

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of August 17, 2010
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

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

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Dr. Susan M. Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent.

I. Call to Order

Chair Dennis Forgue called the Regular Session Meeting of the School Committee to order at 6:15 P.M.

II. Regular Meeting

A. Salute to the Flag

Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Old Business

1. FY-10 Deficit Resolution

Chairman Forgue reported on the outcome of the FY-10 budget deficit explaining that due to a variety of events that occurred, the School Department needed fewer funds than anticipated and the remainder of the supplemental appropriations was returned to the Town as agreed. Mr. Forgue will send out a written communication for the public and will address this issue at the September School Committee Meeting.

C. New Business

1. New Anti-Bullying Policy

Chairman Forgue talked about the new legislation on Anti-bullying signed by the Governor on May 3, 2010 to address bullying in schools; as a result all, School Districts are now mandated to have a policy in place. Dr. McGrath said a full program on anti-bullying, which includes internet safety, will be provided for both students and staff to include professional development, curriculum for the classroom, and education for the community, as well as a public comment period. School Handbooks will be amended to include information on the Anti-bullying Policy. Each School District is required to file a model plan by December 31, 2010 to the DESE with anti-bullying prevention instruction implemented by June of 2011. Since this is an unfunded mandate, to reduce expenses Andover will be working with other districts and utilizing brochures from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Salem State College that provide information on the law, steps for parents to follow, etc.

An overview of the Anti-bullying Law will be presented to all staff on Opening Day, August 30th at the Collins Center and staff will be required to sign an attendance sheet as proof of their attendance. Students considered vulnerable to bullying by the School Evaluation Teams will be required to include this information along with strategies for student's to utilize in their IEP's. Dr. Nicholson said Brian McNally, Health Coordinator, and a core group of teachers met this summer to work on the new Wellness Curriculum and outline possible curriculum and resources to use for anti-bullying.

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Richard Collins it was voted 4-0 to adopt the Anti-bullying Policy in the Schools as presented.

2. Kindergarten Placement – Policy Amendment

Chairman Forgue explained that in an effort to use our resources wisely and to create more efficient class sizes in kindergarten classrooms across the district, the School Committee is being asked to approve an amendment to allow kindergarten students who register after July 1st to be assigned to a school outside of their neighborhood school if class size at their home school is above School Committee Policy. Students would have the option to return to their neighborhood school the following year. If they choose to remain at the school after kindergarten, parents will be responsible for transportation.

Paula Colby-Clements suggested revising the July 1st date to June 1st.

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Richard Collins, the School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the amendment to the Kindergarten Placement Policy entitled “Attendance within Prescribed School Attendance Areas”, and to amend the date from July 1st to on or after June 1st.

E. Citizen Input

None

F. Consent Agenda

Dr. McGrath said the Warrants are in Order.

1. Warrants On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by David Birnbach, it was voted 4-0 to approve the Warrants as presented.

2. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2010 and Joint Session Meeting with Board of Selectmen of July 26, 2010.

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Richard Collins, it was voted 4-0 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2010 and Joint Session Meeting of July 26, 2010.

G. Adjournment

On a motion by Paula-Colby Clements with a second by Richard Collins, it was voted 4-0 to adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy relative to potential litigation, and not return to Open Session.

Roll call: Dennis Forgue-Yes
 David Birnbach-Yes
 Richard Collins-Yes
 Paula Colby-Collins-Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder