

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of October 20, 2011
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chairwoman Annie Gilbert, Vice- Chair Paula Colby-Clements, Secretary, Dennis Forgue, and David Birnbach

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Nancy A. Duclos, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction, and Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Administration

I. Executive Session

At 6:08 P.M. in the School Committee entered into Executive Session on a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Dennis Forgue for the purpose of discussing matters related to collective bargaining strategy and to return to Open Session. Roll call vote: A. Gilbert-Y, D. Forgue-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, R. Collins-Y, and D. Birnbach-Y. At 6:58 P.M. on a motion by Dennis Forgue with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn from Executive Session and to move to Open Session. Roll call vote: A. Gilbert-Y, D. Forgue-Y, R-Collins-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, and D. Birnbach-Y.

II. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the School Committee was opened at 7:04 P.M. by Chairwoman Gilbert.

B. Opening Ceremonies

Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bancroft School students Ava, Miles and Jacob Hudgins. On behalf of the School Committee Mr. Collins presented the students with a certificate of appreciation.

C. Recognition

Superintendent McGrath recognized AHS Ceramics Teacher, Dolores Dunning on receiving a Gold Medal at the National Awards Ceremony in 2010 as part of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, for her dedication to teaching and to her students. Dolores submitted the name of her student Olivia Li for her creative potential, and Olivia was recognized as a National Gold Medal winner in ceramics at an awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

D. Communications

Nancy Duclos, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction reported on the status of the Fine Arts Task Force who is working diligently to establish goals and strategy to incorporate into the Strategic Plan. The World Language Task Force is collecting data in the way of a research survey being sent to residents and reviewing data collected from school staff.

Dr. McGrath reported on the progress of the teachers involved in the Technology Pilot who, along with Administrative Staff, attended a half day workshop at Burlington High School on Wednesday. They learned about effective lessons and observed students in the classroom using Ipads. Recently two Ipad cards were delivered to Andover High School, and the pilot teachers have created their own K-12 Google group and plan to meet monthly. Students at AHS will be allowed to take their Ipads home as will the students in Mr. Keene's 8th Grade class at West Middle School. West Elementary has a pilot class in process but their Ipads will remain at school. A meeting providing an overview of rules for student use of Ipads on/off campus will be scheduled for parents and students. The expectation is to have the Ipads fully deployed within the next two weeks.

D. Communications (Cont'd)

Mr. Collins urged everyone to attend this Friday night's Football Game at Lovely Field to watch Andover play against Methuen High School.

Dennis Forgue and School/Town officials recently toured the Pre-K Special Education Program at West Elementary and Shawsheen School. Due to the delay in the Bancroft School Project, Shawsheen School will stay on line as a Pre-K-Grade 2 school until such time the new building is completed.

Annie Gilbert announced that the School Committee is holding a Public Question and Answer Forum on Tuesday, October 25th from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. and from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Doherty Middle School/Veteran's Auditorium. There is no pre-set agenda for this meeting.

Mrs. Gilbert reported on the status of negotiations with other school bargaining units; discussions with the Custodian's Unit and the LPN's have begun, and discussions with the Secretarial Unit and Food Service Staff are expected to begin in late October.

Nancy Duclos announced that John Maeda, President of the Rhode Island School of Design will speak on November 14th at 4:00 P.M. in the Doherty Middle School/Veteran's Auditorium on the importance of incorporating the Arts into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to create STEAM. The event is open to the public. The event was made possible through the efforts of AHS Art Teacher, Meghan Michaud who sits on the Board of Directors at RISD.

E. Citizen Input

Many teachers from the AEA were once again present at the School Committee Meeting to communicate their dissatisfaction with the status of contract negotiations. Diane Caraviello, an elementary teacher at Bancroft School is concerned with the prospect of the proposed reduction in planning time at the elementary level and that students will not get the education they deserve. Maureen Wittbold also an elementary school teacher from Sanborn School said planning time is crucial to teaching. Frank McCall from West Elementary School agreed that planning time is essential to good teaching and talked about his findings on the Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education website relative to planning time at high-performing school districts. He feels that all aspects need to be looked at in comparing planning time; such as, class size, other professional development opportunities, differentiated curriculum, etc, and urges the School Committee to continue the discussion and to have a sense of urgency to find common ground.

Tom Powers a teacher at AHS, resident, and an AHS graduate, spoke passionately about state of moral and trust being displayed by teachers across the district due to the lack of a contract. He encourages the School Committee to bring forward data from the communities Andover compares itself to that support the School Committee's proposal being presented in negotiations.

F. Education

1. Middle School 2011-12 Early Release Day Staff Development Program

Nancy Duclos said the First Early Release Day occurred yesterday, Wednesday, October 19th and the Middle School discussion on challenge-based learning, "One Middle School-Three Sites", sharing the power of unifying the three schools by engaging risk taking, real world thinking, and critical thinking skills was rolled out.

F. Education (Cont'd)

1. Middle School 2011-12 Early Release Day Staff Development Program (Cont'd)

The Administrative Teams from each middle school (Doherty, West, Wood Hill) spoke about the opportunity and value the release days will provide to work together to create a vision and culture, hold discussions on unifying all schools, common practices, and the over-arching goal of a clear understanding of instruction to challenge each student. The Middle School model supports this work.

The Release Days also provide an opportunity for middle school teachers to expand upon the work of how to engage and challenge each learner. All agree that shared-beliefs enter into learning conversations to define and articulate this responsibility. Feedback from the Release Day will be reviewed to determine where teachers want to put their energy and will be the guide for the next Release Day. Middle School teachers truly appreciated the opportunity to connect with each other.

2. 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results – Grade 7

Brian McNally, Director of Health and Physical Education, accompanied by Health Education Teachers, Cheryl Todisco, Becky Desfosse', Sandy Lunt, and Dina Drennon, provided results of the Grade 7 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The Risk Survey takes place at the National level, regionally, and state-by-state. The survey is conducted at random, the results being reported are from 2011-Grade 7 survey and compared to the 2009 middle school survey. The data is important in establishing the direction of health education. The category of questions ranged from personal safety-bullying- suicide-violence related behaviors, tobacco-alcohol-drug use, body weight and image, and physical activity. As a whole, Andover students showed better decisions in comparison with results of other states. There is concern for the increase in responses regarding body weight and image from 2009 to the 2011, and in the responses to bullying and suicide. The Health Team will continue to take steps to address these issues and will be adding programs to address emotional development and growth. They will continue discussions with students relative to health strategies, and improving culture and climate at the schools to make students feel safe. A panel discussion on Teens and Risky Behavior will be held on December 6th at 7:00 P.M. at the AHS Library and is open to the public.

Mr. McNally added that the curriculum developed for integrating Health into Physical Education will be presented at the December 8th School Committee meeting.

3. Bancroft School Update

Annie Gilbert reported that the Department of Environmental Services gave their decision on the appeal by abutters and the DEP affirmed our Order of Conditions in its entirety. The School Building Committee was very pleased with the decision as it validated the process they followed for the site plan. They are still waiting for a hearing date on the lawsuit filed in Superior Court.

G. Old Business

1. FY-13 Budget Development Assumptions, Guidelines & Timeline

Paul Szymanski explained the changes in the FY-13 Budget Development document including the addition of the cost to transport homeless students estimated at \$20,000 under Transportation for Regular Education. Also under transportation, they have learned that a separate component for extra-curricular field trips is not a part of the Transportation for Regular Education contract and bid at the same time as Special Education Transportation; currently they are conducting a survey of data to determine what the benchmark is for this. A long-overdue review of per pupil costs for supplies and materials is underway with the goal of developing a model to bring equity to the schools.

G. Old Business (Cont'd)

1. FY-13 Budget Development Assumptions, Guidelines & Timeline (Cont'd)

The Budget Kick-off for the Leadership Team was held yesterday. Surprisingly, the use of modules available in the Munis system has not been previously used for budget development. They are now pursuing the use of the budget input model and software within Munis and have scheduled professional development opportunities with representatives from Munis for staff. There will be a lot of changes and challenges ahead, along with an assessment of spending. He is confident that through the expertise of the Kathy Gilmore, Janet Wright, and Theo Moccia they will be able to work through the utilization of Munis.

Motion: Paula Colby-Clements motioned for the Andover School Committee to approve the FY-13 Budget Timeline and Assumptions as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve.

H. New Business

1. Andover Youth Services Presentation

Andover Youth Foundation Chair Diane Costagliola and Youth Services Director Bill Fahey outlined the proposal for the Cormier Youth Center to be built on the property adjacent to the Doherty Middle School. The Foundation is in the process of collecting signatures for a Special Town Meeting, and if successful in gathering the required signatures, a Special Town Meeting will be scheduled for December 5th. The Foundation has met with the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, Senior Center, and neighbors to review the proposal and have received positive feedback on the project. The League of Women Voters is holding a public forum on November 2nd to discuss the Youth Center. The Center will offer educational and emotional support to the youth of Andover, complementing what the Andover Schools offer and used as a connection to the community. The Youth Foundation has raised \$2 Million dollars towards this endeavor and will continue fundraising efforts to finance any contingencies beyond the two million dollars they are asking residents to approve. The Foundation and Youth Services is looking for the support of the School Committee and Administration for this project.

2. Student Travel Request: DMS Quebec City Jan 14-16 2012

Superintendent McGrath explained the request from John Givens, DMS teacher and Outing Club Advisor for an outing trip to Quebec City/Monte Ste Anne on January 14-16, 2012. Students will not miss any school as this is the long weekend of the Martin Luther King Holiday. The trip is not part of the school curriculum and is open to 8th grade students in the DMS Outing Club; it is an extra-curricular trip thereby optional and with students financing the cost of the trip.

Motion: Dennis Forgue motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for DMS to Quebec City/Monte Ste. Anne on January 14-16, 2012 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled "School-sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy". The motion was seconded by Richard Collins and voted 5-0 to approve.

I. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: Minutes of September 15, 2011, and October 6, 2011

2. Warrants: Assistant Superintendent Szymanski stated that the Warrants are in order and provided highlights of each: Warrant # SW1207 Expense in the amount of \$522,443.71; Warrant #12S015 Payroll in the amount of \$110,372.21; and Warrant #12S016 Payroll in the amount of \$2,048,796.92.

I. Consent Agenda (Cont'd)

Motion: Paula Colby-Clements motioned for the Andover School Committee to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve.

J. Adjournment

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Richard Collins, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Recorder

Documents: FY13 Operating Budget Planning Development, Guidelines and Assumptions
Andover Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results for 2011 – Grade 7
School Warrants
Minutes of September 15, 2011 and October 6, 2011