

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 13, 2009
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Deb Silberstein, Richard J. Collins, Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, and Charlie Smith, AHS Liaison.

Others in Attendance: Dr. Claudia L. Bach, Superintendent, Dr. Susan Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent

I. Regular meeting in the School Committee Room

A. Call to Order and Opening Ceremonies

The School Committee Chair Deb Silberstein called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.. Mr. Collins asked for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Morgan Marini a Grade 5 student at High Plain Elementary. Mr. Collins presented Morgan with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

B. Recognition of Achievement

Dr. Bach congratulated the 126 students at AHS who qualified for the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship based on their Spring 2009 MCAS scores. The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education letter states the students can attend any State institution of higher education tuition in recognition of the student's achievement.

Dr. Bach announced that the new Andover Public Schools website is live and has many6 expansive features, calendars, pictures, and lots of new information. Dr. Bach recognized the dedication and hard work of many; but most especially, Karla Kohl of the Human Resources Department who entered APS in a contest offering a free \$35,000 Web make-over with two years support by E-Power. Dr. Bach also acknowledged her Assistant, Alison Phelan who assisted Karla in setting up the new website and training school personnel. Annie Gilbert also congratulated the district for all the work that went into building the new website and suggested an invitation to parents to visit the website (include a few bullets with new features) be sent out via the list-serv.

Dr. Bach received a thank you note from the Superintendent of the Greater Lawrence Technical School recognizing Food Service Director Gail Koutroubas, and the wonderful lunch program she has established at their school.

Dr. Nicholson said she attended a luncheon at Andover High School honoring the National Merit Finalists and Semi-finalist. She also attended the band competition held at Methuen High School this weekend in which the AHS Band participated in and won four out of five stars and said what a terrific performance it was.

Mr. Collins recognized John Rex, AHS Football Coach on the wonderful job he is doing.

C. Communication

1. School Building Update

Annie Gilbert provided an update of the Bancroft School Building and established a series of meeting dates with various school/parent/community groups that will be attended by the design firm, Symmes, Maini & McKee, to collect feedback and share ideas on the educational component of the new building site. The meeting dates are as follows:

October 28 th	9:30-11:00 am	Bancroft School for Bancroft/Building Committee and special Building Advisory Group from Shawsheen and Bancroft.
November 2 nd	7:00 p.m.	School Committee Meeting
November 4 th	8:00 a.m.	School Building Committee, regular meeting
November 5 th	9:00 a.m.	at Bancroft – Bancroft PTO
November 14 th	9:00 a.m.	at Bancroft – meet with neighbors

C. Communication (cont'd)

1. School Building Update (cont'd)

November 17 th	6:00 p.m.	School Committee meeting with Symmes, Maini, & McKee
November 18 th	8:00 a.m.	School Building Committee (regular meeting)
November 19 th	7:00 p.m.	Committee Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library with SMM
November 21 st	6:00 p.m.	Special School Committee Meeting devoted to workshop with parents/teachers to share ideas on grade configurations
November 24 th	7:00 p.m.	School Committee Meeting – vote on educational component (meeting may be rescheduled due to Thanksgiving Holiday)

Dr. Nicholson said a revised work plan for the Thursday, October 15th meeting with Future Management Systems has been sent to the School Committee members. The Strategic Plan will be an agenda item for the next School Committee meeting.

Charlie Smith, AHS Liaison suggested asking the National Honor Society students to collect information from students about policies, and implications of the budget reductions at Andover High School which could be discussed with Principal Harris. Charlie also suggested the cafeteria lights be turned off during the day to save on energy costs. Dr. Bach will speak with Joe Piantedosi about this idea.

D. Education

1. Update on revised Student Report Card

Dr. Nicholson welcomed Moira O'Brien, Patricia Barrett, and Margo Spinale who gave a presentation on the new elementary report card. Dr. Nicholson also recognized the members of the Elementary School Progress Report Committee Colleen Georgian, Faith Goldstein, Daphne Winders, Laura Reagan, Claire Touseau, Christine Baldwin and Kate Malone for their effort and dedication in this endeavor.

Moira O'Brien, Principal of Shawsheen School said it has been ten years since the report card was revised. The report card needed to be aligned with the Andover Benchmarks and the Massachusetts Frameworks and adjusted so it would be more user-friendly. Patricia Barrett, Principal of Sanborn School reviewed the process the Report Card Committee followed to achieve their goal of developing an up-dated, user-friendly report card. Margo Spinale, Assistant Principal of West Elementary talked about the improved language in the new report card, and explained the performance indicators for Academic Achievement, and as a Citizen and as a Learner for all the different elementary grade levels.

The next steps before rolling out the new report card include providing professional development to the teachers at the upcoming early release days, continue to work with developers of X-2, and configure the school printers for the new report card printing requirements.

2. October 1 Student Enrollment

Dr. Bach displayed the most recent enrollment report showing a grand total of 6,167 students for the 2009.2010 school year as of October 1, 2009. Overall the Elementary Schools have seven fewer students compared to last year, and the Middle Schools with 27 fewer students than last year. Andover High School student enrollment reveals 75 more students than the previous year.

E. Personnel

1. Superintendent's Evaluation/Performance Goals: Hold to next meeting

F. Citizen Input

Dan Kowalski suggested the School Committee include an item from the list of ideas generated at the budget meetings on future School Committee agendas for discussion.

G. Consent Agenda

Dr. Bach said the warrants were in order.

1. Approval of Warrants

Annie Gilbert made a motion to approve the Warrants with a second by Richard Collins. The motion was voted 3-0 and approved.

- 2. Field Trips:** South School: Nature's Classroom Greenfield NH, Grade 5 – November 17-20 2009
WMS: Seacoast Repertory Theatre, Portsmouth, NH, Grade 7- December 22, 2009
WHMS: Trip to Italy & Switzerland Grades 6-8, February 12-21, 2010
DMS: Trip to Quebec Canada Grades 6-8, June 5-7 2010
WHMS: Trip to Alton Bay, NH/Outing Club Grades 6-7-8, Oct 17-18, 2009

Discussion: The members discussed the scholarship availability for students to attend the overseas trips, the ratio of adults per student, and to review the policy standards.

- 3. Minutes:** Regular Meeting: *August 17, 2009, *September 9, 2009, and September 22, 2009
*The minutes of August 17 and September 9 will be voted at the next meeting.

Annie Gilbert motioned to approve the field trip requests as presented and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2009. The motion was seconded by Richard Collins, voted 3-0 and approved.

H. Finance

1. Revised Approved Budget for FY2010

Dr. Bach said David Keniston has completed the approved revised budget and upon receipt of the School Committee message the revised budget book will be distributed. Dennis Forgue acknowledged the members of all the boards who worked to balance the budget prior to the Town Meeting.

Dr. Bach said \$80,000 has been designated for the CIP Plan with \$25,000 to be used for Research & Development. A plan will be prepared for the School Committee's approval for the next meeting.

I. Motion to Adjourn

Richard Collins motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the School Committee. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert, and voted 3-0 –0 to approve. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder