

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 12, 2009
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chair Debra Rahmin Silberstein, Richard J. Collins, Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, David Birnbach and AHS Liaisons, Alex Macheras and Charlie Smith.

Others in Attendance: Dr. Claudia L. Bach, Superintendent, Dr. Susan Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent and David Keniston, Business Manager.

I. Executive Session

Chair Deb Silberstein called the School Committee Meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Offices. Present were: Chair Deb Silberstein, and Committee Members Richard Collins, Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert and David Birnbach.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert and a second by Dennis Forge it was voted to go into Executive Session to discuss the custodial contract and other contractual issues and to return to Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Chair Silberstein-Y, Members, D. Forgue-Y, R. Collins-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, and D. Birnbach-Y. On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn the Executive Session and to return to Open Session at 7:15 P.M. Roll Call Vote: Chair Silberstein-Y, Members, D. Birnbach-Y, R. Collins, D. Forgue-Y, and A.Gilbert-Y.

Also present in Executive Session: Dr. Claudia Bach, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Susan Nicholson, Candace Hall, Director of Human Resources, and Business Administrator David Keniston.

II. Regular meeting in the School Committee Room

A. Salute to the Flag

Chair Deb Silberstein reconvened to Open Session at 7:20 P.M. Mr. Collins asked for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scouts from Wood Hill Middle School George Nicolakakis, Jeffrey Bicknell, and Harry Clark. Mr. Collins presented each of the students a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

B. Recognition of Achievement

Dr. Bach congratulated AHS Principal Peter Anderson who was recognized by the Yankee Clipper Council as a Distinguished Citizen and presented with an award. She also was informed by AHS Program Advisor and MCAS Coordinator Mary Jo Carabatsos that all of the 2009 students passed the MCAS English Language Arts and Math requirements. Dr. Bach congratulates the students and credits the teachers and administrators for their dedication and hard work.

Dr. Bach attended the AHS Play "Brighton Beach Memories" this past weekend and recognized the students who did an extraordinary job performing and the teachers who worked so hard on this very challenging play.

Dr. Bach recognized the Middle School students and teachers who won the Excellence in Environmental Award and whom received a citation from State Representative Barbara L'Italian. Dr. Bach also praised Joe Piantedosi for his commitment to achieving energy savings and who will be recognized by the New England Energy Partnership in June.

Mr. Collins congratulated the AHS Track Team for their tremendous performance at the combined Boys and Girls AHS 50th Anniversary Booster Track Meet.

D. Communications

1. DMS Trip to China

DMS teacher John Givens, Cynthia Givens, and Jane Baldwin spearheaded and chaperoned along with parents, teachers, an educational trip to China for DMS students over April vacation. The Principal and students of the Dongfang Decai School in Beijing (the same exchange school Dr. Bach visited the previous year) welcomed the group and for an entire day Andover students experienced and participated in school activities which John Givens shared with the Committee through a visual presentation.

Peter Anderson and Mei Lynn introduced and thanked the Andover students who volunteered to be translators for the visiting China Principals from the Chinese Initiative Exchange Program this past April.

Shawshween School Principal Moira O'Brien extended an open invitation to all to come to Shawsheen and view their Sensory Garden. The Sensory Garden is located next to the portable classrooms.

Dr. Bach said Director of Nursing Rita Casper and Public Health Director Tom Carbone have been receiving information on the H1N1 flu from the Department of Public Health. The number of cases is increasing but it seems to be a milder strain than what was experienced in Mexico.

Dennis Forgue has been meeting with Dr. Kathy Fink to discuss the Out of District Programs and information on the IDEA Funds. He will also attend his first Audit Committee meeting this week and report back to the Committee.

Annie Gilbert said a letter on the process for going forward with Warrant Article 59 and Warrant Article 60 has been sent to parents over the listserv. The School Building Task Force will meet on Wednesday, May 13th at 5:30 P.M. in the School Committee Room and on Monday, May 18th to prepare the presentation for Town Meeting.

AHS Liaison Alex Macheras thanked the Committee and the Administrators for the opportunity to serve as the high school liaison to the School Committee and appreciates that his ideas were considered. Dr. Bach recognized Alex for his active representation and accomplishments as the student representative to the School Committee.

E. Finances

1. Discuss FY2010 Preliminary Budget

Deb Silberstein explained the position of the School Committee as it relates to the current budget situation. The Committee is recommending a \$60.4 School Budget FY2010. The three chairs (Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and the School Committee) were in agreement with the \$60.4 budget as recommended by the Town Manager at the start of the budget preparation. The out of district SPED costs include an additional \$1M for 2009 and the Town Manager's Budget was to cover half of that leaving a \$500,000 deficit. The School Committee feels this is a collective Town/School expense but the Town Manager feels it is the responsibility of the School Dept. The School Committee Chair is suggesting SPED costs be considered as a fixed cost and discussed with the Town Manager after Town Meeting. The Finance Committee and Town Manager have now voted to recommend \$59.9 as the School Department Budget. The Committee discussed possible scenarios to realize additional savings to cover the \$500,000 shortfall. Dennis Forgue said a long-term opportunity to reduce costs is to continue to build in-district SPED programs and encourages support of this effort. Dr. Bach explained that we have to add staff for this program to reduce costs.

E. Finances

1. Discuss FY2010 Preliminary Budget (cont'd)

Dennis Forgue asked if not replacing the outgoing AHS Assistant Principal was a consideration. Peter Anderson pointed out that there are over 1600 students at the High School and AHS was voted the 8th most cost efficient high school in the State of Massachusetts, the administrative costs are less today than they were six years ago, and the High School needs the Assistant Principal in place on day one.

David Birnbach talked about the technology equipment fund and feels that until we have a Technology Plan for K-12 in place we should only maintain the equipment, identify what is listed and come back with a plan going forward. Dr. Bach would like a meeting after Town Meeting with Ray Tode and David to explain what the dollars earmarked for Technology entail. Cindy Weber urges the School Committee to stay united in their efforts. Deb Silberstein recommends supporting the budget as presented and communicating a clear message to voters.

Annie Gilbert motioned to recommend approval of the School Department Budget in the amount of \$60.4 M. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collins, and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Inter-Municipal Food Service Agreement w/Gr Lawrence Technical School

Business Administrator David Keniston explained the Inter-Municipal Food Service Agreement with the Greater Lawrence Technical Vocational School to share the management of the Food Service Director which could be a model for other inter-municipal agreements. Andover's Food Service Director will add the Voke School to the other Andover School's currently managed. Revenue from the agreement will go to the Food Services revolving account and used to replace aging Food Service equipment.

Dennis Forgue motioned to approve the Inter-Municipal Food Service Agreement with the Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical School to provide management services for the Food Service Department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collins, and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Year to Date Financials

Dave Keniston explained the Year-to-Date Financials and the Budget Transfers requested.

Mr. Collins motioned to approve the Budget Transfers as presented. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert, and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Consent Agenda

Warrant: Dave Keniston said the Warrants are in order.

Minutes: Work Session Minutes of April 2, 2009, Regular Session Minutes of April 7, 2009 and April 14, 2009; Triboard Minutes of April 7, 2009.

Field Trips: Andover High School – Canobie Lake Park, June 29, 2009 Grades 11 and 12
Andover High School – White Mountains, NH May 9, 2009
Andover High School - Canobie Lake Park, June 25, 2009 Grades 10 and 12
WMS – Canobie Lake Park – Grade 8 June 25, 2009
Andover High School – York Maine, Grade 12 – Senior Week May 28, 2009

Motion: Annie Gilbert motioned to approve the consent agenda items, which include the Warrant, Work Session Minutes of April 2, 2009, Regular Session Minutes of April 7, 2009 and April 14, 2009; Triboard Minutes of April 7, 2009 and the field trips listed above. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collins and unanimously approved.

G. Policy

1. Anti-Fraud Policy First Pass

Dave Keniston explained the Anti-Fraud Policy which is needed for the Town Audit Committee. The School Committee will review the Policy and discuss at the next meeting.

H. Town Meeting Warrant

Annie Gilbert motioned to recommend disapproval of Warrant Article 21-Stabilization Fund. The motion was seconded by Dennis Fogue, and voted 4-0-1 to recommend disapproval.

I. Citizen Input

AHS PAC President Diane Costagliola invited the School Committee and Administrators to attend and participate in the June 20th Relay to raise money for the Andover High School Clubs and the Andover Youth Foundation.

J. Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Collins motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the School Committee. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert and voted 5-0 to approve. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder