s Oral Report – Chairperson Greenhouse noted e-mail communications to BOE members regarding upcoming Town meetings. The Budget presentation to BOF went well. BOS set a Town meeting for tomorrow night to present solar to the Town at large, which is in the gym at 7:00 p.m. Two separate meetings, solar meeting first, and then other ordinances addressed at a second meeting. STIF account is in discussion and will be addressed at the end of budget season. All other items are on other areas of the agenda.

- B. Superintendent's Report** - Supt. Bruneau provided grant updates – no new grants pending. Grappling with unknown regarding potential grants and things that could change at the state and national level. No monies are coming out now. School Readiness and other funds set to come in this fiscal year are available, we can draw down from allotted funds in e-grants, but no new grants. Cannot move forward with the HVAC project as the grant for that is paused. It is important going into the budget season that people understand extra funding that we have had previously will not be available. For instance, no funds for summer programs. Did receive some extra funding from School Readiness, with four preschool classrooms, that grant allowed for the creation of an extra space on the playground so that we have enough space for the children. Will also fund the expansion of the sensory room. Facilities: The door to the music room is done, waiting for lights outside to be done, will also transfer lights in old boys' gym locker room to a light with a dimmer. Lights at top of stairs outside of office with bulbs that need to be replaced, too high for us to replace, a contractor is needed to come in and replace them. Sprinkler inspection, mechanical maintenance on boilers and hot water heaters, and other regular repair maintenance. Supt. Bruneau answered questions from the BOE regarding C. Ward and the changing of lights which was delayed due to weather, and the state funds of \$40M allocated in ECS. Supt. Bruneau shared how this system works, including how funds are allocated and the rules around excess cost. Andover cannot expect to receive any additional from the \$40 million.
- C. Principal's Report** – Principal Parker highlighted that there is a March Reading Challenge for Read Across America month. Kicked off the first week with a spirit week. Partnered with a company that will be offering Red Sox tickets for the Reading Challenge. High participation level from children and families. Working with Bookworms, had to cancel March visit due to weather, they will be coming in April. Teachers are looking forward to this visit as they have gotten used to the program and are eager to delve deeper into the program. PD day on March 21st will include training on Zones of Regulation (social emotional curriculum) and an optional Book Club for teachers (had a lot of interest from teachers), book focuses on relational problem solving to help children develop positive social emotional skills. Also this day, Kirstina Frazier will be presenting AI tools for teachers to use in the classroom helping students with Math. School Readiness update, as OEC changes and evolves, will be moving from School Readiness Council to Local Governance Partnerships, which allows for community partnerships with other surrounding communities, including districts, childcare centers, home daycares, etc. These partnerships will be bigger than School Readiness Councils, more incentive from state to build this transition. Will continue to be NAYEC accredited, moved to NAEYC Accreditation Plus, Tier 3, which includes a higher level of accountability, open to more surprise visits, adjust for yearly reports. C. Greenhouse question – when children register for PreK and Kindergarten, are they getting information for COOL? Typically, this is in the welcome packet when we have this information available to us from COOL. It is distributed to families when we get that information. Also out at orientation in May. Currently have 60 for preschool next year, with about 5 from out of town; about 20 for kindergarten. Some kindergarten waiver requests submitted, process will remain the same for next year. Non-residents do not have a definite spot for PreK until May to allow time for Andover families to register.

- D. Financial Report** – T. Smith reported on the financials as presented. No questions from the BOE. C. Greenhouse has been in communication with the Town Treasurer regarding statements of accounts held with the Town, we did not get these as agreed upon, hopefully will have them for next month.

E. Liaison Reports

School Readiness – See Principal Parker’s report.

PTA – Several events coming up. Next Thursday, the Urban Air fundraiser – for those who attend, a portion of sales will be donated to the school. Trivia Night is next Friday. Candle fundraiser in April supporting a local business. Planning Talent Show coming up May 29th, will be having try-outs, everyone should come or even participate! A ribbon-cutting for a new playground will be held at the Evening of the Arts on May 22nd. Busy time, lots of great support this year! Last meeting, sixteen attended, with several new participants.

Town Meetings – Solar meeting tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. **Next month’s BOE meeting will be canceled as there is a Town Meeting scheduled that night. This is the budget meeting to vote on the Budget on April 9, 2025, BOE members should attend that meeting.**

Discussed the process for scheduling a different meeting after April 9, before the May meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts, it was determined that BOE can schedule a special meeting if needed. Do not need a motion to cancel, just need to give proper notice.

9. Items for Discussion & Actions

A. Item: Summer COOL Camp

Action: Discussion and Vote

Principal Parker read a request from the Andover COOL Program to use AES gym, music room, cafeteria, new COOL room, and playground for summer camp at a cost of \$720 for toiletries and janitorial services. Camp will run June 23 – August 8, 2025.

S. Loudon made a motion to allow the COOL Program to use the facilities as outlined in their request for the dates requested for summer camp, seconded by G. Cremé.

6-0-1 (B. Lanzieri abstained)

B. Item: TK Elevator Contract

Action: Vote to approve contract

Supt. Bruneau reviewed the project, and the bids received. In the last meeting, BOE gave approval to move forward with getting a quote, which is now presented to BOE members. Soft modifications will be done because the elevator is structurally sound right now. The quote from TK Elevator is \$22,690, requiring half down with balance due on completion. BOE has proposed to use capital money to cover this project; to facilitate this, a letter will need to be sent by C. Greenhouse to the BOF with a request to have those funds used.

BOF budget presentation went well. Supt. Bruneau clarified the BOE funds that will be available to cover these costs. C. Greenhouse noted circuit board is not being made anymore, so it is important to make sure that we get it now and update it before we cannot get this circuit board anymore. We do have someone who uses the elevator regularly.

C Willard made a motion to move forward with the contract and quote from TK Elevator to provide a new electronic control board and components to extend the life of the elevator, and also to send a letter to the BOF to ask them to take money from BOE Capital account to cover this cost, seconded by G. Cremé. No further discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

C. Bathroom Project Update

Action: Discussion

Supt. Bruneau noted Fuss & O'Neill received first check of \$13K. Met with Fuss & O'Neill over Zoom to go over materials and discuss what is best in these bathrooms and what will suit our needs best. This is a remodel, they have sent a diagram and will now offer options of materials. Only physical difference will be the new proposed plan to remove the mop sink in the girl's bathroom. Will extend existing custodian's closet to make space for mop sinks. Mock-up in two weeks, will share this information with BOE, as well as next meeting date when that is set. C. Greenhouse noted once plans and material choices are complete, then project will go out to bid and they will help us with this part of the process.

D. Solar Project Update

Action: Discussion

C. Greenhouse noted Town meeting tomorrow night, Ryan from Greenskies will be there, Supt. Bruneau put together a timeline to share. A moderator will be chosen after start of meeting, then Ryan and Supt. Bruneau will present and answer questions from Town and then a vote will be taken. Supt. Bruneau noted informational materials are also on AES and Town websites as well for those who want to review it in advance.

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

11. Executive Session: For the Purpose of Mid-Term Review of Board & Superintendent Goals

S. Loudon made a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. for the purpose of the Mid-Term Review of Board and Superintendent Goals, further move to invite Supt. Bruneau to join the meeting, seconded by C. Willard. No discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

Board exited Executive Session at 9:09 p.m.

12. Other Action Items – None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

- Town Meeting for Budget Vote – April 9, 2025
- Regular Board Meeting – May 14, 2025
- Items for Next Meeting – Updates on All Agenda Items.

14. Adjournment

**C. Willard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., seconded by S. Loudon.
No discussion.**

7-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Longley, Clerk