

**Andover School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of January 27, 2011**  
**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

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

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Dr. Susan M. Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent, Interim Business Manager Peter DeRoeve, AHS Liaison Jared Rosen

**I. Regular Meeting**

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting of the School Committee was opened at 7:10 P.M. by Chairman Forgue

**B. Opening Ceremonies**

Mr. Collins led the meeting in moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

Chairman Forgue reported that the School Committee will hold a workshop session on either February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8-10 A.M. or February 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 A.M. to discuss different types of initiatives and new opportunities. He will coordinate the date with the Superintendent. Mr. Forgue also reported on a brief School Committee meeting held on Wednesday to refresh the Statement of Interests (SOI) previously submitted to MSBA for Andover High School and the Pre-school population currently housed at Shawsheen School and West Elementary. MSBA requires a vote from the Board of Selectmen and School Committee when refreshing SOI's. Mr. Forgue clarified that they are not approving the SOI for money for Shawsheen, but for the relocation of the Pre-K population in the event that there may be some Federal/State dollars available.

Mr. Forgue commented on the host of teachers who attended the last School Committee meeting and asked Annie Gilbert to address their comment on not being involved in the Strategic Plan Process. Mrs. Gilbert said the remark "there was no seat for faculty representation on the Strategic Plan Committee" was incorrect. The Strategic Plan Committee solicited teacher representation and in fact, a middle school teacher stepped forward and was fully engaged in the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. Dr. Nicholson added that a high school teacher was invited to serve on the Committee but due to a conflict with his schedule was unable to fully participate but had a standing invitation to join them whenever he was available; there were also teachers on the Pin-point Technology Committee.

Chairman Forgue said the Budget Subcommittee members, Annie Gilbert and Paula Colby-Clements, will work with Superintendent McGrath and Peter DeRoeve on the budget for FY-12. Other members are welcome to attend the meetings; however, if a 3<sup>rd</sup> person attends the meeting it will have to be posted requiring 48 hour notice.

**C. Recognition**

Under the direction of AHS Drama Director Susan Choquette and Jen D'Onofrio, cast members of the AHS Musical, "Rent" delighted the School Committee, Administration, and the audience with their rendition of "Seasons of Love" which was a standing ovation performance.

Annie Gilbert said she attended the dedication of the newly restored Andover Veterans Auditorium along with Dennis Forgue, Marinel McGrath, Susan Nicholson and others. She recognized the performances of the DMS students, and the Veterans who were in attendance and highly praised for their service to our country.

Brian Frykenberg, Friends of AHS Tennis shared his plan to raise funds to refurbish the AHS Tennis Courts. The AHS PAC has agreed to partner with the Friends of AHS tennis. Currently, they are in discussions with resurfacing companies, and are moving forward with Phase I of the project which includes the design, study, and schematic of the renovated courts and will be launching a webpage shortly - [www.FriendsofAHSTennis.org](http://www.FriendsofAHSTennis.org). Dr. McGrath said a vote from the School Committee is not required. Mr. Frykenberg has been in discussions with Interim Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi and will work closely with Joe on the specifics of the project.

**D. Citizen Input**

Tom Deso, 81 High Street posed a question to the School Committee relative to a comment in a letter in the Andover Townsman from AHS teacher, Matthew Bach stating that the School Committee had prematurely ended contract negotiations and found guilty by the Labor Board. Chairman Forgue said the issue was brought to the Dept of Labor, no action has been taken, and they have not ended negotiations. There have been at least ten meetings without progress so an impasse was declared. The AEA was asked to join them at the meeting with the Dept of Labor but they declined. The Dept of Labor agreed with the School Committee and appointed a mediator to act as an objective 3<sup>rd</sup>

party. Negotiations will continue in February with the mediator present to help the School Committee and Andover Educators Association come to a conclusion on the contract.

## **E. Education**

### **1. Bancroft School Building Project Update**

Annie Gilbert, and members of the Bancroft Community, and School Building Committee are pleased with the broad support received from Town residents in voting to approve the Debt Exclusion Vote for the Bancroft Project. She thanked the many people and stakeholders who contributed their input, time, and experience over the past two years, resulting in an even better project for their participation. The SBC looks forward to moving ahead with the next phase of the project and will be meeting with the Design Review Board. The Subcommittee of the SBC has begun the process of hiring a construction manager. RFP's will be going out to four firms with selection of a construction manager expected by the end of March.

### **2. AHS Student Handbook Change – Tardiness Policy**

AHS Principal Dr. Thomas Sharkey explained the request to modify the Student Handbook and Tardy Regulation. The current regulation is a disservice to students who, if late for the fourth time in a marking period for first block, are required to remain in the cafeteria until second block resulting in a loss of instructional time which has become an issue for students and teachers. Dr. Sharkey stated he met with faculty and the student government and together they arrived at arrangement to benefit all. The modification will allow students to go to class upon arrival and if a student exceeds three tardies in one semester, they will be given a teacher detention. An excess of six tardies in one semester results in the loss of the student parking pass (currently in handbook). The modification provides more clarity in distinguishing an excused tardy from those exempt by law. A copy of the current regulation and revised regulation was provided to the School Committee.

Annie Gilbert motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to make the proposed changes to the AHS Student Handbook relative to tardiness as presented. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.

## **F. New Business**

### **1. Update on the Ballardvale Fire Station Study**

As a follow-up from the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting in which Chief Mansfield requested permission to conduct testing on South School Property to determine the feasibility of the land as a potential site for a new Ballardvale Fire Station, members of the Ballardvale Fire Station Building Committee (BFSBC ) updated the School Committee on the Relocation Proposal. Dan Casper, Chair of the Ballardvale Fire Station Building Committee presented information on why they are looking to relocate the station. The current location is challenging, the building is in poor condition, and cannot accommodate the equipment. Only one fire truck which was custom made to fit the bay can work out of the station and there is no room to provide ambulance service resulting in slower response time. In 2007 a professional consultant report delineated specifics and land within the area that would be appropriate for a new station. The presentation showed Town land behind South School that could be swapped for the School land. The best location for the fire station would be at the corner of Andover and Woburn Street, where the little league field sits on South School property. Mr. Casper talked about the search process, specifics of the proposal and benefits of the location.

The presentation provided this evening is for informational purposes only; no decision by the School Committee is required. The BFSBC hopes to go to Town Meeting in the spring with their request, and if approved a Special Town Meeting would be schedule for the fall to approve the land swap. Chairman Forgue suggested scheduling a Tribord meeting to discuss the request, with abutters present, so the three boards could jointly hear questions and concerns.

### **2. PTO Gift to High Plain Elementary School – Interactive White Boards**

The High Plain Elementary PTO is donating \$22,800 to High Plain Elementary for the purchase of seven interactive white boards and accessories for the classrooms. The PTO has previously donated \$43,300 to High Plain Elementary for interactive white boards. The School Committee is required to vote to accept the gift of \$22,800.

Annie Gilbert very gratefully moved for the Andover School Committee to accept the gift of \$22,800 from the High Plain Elementary PTO for the purchase of seven (7) interactive white boards and accessories for classrooms. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

## **G. Old Business**

### **1. Second Reading of the Policy for School-sponsored Trips and Student Travel**

The first reading of the Policy for School-sponsored Trips and Student Travel was discussed and read at the last School Committee Meeting, followed by the required public comment period. Paula Colby Clements said only one comment was received relative to emergency assistance for students carrying an epipen. School Counsel reviewed the comment and inserted the language in Section G, page 7 of the draft proposal.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements the School Committee voted 3-0 to adopt the Policy entitled "School-sponsored Trips and Student Travel" as presented. (Richard Collins was not in the room at the time of the vote)

### **2. Financials**

#### **a. Monthly Financial Report**

Peter DeRoeve explained the financial recap sheet provided to the School Committee. He said they are committed to 99% of the budget for the remainder of the year; although there are some projected deficit areas and concerns relative to Special Education Programs, he is comfortable with where the budget stands for now. He recognized the work and assistance of the Business Office Staff especially Janet Wright, and Carol McMillan from the Special Education Office.

#### **b. Quarterly Special Education Report**

Peter DeRoeve reviewed the Quarterly Special Education Budget stating that Out-of-District Tuitions are still in total dollar budget but there are some possible placements pending. If the pending placements occur, it will result in a deficit for the OUD account. The outcome of the Circuit Breaker audit by the State has resulted in adjustments to the dollar amount received. Currently, the Evaluation and Therapy Account is within budget. He suggests they consider using in-house occupational and physical therapists instead of outsourcing these services. The Special Education Transportation line item shows a deficit. Chairman Forgue said they have had several meetings with the transportation company and are looking to see what changes could be made to control costs for this year and next.

Peter thanked the Pupil Personnel Department for their work in helping to prepare the report, and for providing the information in a timely manner.

## **H. Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2011
2. Warrants: In order

On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 4-0 to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

## **I. Adjournment**

At 9:30 P.M. on a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 4-0 to adjourn from Regular Session and to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations for non-union personnel and not to return to Open Session.

Roll call: Annie Gilbert-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Richard Collins-Y, Dennis Forge-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee DeLorenzo*

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

### **Documents:**

Policy for School-sponsored Field Trips, Field Work, and Student Travel

Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 13, 2011

Memo from AHS Interim Principal Tom Sharkey – Changes to Student Handbook/Tardy Regulation

Presentation on relocation of the Ballardvale Fire Station

Monthly Financial Report

Spec Education Quarterly Report