

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of December 13, 2012
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chairwoman Paula Colby-Clements, Vice-Chair Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, Richard Collins, and David Birnbach

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinell McGrath, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, and Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski

I. Executive Session

The School Committee on a motion duly made and seconded met in Executive Session at 5:35 PM to discuss matters related to potential litigation. At 5:45 P.M. on a motion by Dennis Forgue and seconded by Annie Gilbert the School Committee adjourned from Executive Session to move to Open Session not to return to Executive Session. Roll Call: A. Gilbert-Y, D. Forgue-Y, R. Collins-Y, and P. Colby-Clements-Y.

II. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairwoman Colby-Clements opened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Recognition

Superintendent McGrath commented on the NEASC visit completed this week and recognized the wonderful performances by the students in Show Choir and the Marching Band as well as the efforts of the many students, staff, and faculty with special thanks to Dr. Lord and Dr. Sharkey. The NEASC Team in their closing remarks commented how helpful the two years of self-study work completed by our faculty and staff was to them. A final report will be provided in March 2013. Paula Colby-Clements recognized the entire team for the work performed for the NEASC study and visit.

Superintendent McGrath welcomed West Middle School Principal Steve Murray, Assistant Principal Becky Franks and students who are being recognized for their contributions to the Lazarus House. Principal Murphy introduced the "group of ten" students who were given the challenge two years ago to give back and that they did. The students organized "Laz-in-the House" at WMS and made incredible contributions to the Lazarus House in Lawrence through food drives, working in the kitchen, and donations of more than 2 tons of clothing. The project was totally student led and managed.

C. Public Input - none

D. Communications

1. Bancroft School Project Update

Annie Gilbert reported on the November Triboard Meeting in which the School Building Committee provided information on the financial status and a comprehensive overview of the Bancroft School Building Project. Based on bids received, it is projected the project will be over budget by \$5-6M caused by the loss of a year's delay in construction due to litigation by abutters. Bids for the project are out two years later than expected, working from the 2010 budget now in 2012 dollars. Over \$3M in items have been removed from the budget; however if they remove any more they will be in violation of the

Scope of the Project and funding from the State will be in jeopardy. The Board of Selectmen has called for a Special Town Meeting to be held on February 11, 2013 to address the shortfall, and the Town Manager will develop a funding proposal to present for Town Meeting. On a more positive note, the steel on the building has gone up and the outline of the three story building now visible. School Building Chair Tom Deso said they held the first discussion for the topping off ceremony which will be scheduled for February. Paula Colby-Clements reported t the Triboard will meet again on December 17th to continue to discuss the Special Town Meeting for additional funds for the project. Tom Deso and Annie Gilbert have been meeting with various town and school boards to share information and will continue to do so.

2. Communications Subcommittee Report

Annie Gilbert met with the Town-wide PTO last Friday to talk about communication and exchange of information, how the School Committee can share information and how the PTO's would like to receive information. Some prefer Facebook, Twitter, and other social media networks. They discussed what level of detail should be given, sources of information, etc, and Annie will speak with the Director of Digital Learning, Joanne Najarian to see what ideas she may have. The Andover Townsman has gone through a significant staff reduction and the Boards are concerned with how information will be communicated and shared since the Townsman has been a good source of communication.

E. New Business

1. Draft: AHS Breathalyzer Policy for Dances

Superintendent McGrath reported on the Policy being brought forward for use of Breathalyzer testing for dances at Andover High School. Many students have engaged in the discussion about alcohol use and are supportive of the proposed policy. Principal Lord has further explored the issue resulting in the Pilot Program for the policy. The School Committee will vote on the implementation of the proposed pilot program at the January 10th School Committee or the January 24th meeting. This will provide ample time for public input.

2. Travel Request: AHS –Spain-Language Immersion Class, June 29-21,2013

Superintendent McGrath explained that this is the first request for a summer immersion program and since we do not have a mechanism in the policy to cover this, she recommends the School Committee think about questions they may have and discuss at a future meeting.

3. Travel Request: AHS China – April 12-21, 2013

AHS Principal, Dr. Lord and World Language Program Advisor, Dr. Jorge Allen reported on their travel request for AHS Students going to China in April 2013. Students will participate in many activities, live in student dorms, and experience the culture in a high school setting. Students will also visit many of the tourist attractions the last four days of their stay. Upon their return, students will give a presentation highlighting their experience and culture in China.

Annie Gilbert motioned for the Andover school Committee to approve the proposed extracurricular trips for Andover High School to Beijing China to Hebei China (Hengshui High School) on April 12 to April 21, 2013 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled "APS School Sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy". The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve.

1. Update on Triboard Meeting

Paula Colby-Clements provided an overview of the Triboard Meeting which the Town Manager’s Recommended CIP for FY-14 was presented providing a view of what the budget looks like. Questions on budget assumptions remain and the conversations have begun. She hopes to have more information to report next month.

2. FY-14 Budget Assumptions - tabled

3. Disposal of Surplus School Equipment

Paul Szymanski provided information on the request to dispose of surplus school property which requires a vote by the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen. A copy of the textbook items to be disposed of is included in the School Committee packet.

Dennis Forgue motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the disposal of the school surplus property as presented. The motion was seconded by Dick Collins and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Old Business

1. FY CIP Discussion - Tabled

G. Consent Agenda

Minutes: Triboard Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2012

Warrants: Payroll Warrant #13S023	\$86,864.47
Payroll Warrant #13S024	\$2,367,704.54
Expense Warrant #SW1308	\$509,667.30

Annie Gilbert motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve the following:

H. Adjournment

At 7:30 P.M. on a motion Dennis Forgue and seconded by Dick Collins, the Andover School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of December 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

Documents: AHS Breathalyzer Policy (Draft)
 School Surplus Items for Disposal
 Warrants