

**Andover School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of May 11, 2010**  
**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

**Members in Attendance:** Chair Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, Richard J. Collins, and Paula Colby-Clements

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Susan M. Nicholson, Interim Superintendent, Bernie Tuttle, Interim Business Manager

**I. Regular meeting in the School Committee Room**

**A. Salute to the Flag**

Chair Dennis Forgue reconvened the meeting from Executive Session to Open Session at 7:06 P.M. Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sanborn School Students: Taylor Hardock, Grade 5, Zack Hardock, Grade 4, and Brook and Ashley Hardock, Grade 2. Mr. Collins presented each of the Hardock children with Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee. Chairman Forgue welcomed Susan Nicholson to her first School Committee Meeting as Interim Superintendent.

**B. Best Practices:**

Dr. Nicholson attended a multi-disciplinary unit at Wood Hill Middle and High Plain Elementary and was so very impressed with the presentation by the Grade 2 and Grade 7 students, (and Timmy the Dog) invited them to attend tonight's School Committee Meeting and explain "Timmy the Dog" an Inter-disciplinary Unit as a Best Practice. Adaptive PE Teacher Joan Collins brought Timmy, a 160 lb Great Dane and certified therapy dog, to meet the Committee.

WHMS teacher Norma Villarreal framed a brief presentation of the Grade 7 Expeditionary Learning Project and distributed art posters and an activity book created by the Grade 7 students used as teaching tools. The students worked with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade HPE students teaching basic Spanish vocabulary and playing games. Grade 7 Students Christopher Ruiz, Mallory Freichs, and Julia Mancini performed the Spanish rap song they wrote and sang. Susan Farquhar, HPE Grade 2 Teacher, explained the activities the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students participated in, and introduced three of her students who read a thank you letter written by the second grade to the WHMS students.

**C. Recognition of Achievement:**

Dr. Nicholson, Annie Gilbert and Richard Collins attended the DMS School Grade 7 & Grade 8 Recognition Night and congratulated the students and staff on their achievements.

Dr. Nicholson recognized the AHS Class of 2010 who all scored a scaled score of 220 or higher on the Grade 10 English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science & Technology/Engineering exams that are part of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the high school has reached an MCAS passing rate of 100% for the graduating class.

Dr. Nicholson congratulated WMS Math Teacher Virginia Rossini who was selected Teacher of the Year by the Rotary Club.

Annie Gilbert recognized the amazing talent of the students who participated in the DMS Talent Show run entirely by the Student Council.

Mr. Collins commended the Andover High School Track Team on winning the Andover Booster's Championship; an event where the boys and girls participate as one team.

**D. Communications:**

1. DMS Principal Search

Dr. Nicholson thanked the members of the DMS Principal Search Committee who have identified two finalists out of 29 applicants. The two finalists are Lawrence Fliegelman, Principal of the Spofford Pond Elementary School in Boxford and Robin Wilson, Principal of Pentucket Regional Middle School. Site visits and interviews are in the process of being scheduled and Dr. Marinell McGrath will participate in both.

2. Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Nicholson reported that the Steering Committee met on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to review the summary of the retrospective and the summary of the internal scan. The Mission, Wow, and Value Statements are still in draft form, and the Committee needs to discuss how the Revenue and Technology Pinpoint Committees will fold into the plan. Chairman Forgue said a draft of the Revenue Pinpoint Committee Report has been sent to Future Management Systems.

3. Andover Youth Foundation

Diane Costagliola, Chair of the Youth Foundation, Youth Services Director Bill Fahey, and members of his staff updated the Committee on the future renovations to the Skatepark located between the West Middle School and Andover High School campus. The Youth Foundation/Youth Services have raised \$91,000 for the renovations which will include a cement bowl in a new section of the park as well as replacement of old ramps. The project will begin in June and take approximately 5 weeks to complete; they are working in conjunction with Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi and functioning within the rules and regulations set by the Town. Mr. Piantedosi said Plant & Facilities will provide some over site during construction and ensure that it is built to specifications. Upon completion, the new park will be accepted as a gift to the Town.

**E. Energy Reduction Action Plan & Vehicle Purchasing Policy:**

Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi explained that for Andover to become a green community, they need to complete and submit all necessary application requirements which include approval by the School Committee of the Energy Reduction Action Plan & Vehicle Purchasing Policy. Green Community Certification allows Andover to be eligible for grants otherwise unobtainable.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 4-0 to approve the Energy Reduction Plan.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 4-0 to approve the Vehicle Purchasing Policy Plan.

Annie Gilbert thanked and recognized Joe Piantedosi and his department for all the great work that has been done to conserve energy across the town.

Chairman Forgue and Dr. Nicholson attended a meeting on the update of the Information Technology Study. A presentation on recommendations for consolidation of the Town/School Information Technology Departments will be given on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Safety Center. Issues related to integrated technology in the curriculum will be discussed as well.

**F. CIP**

Bernie Tuttle reported that due to the budget constraints, the original request of \$1.2M for the 2011 CIP - Schools 1, 2, and 3 has been reduced. The new recommended CIP allotment for FY-2011 is as follows: \$185,000 for School 1 - System-wide maintenance, compliance, testing, security, etc; \$80,000 for School 2- which targets specific projects; and \$255,400 for School 3-Technology and new Textbook Adoptions. Mr. Tuttle is requesting approval from the School Committee for the new CIP allocation amounts which total \$520,400.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Richard Collins the School Committee voted 4-0 to recommend approval of School 1 in the amount of \$185,000.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Richard Collins the School Committee voted 4-0 to recommend approval of School 2 in the amount of \$80,000.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Richard Collins the School Committee voted 4-0 to recommend approval of School 3 in the amount of \$255,400.

**G. Citizen Input None**

**H. Education:**

**1. School Choice**

School Committee member Annie Gilbert moved to not participate in the School Choice Option. The motion to not participate was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements, vote 4-0 and approved.

The Committee discussed the concern for increased enrollment and the impact on the budget before arriving at the decision to not approve to participate in the School Choice Plan.

**I. Consent Agenda**

Annie Gilbert motioned to accept the consent agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Collins and voted 4-0 to approve with revisions to the minutes.

Warrants: Mr. Tuttle reported that the warrants are in order.

Field Trips: AHS – May 21<sup>st</sup> Grades 11 & 12, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH

Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2010-amended, and April 27, 2010-amended.

Financials: to accept as presented.

**J. Disclosures**

1. Ms. Rebecca Franks
2. Mr. Darrell Keene

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Richard Collins it was voted 4-0 to approve the disclosures as presented.

**K. Policy**

- JBA Student to Student Harassment
- JICFB Bullying (revision by Mike Gilbert, MASC)
- IIB Classroom Staffing

The School Committee discussed the status of the new legislation of current laws on bullying with broader expansion of school responsibility and the correlation to our student harassment policy, bullying policy, and student handbooks. They talked about how to implement and provide training on the new laws to staff, students, and parents. Paula Colby-Clements suggested the Student-to-Student Harassment and Bullying Policies cross-reference each other. Dr. Nicholson will collaborate with Michael Gilbert from MASC to ensure the new language is incorporated.

Paula Colby-Clements spoke about banning electronic media (i.e. cellphones) from the schools given the extent to which texting disrupts the school environment and wonders if the School Committee would consider this option. Annie Gilbert said consideration should be given to the future use of cellphones as teaching tools. It was agreed to continue this discussion as a future agenda item.

**L. Budget Update:**

Dr. Nicholson reported that several meetings have been held with the school administrators and they are making slow but steady progress in determining the very challenging assignment of cutting \$700,000 from the budget. They anticipate having a presentation to provide to the School Committee at the next meeting.

**M. Contract Negotiations/Scheduling**

Chairman Forgue will send out emails with options to consider for establishing dates for strategy and contract negotiation meetings. He would like to schedule a planning meeting before the end of June.

**N. Adjournment**

On a motion by Annie Gilbert and a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder