

**Andover School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of March 10, 2011**  
**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

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

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent  
Jared Rosen, AHS Liaison

**I. Regular Meeting**

**A. Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the School Committee was opened at 7:08 P.M. by Chairman Forgue.

**B. Opening Ceremonies**

Mr. Collins led the meeting in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion:** Annie Gilbert motioned for the School Committee to vote to amend tonight's agenda to include two additional items:

New Business: to vote to approve a school committee communication for publication; and under Old Business: Discussion on directing setting for the FY-12 Budget.

The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and unanimously approved.

**C. Recognition**

Dr. McGrath congratulated the AHS Girls' Basketball Team who advanced to the Semi-finals for the Division I North State Championship, and recognized Nicole Boudreau on receiving the Massachusetts Gatorade Player of the Year Award.

**D. Citizen Input**

A large contingent of Andover teachers and supporters were in attendance at tonight's meeting to present gifts of support received from parents and members of the community. Representatives of the teachers came forward to read messages of support and to request the School Committee resume the dialogue for contract negotiations.

Chairman Forgue stated there are three mediation sessions scheduled and hopefully, with the help of the mediator, both parties will be able to come to a fair and equitable solution beneficial to all.

**E. New Business**

**1. Approve School Committee Communication for Publication**

Chairman Forgue clarified the status of the teacher contract negotiations reiterating his previous statement that meetings are scheduled in March and April and hopefully the mediator will bring both parties together for a successful agreement. He is requesting approval to submit an article for publication in the local newspapers and to post on the School Committee website.

**Motion:** Annie Gilbert motioned the School Committee vote to approve the article as presented for publication in the newspaper and to be posted on the website. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

## **II. Budget Workshop**

Since the preliminary budget presentation of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, several budget meetings with the Leadership Team and the School Committee Budget Sub-committee have been held to continue the conversation on reduction scenarios to address the funding gap of \$4.1M decreased to \$3,070,701 due to available funds from the Town in the amount of \$1,497,700. The Committee will consider actions to think about to further reduce the remaining gap.

Annie Gilbert explained that as a result of additional budget meetings, the gap has been reduced further to \$1,265,756. Through further budget reductions of \$1,100,000 from all three levels, the addition of four EFT's for Elementary Specialists to cover planning time at a cost of \$240,000, and removal of the FY-12 Salary Adjustment of \$944,945, the budget gap number now totals \$1,265,756.

The Leadership Team was asked to eliminate approximately \$1M that would not impact students. Needs were identified to keep the system moving forward although it was challenging to meet contractual obligations and cover the budget gap. The request for the addition of four FTE specialist positions at the elementary level is for planning time coverage. The Leadership Team put forth this preliminary request as it became clear in the reduction scenarios that planning time coverage is needed. It is challenging for the Principals to run their buildings with so many contractual restrictions in place. The final area of consideration for reducing the budget gap was reduction of the FY-12 Salary Adjustment amount of \$944,945.00.

Chairman Forgue commented on the positive collaborative environment with the budget sub-committee and the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team was directed to present options to reach the revised FY-12 Funding Gap of \$1,265,756.00 and to present their findings to the Budget Sub-committee and then to the School Committee.

**Motion:** On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, the School Committee voted 4-0 to request the Superintendent to reduce the FY-12 Proposed Budget by approximately \$1.1M and to eliminate the FY-12 Salary Adjustment of \$944,945.00 and also to include the addition of 4.0 Elementary Specialists for the purpose of covering planning time.

David Birnbach was not in the School Committee Room when the vote was taken.

Dr. McGrath reviewed the next steps in the budget process which will be to take the directive to the Leadership Team and to bring forward a new proposal with an additional reduction of \$1.1M. The School Committee Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and the School Committee will vote on a Recommended Budget on Thursday, March 31, 2011.

## **I. Adjournment**

On a motion by Annie Gilbert, with a second by Paula-Colby Clements it was voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dee DeLorenzo*  
Recorder