

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of November 18, 2010
School Administration Building – School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chair Dennis Forgue, School Committee Members Richard Collins, Annie Gilbert, Paula Colby-Clements, David Birnbach, and AHS Liaison Jared Rosen

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Marinel McGrath, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Susan M. Nicholson, and Interim Business Manager Peter DeRoeve

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairman Forgue called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

B. Opening Ceremonies and Recognitions

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

Annie Gilbert motioned to amend the agenda to address Warrant Article #4 for the December 6th Special Town Meeting, Item number 2D on tonight's Agenda. The motion to amend the agenda was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements, voted 5-0 and approved.

Chairman Forgue reported on preliminary conversations relative to budget issues and the formation of a Triboard Sub-committee with two members from each board (School Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee) to meet regularly with our State Legislators to talk about concerns and advocate for Town/School needs.

Dr. McGrath recognized Interim Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi and his staff on receiving the Business & Industry Partner Award for energy efficiencies accomplishments. Andover was one of two municipalities to receive this award. Superintendent McGrath also recognized the League of Women Voters for co-sponsoring the Town Mid-year Review, and organizing the Community Read-along at the elementary schools this week. She thanked the ACE Foundation for the reception held last evening at the Addison Gallery and remarked on the incredible renovations recently completed there.

Chairman Forgue reported that the School Department qualified for an additional 2% reimbursement from MSBA as a result of how well our schools have been maintained.

Mr. Collins commented on the outstanding AHS Football Game Andover played against Lowell last Friday. The final score was 88-82 with eight overtimes. It was a tremendous game and a tribute to Coach Perry and his players.

Paula Colby-Clements congratulated all student athletes involved in the Fall Sports Program for the outstanding season they have had.

Dr. Nicholson recognized the members of the Bullying Task Force on completion of the working draft of the Bullying Policy. The policy is available for viewing on the school website www.aps1.net for a two week public comment period. The Task Force will reconvene on December 2nd to review all comments and the plan will be presented to the School Committee on December 9th with submittal to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education no later than December 31, 2010.

Chairman Forgue reported on the positive feedback received from the Mid-Year Review presentation held at Memorial Hall Library on November 16th. Annie Gilbert gave an excellent presentation on the Bancroft School Project and Dr. McGrath reviewed the Strategic Plan process. Thank you to everyone who participated.

C. Citizen Input - None

D. Education

1. Presentation: NEASC High School Accreditation Process

AHS Interim Principal Tom Sharkey distributed information on the NEASC Accreditation Process and AHS core values. He introduced the two Chairs of the Steering Committee, Assistant Principal Christopher Phillips and English Teacher Greg Waters. Dr. Sharkey provided an overview of the process, the objectives, the standards to be met, the meaning and value of accreditation, and 21st Century learning expectations for students. He reviewed and explained the four concepts of effective schools which include collaboration, engagement, equity, and personalization. The process will begin with a self-study beginning in December 2010 through May 2012, Core Values and Beliefs reviewed from December 2010 through March 2011, followed by a study of the six other standards from March 2011 through March 2012. A statement of AHS critical strengths and needs will be completed by April 2012. Two year and five year targeted plans will be worked on through the 2011-2012 school year with the NEASC Accreditation Team visit scheduled for Wednesday, October 28-31, 2012. Follow-up reports on recommendations by NEASC will be submitted after that.

They have begun the process with the formation of the Steering Committee and selection of Chairs and will issue drafts of the self-study which will involve all faculty members.

2. Bancroft School Building Project Update

Annie Gilbert provided an update on the Bancroft School Project stating the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee have all recommended approval of Warrant Article #3 Bancroft School Project. On Wednesday, November 17th, MSBA unanimously voted to approve the project. The vote represents the total amount of the project \$44.6M including \$6M of required contingencies. MSBA will reimburse the Town of Andover 44% of all eligible construction costs (\$16.7M based on \$38.1M of eligible costs); the net portion of the Town's cost is \$28.7M. A supplemental addendum on the impact on taxes will be provided at the Special Town Meeting.

Mrs. Gilbert said the School Committee has not yet voted on Warrant Article #4 – Easement from Town to the School Department for Bancroft Elementary School. She distributed a map of the site under care and custody of the Town to be transferred to the School Department, who needs the easement to use the land for the new building.

Annie Gilbert motioned to recommend approval of Warrant Article #4 Easement from Town to the School Department for Bancroft Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Dr. McGrath reported that MSBA has approved reimbursement of \$1.3M for the WMS roof and repairs.

E. Old Business:

1. Financials

- a. Monthly Financial Report
- b. Quarterly Special Education Report

Dr. McGrath recognized and thanked Interim Business Manager Peter DeRoeve for reviewing the monthly financials and budget and creating a new format.

Mr. DeRoeve led the School Committee through a review of the 27 categories of the budget, explained how they are organized under the new format, and what they mean. He reviewed the structure of the accounts, the operating budget, transfers, and the revised budget. He will provide an expense report to the School Committee once a month. In regards to the Special Education Quarterly Report, Peter explained all the Special Education information shown on the data sheets. He presented information on the Out-of-District Tuition Report, data codes and descriptions. A review of the Special Education In-town Expense Report and the OUD Transportation Report were also provided. Mr. DeRoeve stated he will be meeting with the Special Transportation Company to review the transportation expenses.

F. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - November 4, 2010
2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - November 9, 2010
3. Warrants - Dr. McGrath reported that the Warrant is in order.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was unanimously voted to approve the Consent Agenda as printed in the agenda.

G. Adjournment

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements with a second by Annie Gilbert, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

Documents: NEASC Presentation, AHS Core Values
Monthly Financials, Quarterly Special Education Financials
Map of Easement Site to Bancroft School prepared by Consulting Engineers &
Land Surveyors, Dana F. Perkins Inc.
Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4 and November 9, 2010