

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of September 23, 2010
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

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

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chair Dennis Forgue opened the meeting at 9:12 A.M.

B. Opening Ceremonies

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

C. Recognition

Dr. McGrath invited AHS Principal Jonathan Harris to attend today's meeting to recognize his service to the Andover Public Schools, in particular Andover High School, over the last school year. Mr. Harris's career path is taking him back to Texas to work for their Department of Education. In the year he has been at AHS, he has raised the bar and expectations. He will be remembered for his connective ness with students and efforts in ensuring equity in education for all. The School Committee wished him well in his new venture and thanked him for his service to the Andover Public Schools. Mr. Harris thanked the Committee for their support and said AHS has a great faculty and student population as well as a community that embraces education. He has enjoyed his time in Andover and leaves as a better person both personally and professionally. He appreciates all the support from the School Committee, Administration, Faculty, Students and the Community.

D. Citizen Input - None

E. Old Business

1. Approve revised protocol for APS Extracurricular Field Trips

Chairman Forgue explained that at the previous meeting on September 16th the Committee was provided information on the protocol for APS Extracurricular Field Trips to review and to consider approving today.

Questions from the Committee on the protocol for APS EFT's were asked by the Committee. Annie Gilbert asked if a protocol was in place for field trips held during the school day; to which Dr. McGrath replied there are protocols in place. Mrs. Gilbert noted that paragraph one states that if deemed reasonably necessary, a medical professional's certification that the student may safely participate in the trip and its activities shall be provided as a condition of participation. Her question is, who deems this request and what is the criteria. Dr. McGrath explained that the chaperone or principal (who supports and sponsors the trip), can make the request if they have concerns. Access to information is necessary for chaperones in the event of a medical emergency. Medical information is required on the student form in the event of a medical emergency and also applies to past discipline records.

Mrs. Gilbert recommended changing the last sentence of paragraph one to read as: In its reasonable discretion, Andover Public Schools may deny a student's application based on such record, subject to final approval by the school principal. Paula Colby-Clements asked for clarification of procedures and policies that will be followed until the sub-committee has the opportunity to review them. Dr. McGrath explained that the current field trip procedures and policies will be in effect for field trips that occur until the sub-committee has an opportunity to tighten up the wording of the protocols.

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Annie Gilbert, it was voted 5-0 to adopt the protocol for APS Extra-Curricular Field Trips and to include the change in paragraph 1 to read as: In its reasonable discretion, Andover Public Schools may deny a student's application based on such record, subject to final approval by the school principal.

F. Facilities

1. Green Program Statement of Interest for WMS

Interim Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi is recommending that the School Committee approve the Statement of Interest (SOI) to MSBA for the West Middle School repair projects which include the replacement of the roof (a high priority item on the CIP for this year) and replacement of the windows along the gymnasium. These repairs will generate energy savings and therefore qualifies for reimbursement from MSBA under the Green Initiative. Should MSBA approve the SOI, the reimbursement should be about 31% or higher. The appropriation has to be for the full amount, the reimbursement would be paid out as billed which reduces the amount of money the Town would bond for the CIP. Upon approval of this request by the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee they will move forward with submission of the application.

Annie Gilbert moved that the School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, vote to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated September 28, 2010 for the West Middle School, located at 70 Shawsheen Road, Andover, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which the Town of Andover may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future;

Roof: Replace 67,500 s.f. of old, deteriorated roofing at West Middle School.

Windows: Replace the old steel frame single pane windows along with the old, original glass block, which are deteriorated, on the gymnasium.

Replacing all of these will generate energy savings; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Andover/Andover Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

G. Finances

1. FY2012-2016 School CIP Allocations

Mr. Piantedosi explained the background on the CIP process stating that every year the articles become part of the operating budget (pay-as-you-go items). CIP items for Schools-1,-2, maintain the infrastructure of the schools, School-3 supports textbooks and technology, and School-4, 5, 6 are individual and collective bonded projects that qualify for bonding based on the scope of the project and are subject to change. Bonded articles paid for through borrowing have very little impact on the operating budget, as the short term interest rate on the municipal bond is typically low. Projects are bundled and put out for a municipal bond, and then the town pays a fixed amount each year for the principal portion of the bond. The interest varies on the balance of the principal as it decreases every year. As existing bonds are paid down, it creates the ability for the Town to take on more debt and still meet their financial obligations. The line item for debt service for bonds becomes part of the operating budget.

Mr. Piantedosi reviewed the project items listed on the CIP. The CIP funds are estimated at: School-1 \$310,000, School-2 \$440,000, School-3 \$728,037, School-4 \$300,000, School-5 \$1,280,000 and School-6 \$1,175,000. He pointed out that the CIP is a draft at this point in time; he will work closely with Dr. McGrath to identify priorities of the School Department, and upon receiving a final budget number from the Town, will present options for the Committee to consider.

School 1 lists a central freezer for Food Services; Annie Gilbert asked if funds from the Food Service Revolving Account could be used to cover this expense. Dr. McGrath will check with the Food Services Director. School Playground items listed on School 5 is for replacement of aging components considered unsafe, not entire playgrounds; although many of the older playground structures will need to be removed over the next five years due to safety issues caused by deterioration. Mrs. Gilbert asked if AHS student parking fees should fund the expense on School 1 for painting and parking lot striping. Dr. McGrath will find out what the parking fees are supposed to be used for.

Annie Gilbert motioned to approve the submission of the CIP items for School 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 to the Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

Dr. McGrath explained that School-3 for Texts and Technology is based on the costs of textbooks to complete the Curriculum Review Cycle and for the purchase of I-pads (or other) pilots at AHS in core academic areas in place of textbooks. The request for K-3 instructional materials for the Foundation Program which provides strategies for struggling learners will save on special education expenses by identifying and working with students at an early stage.

Ray Tode, Director of Educational Technology & Information Systems said the Technology Pinpoint Committee of the Strategic Plan was given the charge of identifying new technology to implement and drive the curriculum, and to meet the needs of the educational system. The Technology Pinpoint Committee will present their findings to the School Committee in October. Noting that 80% of the school's technology equipment is four years or older and would cost about \$800,000 to maintain, a determination on the strategy to either move forward in a new direction or to continue with classroom computers and laptops for teachers is to be decided. They are looking at how to bridge "now" with the future and investigating different options and solutions. Mr. Tode is recommending the amount of \$500,000 as a placeholder as they plan for the future, and work with the Strategic Planning Committee to address changes.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted -0 to approve the submittal of School-3 in the amount of \$728,037 for Textbooks and Technology.

H. Adjournment

At 9:48 A.M. on a motion by Paula-Colby Clements with a second by Richard Collins, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder