

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of November 4, 2010
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chair Dennis Forgue, Richard Collins, Paula Colby-Clements, and Jared Rosen, AHS Liaison. Annie Gilbert arrived after the meeting opened.

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

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chair Dennis Forgue opened the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

B. Opening Ceremonies

Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Katherine Devaney, a Grade 6 student from West Middle School. Mr. Collins presented Katherine with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

C. Recognition

Superintendent McGrath recognized Geraldine Fagen, High Plain Elementary Librarian, who has been chosen to serve as President of the Executive Board of Massachusetts School Librarians Association. It is an honor to the district that Geraldine will serve in this capacity.

Mr. Collins recognized Ernest J. Perry on the magnificent job he has done in his first year as Coach of the AHS Football Team.

D. Information/Communications

1. School-Sponsored Student Travel Policy Review Timeline

Chairman Forgue gave a brief update on the status of the review of travel policies, particularly the out of state and overnight field trips. A sub-committee has been established and has begun the process of reviewing the draft of the policy. Completion of the process is expected to be in the latter part of January. In the meantime, field trips will not be approved until the policy is in place. Paula Colby-Clements said the sub-committee met today, and explained that the timeline is protracted due to the coordination of schedules of all stakeholders involved and properly vetting through the policy. The Middle and High School Improvement Councils will have an opportunity to review the draft and provide feedback on December 6th. There will be two formal readings by the School Committee; the first on January 13, 2011 followed by a twelve day public comment period, and the second reading and vote by the School Committee scheduled for January 27, 2011.

2. Sanborn School Blue Ribbon Ceremony

Superintendent McGrath distributed a draft of the schedule for the Blue Ribbon Ceremony being held in Washington, D.C. from November 14 through November 16th. Sanborn School Principal, Patricia Barrett and Suzanne Crowley will travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the ceremonies. Sanborn is one of threes schools in Massachusetts Schools to receive this award, and one of 309 schools across the nation. Sanborn School will host a week-long celebration from December 6-10th beginning with a breakfast on December 6th and ending with a ceremony on Friday, December 10th to raise the Blue Ribbon Flag.

E. Citizen Input - None

F. Old Business

1. Revenue Pinpoint Committee Report

Chairman Forgue welcomed and introduced John Drake, Cheryl Neal, and Tina Girdwood members of the Revenue Pinpoint Committee, an off-shoot of the Strategic Plan, who are presenting their findings to the School Committee tonight. Chairman Forgue also recognized the other members of the Committee, former Superintendent Dr. Claudia Bach, Lisa Glickstein, Paula Karl, and Kathy Hess for their participation in this endeavor. A hand-out on the findings presented was distributed.

Mrs. Neal reported on the Committee's Vision and Mission which was to find new and ongoing revenue streams that would provide sustainable funds for strategic improvements to the education system. In total, thirteen ideas were vetted through with nine ideas brought forward, and labeled as either long-term or short-term initiatives. John Drake reviewed the chart of ideas which included the estimated annual value, a rating on the ease of execution of each, and the investment needed to carry through the initiative. A chart highlighting the execution ease of each initiative showed two items which could be mobilized immediately providing revenue in this budget year; six items labeled as solid opportunities requiring focused execution and future revenue generating dollars; three items as potential opportunities but being more complex and requiring further analysis; and two items identified as not being recommended to pursue at this time.

After the presentation a discussion on recruiting and engaging people, developing and accessing resources to pursue and execute the findings followed. Tina Girdwood asked what next steps the School Committee and Administration would take. Dr. McGrath said higher-level action plans would be developed, and community members and staff identified to involve in the process. Annie Gilbert said the School Committee realizes the need for increased revenue for the schools and they will be anxious to proceed with the findings.

