

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of April 12, 2012
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chairwoman Annie Gilbert, Vice- Chair Paula Colby-Clements, Secretary, and Dennis Forgue

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, and Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Administration, AHS Liaison Colin Johnson

I. Executive Session

At 5:10 P.M. the School Committee entered into Executive Session on a motion by Dennis Forgue and seconded by Paula Colby-Clements for the purpose of discussing matters relative to collective bargaining strategy and to return to Open Session. Roll call vote: A. Gilbert-Y, D. Forgue-Y, and P. Colby-Clements-Y. Dick Collins arrived after the meeting opened. At 6:45 P.M. on a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Dennis Forgue, it was voted 3-0 to adjourn from Executive Session to move to Open Session and not to return to Executive Session. Roll call vote: A. Gilbert-Y, D. Forgue-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, and Dick Collins-Y.

II. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairwoman Gilbert opened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee at 7:07 P.M. Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by DMS Students, Kristen Stark, Jessica Wang, Audrey Tarbox, Alexandra Scott, Patrick Doheny, Sam Wakelin, and Amanda Brosnan. On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Collins presented the students with a certificate of appreciation.

B. Committee Reorganization

Annie Gilbert explained the procedure for reorganization of the School Committee which is to elect a new Chairperson and Vice-Chair with the change taking effect on the first School Committee meeting following Town Meeting.

1. Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2012-2013

Chairperson

Dennis Forgue motioned to elect Paula Colby-Clements as the Chairperson of the Andover School Committee for 2012-2013 effective with the first regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting following the close of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dick Collins, and voted 3-0-1 to approve. Paula Colby-Clements abstained.

Vice-Chairperson

Paula Colby-Clements motioned that Dennis Forgue be elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Andover School Committee for 2012-2013 effective on the first regularly scheduled School Committee meeting following the close of the 2012 Andover Annual Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dick Collins and voted 3-0-1 to approve. Dennis Forgue abstained.

C. Recognition:

Superintendent McGrath welcomed the Winter Athletic Teams, Drama Guild students, and the DECA students to tonight's meeting to be recognized for their achievements this year.

Susan Choquette, head of the Drama Guild, introduced the students accompanying her this evening and who participated in the State Drama Festival advancing to each round in the preliminaries, semi-finals and finals. The title of their play was *"Epic Portions"*. Fourteen teams across the state participated in the festival.

Two students, Jeanna Venuit and Samantha Hall, from the Andover Vocal Music Department Chamber Choir who attended the NYC National Competition *"Spring Start to Finish"* shared their experiences and the Chamber Choir's activities and competitions.

AHS Teacher, Karen Stevens, DECA Advisor, and students Mitchell Carey, Meghan Doherty, and Bianca Wittshire shared the accomplishments of the DECA Group who won the State Quiz Bowl Award, and came in 2nd in District and 5th in States.

AHS Athletic Director Chris Bergeron introduced the Winter Teams and their Coaches who were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments this past season.

BOYS SWIM AND DIVE

Head Coach Mark Taffe
Captains John Belanger, Dave Hunter, Stan Camin
Merrimack Valley Conference Dual Meet and League Meet Champions,
Fourth at MIAA North Sectional Meet, Fifth at MIAA State Meet

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Head Coach Kristen Vadala
Captains Jenny Coneeny, Sarah Hill
Merrimack Valley Conference Dual Meet Champions, MIAA North
Sectional Champions, Fourth at MIAA State Meet

GIRLS SKIING

Head Coach Tom Busta
Captains Jessica Kearns, Meredith Lawler
North Shore League Champions, Second at MIAA State Meet

GIRLS TRACK

Head Coach Peter Comeau
Captains Rachel Aldrich, Molly Lynch, Maggie Mullins, Alex
Puccia, Sarah Warne, Terra Organisciak
Merrimack Valley Conference Dual Meet Champions, Seventh at Division I State Meet

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Head Coach Jim Tildsley
Captains Nicole Boudreau, Ally Fazio
Merrimack Valley Conference Champions, MIAA Division I North
Champions, MIAA Division I State Champions, Third State Title in a row

The School Committee and Administrators recognized and congratulated all the students and their coach/advisors on their outstanding accomplishments and thanked them for coming this evening.

D. Communications None

E. Citizen Input

Paula Bakies, AHS parent was surprised to find that all of the Computer Science Classes have been eliminated from the High School Course Catalog and she questions if this is a good path to follow. Dr. McGrath will look into this item.

F. Education:

1. Update – Bancroft School Project

Annie Gilbert provided an update on the Bancroft School Project which was delayed due to on-going litigation. Approval was received from MSBA to rephrase the construction project that would avoid areas involved in litigation. Just recently the School Building Committee and the two abutters came to an agreement, and we can now move forward with the original phasing plan. The SBC voted to recommend the Board of Selectmen agree to sign a settlement release and a conceptual design from the landscape architects which lays out the site plan altered in the terms of agreement. The abutters will withdraw the lawsuits and not seek further litigation. There will be increased buffering on the west side, the play area for the new Bancroft School has been reduced in size, and we will not be able to accommodate two soccer fields, only one. However, the Town owns the land where the portable classrooms are currently sited and the SBC will look to place a soccer field in that area. It is anticipated that preliminary construction activities will begin in May. SBC Chair Tom Deso reported that beginning in September, West Knoll Road will be the access road to the School for parents, teachers, and busses for two years. The construction vehicles will use Bancroft Road to access the site, and when the school project is completed the access road will revert back to the Bancroft Road for parents, teachers, and busses. The construction management team and project management team will establish a website for parents to view updates and announcements on the building project.

G. Old Business

1. Warrant Articles

Warrant Article P-25 –School Maintenance and Renovation

To see if the Town will vote to raise by taxation, borrowing, or transfer from available funds or by any combination and appropriate sum of \$1,000,000 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, or take any other action related thereto.

Paula Colby-Clements motioned for the Andover School Committee vote to recommend approval of Warrant Article P-25 entitled “School Building Maintenance and Renovation” as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 4-0 to recommend approval.

2. FY-13 Recommended Budget Final Vote

Annie Gilbert reported the School Committee previously voted a preliminary budget number for FY-2013, which was \$867,584 higher than the Town Manager’s Recommended Budget. The Chairs of the Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee have worked diligently together to rectify the difference between the Preliminary and Recommended Budget number. Through reductions in the FY-12 Out-of-District tuitions and lower than anticipated costs for the FY-13 Out-of-District placements, it was agreed to roll the savings forward into a new account to be created – The Out-of-District Reserve Fund. There will also be a savings from the changes in the Health Plan Design which the Chairs have agreed that \$468,000 would go towards the School Department’s budget. These savings and other identified will result in a new FY-13 Recommended Budget of \$65,864,399; a 4.1% increase over last year. The FY-13 Budget also includes funding for three new In-District Programs. Paula Colby-Clements thanked the three Chairs who have met and worked together all year to come to a resolution, and for their level of understanding, support, and commitment.

Dennis Forgue motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to adopt the FY-13 Operating Budget of \$65,864,399, a 4.1% increase over last year. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.

H. New Business

1. First Reading: 2012-2013 School Calendar

Superintendent McGrath shared the draft of the 2012-2013 School Calendar with the Committee stating it is very straight forward calendar and includes the six early release days at all levels to continue the critical work being done, and proposes the first day of the school year for 2012-2013 as Thursday, September 6th. Dr. McGrath spoke with AEA President, Kerry Costello and they agreed that if there is an inclement weather day on the November 6th In-service/Parent Conference Day, the day would be rescheduled to the following Tuesday, November 13th.

Kerry Costello stated that due to the fact the teachers are in week 85 without a contract, they did not entertain the idea of looking at an early start date for the school year.

The School Committee will vote on the second reading of the calendar prior to the Town Meeting on Monday, April 30th.

2. Use of Facilities by Sports Camps

Paula Colby-Clements has looked at the contracts for the use of the fields and facilities, particularly the summer camps. All but one contract had policies in place in accordance with School Committee Policies (a new contract is currently being negotiated for that one contract not meeting School Committee Policy). Recommendations for future use of the fields and facilities will be brought to the School Committee at a future date for discussion.

I. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: Minutes of March 15, 2012 and March 22, 2012 with revisions
2. Warrants: Paul Szymanski said the Warrants are in order
Expense Warrant SW12117A, SW1218A, and SW1218
Payroll Warrant 12S039, 12S040, and 12S041

Dennis Forgue motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the minutes of March 15 and March 22nd with revisions and the warrants as presented. The motion was seconded by Dick Collins and voted 4-0 to approve.

J. Adjournment

At 8:23 P.M. Paula Colby-Clements motioned for the School Committee to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dick Collins and voted 4-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

Documents: Draft of the School Calendar for 2012-2013
Letter to AEA President regarding School Calendar