

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of April 11, 2013
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chairwoman Paula Colby-Clements, Vice-Chair Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, Barbara L'Italian and David Birnbach

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, and AHS Liaison Brian Wivell

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairwoman Colby-Clements opened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee at 7:05 P.M. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Wood Hill Middle School students from Grade 7, Mikayla Goodwin, Aaron Emerson, Caleigh Schmitt, and Alyson Teberio. On behalf of Committee, Dennis Forgue presented the students with a Certificate of Appreciation.

B. Committee Reorganization

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chair Person

Annie Gilbert motioned that Dennis Forgue be elected as Chairperson of the Andover School for 2013-2014 effective the first regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting following the close of the 2013 Andover Annual Town Meeting. The meeting was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to approve.

Barbara L'Italien motioned that Annie Gilbert be elected as Vice Chairperson of the Andover School for 2013-2014 effective the first regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting following the close of the 2013 Andover Annual Town Meeting. The meeting was seconded by David Birnbach and voted 5-0 to approve.

C. Recognition / Communications

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos recognized AHS students Sharon Wu and Josh Allen who were selected for the Art All State this year. There are approximately 100 students accepted from the entire state for this competitive honor and AHS is excited to have two of their students selected. In addition, Josh Allen and Kelsey Stevens' photos were both selected as First Place Winners in the Massachusetts High School Photo Competition. AHS photo students took first place in two of the four total categories in the statewide competition hosted by the Photography Center of Cape Cod.

David Birnbach talked about the School Committee workshop in which he presented new programs for Andover Public Schools to consider. Mr. Birnbach provided the two proposals for the new elementary school curriculum programs which include Computing and Creativity, Engineering with Socrates, and Systems Thinking and the Pursuit of World Peace. He is also proposing a Center for Technology and Engineering for AHS whose mission would be to raise innovators, visionaries, and out-of-the-box thinkers, excite students about engineering and creativity, and infuse a deeper fluency with digital technology.

D Public Input:

Bob Willard, 76 Tewksbury Street stated using the 2010 DESE data he compared Andover's spending against twenty other communities including area Merrimack Valley communities and concluded our

costs are in-line with what we should be spending. Approximately \$20M of school expenses are charged to Town Departments putting Andover slightly above the mid-level of \$12,000 per student, Andover spends about \$13,000.

E. Education

1. Wood Hill Middle School Media Center Redesign Team

Superintendent McGrath welcomed the Grade 6 and 7 students from Wood Hill Middle School and their principal, Patrick Bucco. The students are part of the winning design team selected by their school community for their proposal and plan to make the WHMS Media Center more user- friendly. Principal Bucco and Engineering Teacher Laurie Farrell explained how the idea came about along with an offer of \$10,000 from the WMS PAC and described the steps that followed. The competing teams brainstormed on designs, models were made, and presentations given to the parents in the PAC and the Wood Hill School Community. The students representing the winning design team presented their scaled model to the School Community and explained how they approached the project and arrived at ideas. Mr. Bucco said this project was a great example of project-based learning.

2. Gift to Schools – WHMS PTO: Media Center Redesign Funding

Annie Gilbert motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to accept the \$10,000 donation from the Wood Hill Middle School PAC for funding of the Media Center Redesign Project. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. NEASC Accreditation Report

AHS Principal Christopher Lord and AHS teacher Greg Waters distributed a summary of the Final Report provided by NEASC and gave a presentation of the results of the report. Mr. Waters highlighted the commendations from the NEASC report, and said he will attend the follow-up workshop explaining what the next steps are now that they have the report. A status report is due within a few weeks and a two year progress report on the forty-five recommendations by NEASC due in October of 2014. Dr. Lord said seven standards were used to assess the schools. A few of the items highlighted in the NEASC Report include AHS's creative classes validating teaching and critical thinking, the inter-disciplinary courses between the English and Social Studies Departments, vertical articulation of curriculum between middle schools and high school, development, high order thinking across the curriculum, advanced placement classes, instructional strategies, and the commitment of teachers to increase their content knowledge and to provide extra help for students, as well as the school's core values, beliefs, and learning expectations. They encouraged the implementation of a formal ongoing program providing students with an adult and guidance counselor who knows the student and assists in the students learning achievements. The NEASC Team also encouraged the development of a plan to increase student's respect for their school building and its cleanliness.

The NEASC Report will be made available to the public and disseminated across town to encourage and build support for funding to meet the recommendations provided in the report.

4. Bancroft School Project Update

Annie Gilbert said the School Building Committee has awarded all but one contract and they are pleased with the bid numbers received and negotiated. The use of the building modeling technology allowed them to run an entire work-flow in three dimensions which was efficient and cost effective.

F. Old Business

1. Second Reading: 2013-2014 School Calendar

Dennis Forgue motioned the Andover School Committee adopt Option 'C' of the 2013-2014 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by David Birnbach and voted 4-1 to approve. Barbara L'Italien opposed.

The first day of school for students on Calendar 'C' is Wednesday, August 28th, with teachers returning on Monday, August 26th. Schools will be closed on Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2nd for a four day Labor Day weekend.

AEA President Kerry Costello said the members asked if the School Administration would consider using Fridays for the Release Days as best they can. The School Committee also discussed consideration of going to a Federal Calendar in the future.

2. FY 14 Warrant Articles

Warrant Article 5- FY-2014 CIP Appropriation

To appropriate \$2,280,000 for the purpose of funding the FY2014 Capital Projects Fund.

Dennis Forgue moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of WA #5 entitled FY-2014 Capital Projects Fund as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Warrant Article 35 – School Facility Space Needs Study

To appropriate \$130,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of a comprehensive school space needs study and for the payment of all other costs related thereto.

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of WA#35, for the School Facility Space Needs Study in the amount of \$130,000. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve

Warrant Article 36 – School Building Maintenance and Renovation.

To appropriate \$500,000 for the purpose of paying costs of constructing, adding to, remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to and equipping various school buildings and roofs and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto.

Dennis Forgue moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article #36 – School Building Maintenance and Renovations in the amount of \$500,000. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Warrant Article #49 – DMS/WWI Memorial Auditorium Renovations

No action taken

Warrant Article #18 – School Site Improvements

to appropriate \$2,500,000 for the purpose of paying costs of making various school site safety, circulation, and infrastructure improvements, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto.

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article #18 – School Site Improvements in the amount of \$2,500,000 as presented. The

motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 3-1-1 to recommend approval. Dennis Forgue objected and David Birnbach abstained.

The members talked about the number of non-exempt debt projects, operating budget demands, and the non-use of the debt tool. Members argued that due to the Youth Center project starting in the fall there would be less of a disruption to the area if the work is done over the summer and would eliminate re-digging of the area later and address safety and traffic issues.

Warrant Article 32 – AHS Tennis Court Renovations

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article #32 – AHS Tennis Court Renovations in the amount of \$400,000. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve.

Warrant Article 38 - West Middle School Heating System

To appropriate \$1,250,000 for the purpose of paying costs of upgrades to the WMS heating and ventilation system, and for payment of all other costs incident and related thereto, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept all gifts and grants related thereto, or take any other action related thereto.

Dennis Forgue moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article 32 – WMS Heating System in the amount of \$1,250,000. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert and voted 5-0 to approve.

Warrant Article 37 – Annual Computer Workstation & Laptop Replacement Program

To appropriate \$218,300 from the Cable Franchise Fee account for the purpose of leasing town and school administrative and teacher computer workstations and laptops, including costs incidental and related thereto, or take any action related thereto.

Dennis Forgue moved that the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article #37 Annual Computer Workstation & Laptop Replacement Program in the amount of \$218,300. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: Minutes of Joint Meeting March 6, 2013; Triboard Subcommittee Workshop March 21, 2013, and Triboard Meeting February 27, 2013.
2. Warrants: Expense Warrant #SW1316 and Payroll Warrant #13S041.

Annie Gilbert motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve.

H. Adjournment

At 10:14 P.M. on a motion by Dennis Forgue and seconded by Barbara L'Italien, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of April 11, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

Documents: AHS NEASC Report, 2013-2014 School Calendars, Warrants