G. Education

1. Bancroft School Project Update

Annie Gilbert provided an update on the Bancroft School project. The School Building Committee has met with MSBA several times since the Schematic Design was submitted. MSBA will vote to approve on the project on November 17th. A Special Town Meeting will be held on December 6th followed by a ballot box vote on January 25th. The SBC will be hosting approximately 25 presentations to educate the community about the project before the December 6th Special Town Meeting; and presented as part of the Mid-Year Review given in collaboration with the League of Women Voters and the Board of Selectmen at the Memorial Hall Library on November 16th. If the project passes, the next phase of the project is Design Development. At the beginning of the Design Development process, a construction manager at risk (CMR) will be hired who will be involved with the project at the beginning, saving both time and money over the life of the project. Hiring a CMR qualifies us for an additional 1% reimbursement from MSBA. The minimum reimbursement from MSBA is 40% with the opportunity for additional incentive points; however if you go for the extra points, the starting point is 39 not 40. Andover would receive 1% for the construction manager at risk, 2% for green features, and 2% for maintenance features. Mrs. Gilbert credits Joe Piantodosi's perseverance for receipt of the additional points. She cautioned that if the project does

not pass on December 6th they have to start the process again, and the reimbursement rate would drop down to 30%; a loss of 10 percentage points. The School Committee will vote on the Warrant Article for the Bancroft School on November 9th.

2. High School Class Size Report

AHS Assistant Principal, Luz Valverde, and Guidance Director, Aixa DeKelley provided an analysis of class sizes at Andover High School for the current school year. A handout of the presentation was distributed.

The presentation showed the average class size by teacher, within departments, as well as the number of sections; no data for Special Education was included in the report. The highest class sizes were in Health with 26.9 average class size; Physical Education with 26.8 as the average class size; and Social Studies with 26.2 as the average class size. There are 46 sections above the maximum class size of 29 students; Visual Arts classes have increased from 24-28 students; and 4 courses changed to ½ credit courses to accommodate more students in electives. Physical Education classroom space is near or at capacity.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Number of Sections</u>	<u>Average Class Size</u>
English	2,120	82	25.9
Math	2,374	94	25.3
Science	2,489	102	24.4
Social Studies	2,204	84	26.2
World Language	1,695	68	24.9
Health	1,102	41	26.9
Physical Education	1,609	60	26.8
Visual Arts	1,116	49	22.8
Performing Arts	362	17	21.3
Business & Applied Tech	320	14	22.9

The data presented also included class sizes by levels (Advanced Placement, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and combinations of levels). The enrollment at AHS has increased from 1,745 last year to 1,805 this year; the building was built to accommodate 1,600 students. To help students meet credit requirements, opportunities are afforded this year to 330 seniors for community service, teaching assistants, Frost School Community Service, and Senior Exhibitions; and with classroom space at a premium it helps to alleviate overcrowding in the building. Jared Rosen reported that the school is very crowded; study halls are held in the library and cafeteria, and there are not enough chairs to sit on at lunch time in the cafeteria.

Ms. DeKelley stated that currently there are 13 students in dual enrollment at area colleges such as, Merrimack College, UMass/Lowell, Northern Essex, and Middlesex Community College. They are encouraging more students to look into this option, but noted that scheduling can be a roadblock.

Further loss of teaching staff due to budget cuts will result in additional increases in class size and increased difficulty in scheduling classes for students.

H. **New Business**

1. **Deer Management Program**

Chairman Forge reported that a presentation on the Deer Management Program relative to the use of the land in the Wood Hill / High Plain Elementary area for bow hunting of deer will be held on Tuesday, November 9th in the School Committee Room at 7:00 P.M.

I. **Consent Agenda**

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| 1. Warrants | Dr. McGrath reported that the Warrants are in order. |
| 2. Minutes: | Tri-Board Meeting - October 12 , 2010
SC Regular Meeting -October 21, 2010
BOS and SC Meeting - October 26, 2010 |
| 3. Field Trip | AHS Science/Engineering for Women (10 students) to travel to Manchester, NH on Friday, November 5, 2010. |

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Annie Gilbert, the Consent Agenda was voted 4-0 to approve.

J. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Richard Collins, it was vote 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

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Recording Secretary