

TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES

RSA 91-A:2 states that minutes from each meeting of each Town body must “be promptly recorded and open to public inspection not more than five business days after the meeting.”

Minutes are often not in publishable form at that point. Considering the time it takes to make them publishable, and the long lag between issues of the *Beacon*, it may be a month or more before they appear in the *Beacon*.

School Board

February 1

Condensed from approved minutes

In Person Board Present: Adam Jones, Dan Newton, Lisa Burbach, and Aimee Menard

Administration Present: Mark MacLean, Randy Wormald, Dennis Dobe, Dennis Audet, Hilary Denoncourt, Beth Page

Public Present: Caden Heath, Donna Crisp Duclos, Kent Hackman, Myles Keyser

Finance Report: Most overages have not changed. Chromebook purchases will be reimbursed.

Public Comment: Mr. Heath feels that wearing masks hurts and is damaging to children.

Chairperson's Report: March 7 will be the School District's Annual Meeting where the school budget will be presented to the public. Ms. Duclos thanked the Board for their support of the Budget Committee.

March 8 is town voting; the school will hold a Professional Development day for staff, no school for students during elections.

There are two open seats on the school board. A feasibility study for heating systems is in progress. There will be an update in April. The tuition agreement review remains in progress, spearheaded by Jones. There is no Board meeting on March 1, as the Annual Meeting is being held the next week.

Principal's Report: Dobe spoke of yesterday's teacher in-service day, where recently completed Winter STAR assessment data was reviewed and used to guide programming. AE/MS will begin an in-house student recognition program.

The annual Spelling Bee was recently completed, with Lorenzo Guzman as champion. The Ski/Skate program is up and running and scheduled to continue until February 11. AE/MS Basketball program ends next week. Audet spoke of looking into a monitoring system for our boiler. Window quotes have been received and came in higher than anticipated. It was recommended to use CARES money for the windows.

Audet is looking into grants to support a new key card access system.

Old Business: The Board discussed impacts of COVID and the Omicron strain. New CDC guidelines were discussed. Prior to the Omicron surge, there was a plan to discuss the potential for lessening masking restrictions. Burbach reviewed statistics from last month's notes and referenced the frequency of email communication from Dobe in regard to COVID cases at AE/MS.

Menard noted that at the last meeting, Omicron was appearing to peak in our area. Jones feels that our current framework that supports masking is conservative and would be worth re-evaluating. MacLean suggested working with Wormald, Dobe, and nurse Frost, to come up with suggestions and have them presented at the April meeting. This will provide time to continue watching the infectious rate and determine that trends remain to decline.

Wormald provided some context to last month's reported numbers, as the data had included populations from New London and Franklin which was impactful. A review of past trends indicates a swift decline of numbers, which

Minutes Online
Minutes and agendas for Town boards and committees are posted, when available, on the Town website at Andover-NH.gov.

Office Hours & Meetings

OFFICE HOURS

Town Office: Mon-Thu 9-2
Town Clerk & Tax Collector:
 Mon, Wed, Thu 9-2
 Tue 1:30-6:30
 Last Saturday of month, 9-11
Zoning Administrator: Mon 9-12,
 Tues & Thur 9-4, Wed 1-4
Transfer Station: Wed 7-5, Sat, 7-5
 Swap Shop: second Saturday,
 May through October, 8-12
Andover Library
 Mon 6-8
 Wed 9-12 & 6-8
 Thu 1-5 • Sat 9-12
Bachelder Library
 Tues 9-12 & 6-8
 Thu, Fri 1-5

MEETINGS

At the Town Hall unless otherwise noted
Cemetery Trustees: 2nd Tues, 10
 Last Thu, 7
Conservation: 2nd Wed, 7
Emergency Medical Service:
 2nd Wed, Andover Fire Station, 7
Fire Department: Mon, 7
Fourth of July: 1st Wed
 Andover Community Hub, 7
Library Trustees: 3rd Thu, 7 Andover or
 Bachelder Library (except July & Aug)
Planning Board: 2nd & 4th Tue, 7
Recreation: 2nd Wed, 7,
 AE/MS Science Room (except July)
School Board: 1st Tue
 (except July), 6:30, AE/MS
Select Board: 1st & 3rd Mon, 6:30
Zoning Board of Adjustment: 3rd Tue, 7

For more information, call the Town Office at 603 735-5332.

Wormald reported is currently happening for the Omicron strain.

A cluster is defined as 3+ cases from the same cohort, and at this time an outbreak is defined as 2+ unrelated clusters within the community. DHHS defines cluster and outbreak events.

Dobe advocated for taking a slower approach and possibly convening in March if the number of cases continues to decrease. Burbach offered some observations from her work in that vaccinated staff continue to contract COVID.

Jones made a motion to adjust the stay-at-home framework to make masks optional, with the continued decline of Omicron numbers (to be reviewed February 11) to go into effect February 14th. Newton seconded.

Burbach noted that previously a community forum was provided to support the Board's decision. MacLean discussed stocking high quality masks. Menard feels that the community has been afforded the opportunity to be a part of this conversation.

Menard agrees with the February 14 start date, and in the presence of an outbreak, mandatory masking is reinstated for two weeks. Wormald noted that DHHS will not release numbers on the 11th. Burbach advocated for striking the conditional nature of the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

For clarity: Starting on Monday, February 14, masks are optional at AE/MS with the following caveats: an identified
 See Minutes on page 10



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