

**Andover School Committee**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 28, 2009**  
**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

**Members in Attendance:** Chair Debra Rahmin Silberstein, Richard J. Collins, Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, David Birnbach and AHS Liaisons, Alex Macheras and Charlie Smith.

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Claudia L. Bach, Superintendent, Dr. Susan Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent and David Keniston, Business Manager.

**I. Regular meeting in the School Committee Room**

**A. Salute to the Flag**

Chair Deb Silberstein called the Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:05 P.M.

Mr. Collins asked for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sanborn School students, Maggie Sakellarios, Grade 5, Lindsay Sakellarios, Grade 4, and Luke Sakellarios, Grade 1. Mr. Collins presented each of the Sakellarios children a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

**B. Recognition of Achievement**

Dr. Bach the 2009 Eagle Tribune Swim Team All Stars, Nick D’Inncenzo, Katie O’Connell, Monica Patterson and Paul Moore.

Dr. Bach announced that AHS teacher Michael Wall has been accepted into the Northeastern Research Experience for Teachers’ Program. This is an excellent professional development opportunity for both Michael and our students. This opportunity is a direct result of the Stem/Northeastern Grant collaboration with Worcester, Brookline and Northeastern.

Dr. Colleen McBride, Principal of South School will receive the Outstanding Educators Alumni Award at Salem State College. Dr. McBride was nominated by her previous school district. Congratulations to Dr. McBride.

Dr. Bach recognized The Imagination Destination Team at Andover High School for winning the first place Renaissance Award for outstanding design and engineering execution. The Team will move forward to the Global Competition.

Dr. Nicholson was pleased to represent the Andover School District last Friday at the State House Hall of Flags with Middle School Engineering Teachers, Dan Miley and Steve Cogger who along with students Rachel Mandelbaum and Kerry O’Kelly were awarded the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education first place award and received \$300 for their schools.

Mr. Collins recognized AHS Track Coach Peter Comeau who was inducted into the Massachusetts High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

Deb Silberstein recognized School Committee member Annie Gilbert and Alison Phelan, Dr. Bach’s Assistant for completing the Boston Marathon in good time. Deb also announced that Dr. Bach would be honored at the YMCA 2009 Tribute to Women on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Andover Country Club. The Andover School Principals nominated Dr. Bach for this prestigious award.

C. Communications

2. Bancroft Feasibility Study

Dr. Bach explained that the MSBA has requested the schematic design be added into the Feasibility Study for Bancroft School. A Warrant Article has been submitted to cover the additional funds to be requested at Town Meeting. MSBA also feels it may be worth folding Shawsheen into this project. Dr. Bach has been discussing enrollment concerns with MSBA to determine what size school to build and what the enrollment would look like if Shawsheen were folded into the project. Therefore, a second warrant article has been submitted to request funds to cover including Shawsheen into the Feasibility Study. Warrant Article 59 for \$320,000 as a stand alone Feasibility/Schematic Design study and Warrant Article 60 for \$735,000 for a combined Bancroft/Shawsheen Feasibility Study. Dennis Fogue said the advantage of moving the schematic design forward would provide more accurate information before bids went out. He asked if the enrollment at Shawsheen could be capped to control the overcrowding issues at Shawsheen. Dr. Bach said the elementary schools with the exception of Sanborn are all close to capacity levels and said the issues at Shawsheen will need to be addressed sooner or later. Deb Silberstein said this could be an opportunity to have nine schools instead of ten and a chance to save on significant operating expenses and also provide an opportunity for a renewed focus on Early Childhood Education in the community. Dr. Bach said a scoping meeting would be setup by MSBA to talk more thoroughly about the Feasibility Study. Laura Gregory, 5 Embassy Lane asked what options have been considered, there are many scenarios that could be considered and feels there have not been enough information provided. Paula Karl questioned if asking for extra funds at Town Meeting now would send the wrong message. Krista DiNapoli agrees that Bancroft parents have not had an opportunity to provide feedback on increasing the Feasibility Study request and feels that the priority is being placed on Shawsheen instead of Bancroft. She is concerned that Shawsheen could jeopardize Bancroft being a model school for MSBA.

Dennis Fogue motioned for the School Committee to recommend approval of Warrant Article 60 for the feasibility study for Bancroft School. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert, voted 5-0 and approved.

The Committee decided to hold on recommendation of Warrant Article 59 for now.

Annie Gilbert will coordinate a survey to be sent to the Shawsheen and Bancroft School Communities and sent out through the school listserve.

3. High Plain Elementary Principal Search

Dr. Bach said a search team has been selected to begin the process of reviewing applications for the High Plain Elementary School Principal. Human Resource Director Candace Hall and Wood Hill Middle School Principal Patrick Bucco will co-chair the Search Committee.

Dr. Bach said information about Swine Flu and precautions to take have been sent out to parents via the School Listservs and information from the State and Local Health Departments is available on the Andover School website.

## Workshop Session and Budget Hearing FY 2010 Preliminary School Department Budget

Chair Silberstein talked about the Workshop Session the Committee held on Monday night and said the Committee is still discussing the budget number to support. Once a budget number is decided upon it is important to remember that the budget will stay fluid as State and Stimulus money will be coming in later in the year. The Chairs of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are willing to continue working with us to reach the \$60.4M School Committee Preliminary Budget request. The Town Manager's position is that we use IDEA money to cover the Special Education expenses, which we believe to be \$944,000 for FY2010. Half of that money has to be used for Strategic Investments; the State wants to reduce the Circuit Breaker money and the Town Manager wants to use the Idea money to reduce the Town's commitment to cover the 2009 Special Education costs, which is not the intention of the Federal Stimulus Funds.

Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend approval of Warrant Article 4 in the amount of \$60.4M for FY2010. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion was voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend disapproval of Warrant Article 4 line item 15 and 16 in the amount of \$59,933,157. Annie Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion was voted 5-0 to recommend disapproval.

Annie Gilbert asked how the budget number would be presented in the Finance Committee book for Town Meeting. Dennis Forgue said clarity of the Stimulus and Strategic Funds needs to be addressed. Deb Silberstein said the Stimulus funds are one-time monies to be used to retool and not for operating expenses. Dr. Bach said the funds are to cover a two year period and we may receive \$981,000 this year; half in September and half next winter. A contingency plan on how to use the funds should be established along with a plan incase they aren't received. Stimulus money could be used for mentoring, development of a strategic plan, audit of the Special Education Program, course options for AHS, and consolidation of town and school services, and return professional development beyond mandates, and to provide an integrated Health/Physical Education/Music Program. The Committee suggested asking the Principals what they would bring back with the funds that become available. David Birnbach said an option could be to augment the Health Program by funding online programs. Dr. Nicholson said directed studies for the High School is another consideration.

### Fees:

Dr. Bach announced that the transportation bids were opened yesterday and were very favorable. David Keniston said we could realize \$172,000 in savings, which may allow us to keep the transportation fees at the current level. Extra curricular and athletic fees should see some relief as well. The Committee discussed club fees at the high school and how difficult it is to charge for these. PAC President Diane Costagliola said the PAC raised approximately \$90,000 for club fees last year and questions if it is realistic they will be able to raise \$130,000 for next year. She said fees are paid to cover a service, not to generate revenue. Marge Andresen said fees might price out students who need the extra-curricular activities the most. Deb Silberstein said the Committee has to come to a consensus on setting the general direction of fees. Bill Gibson said the School Committee should reject the budget voted on by the Town and push back on the town for more revenue for the schools. Bill Pennington said fees are wrong and public education should not be on the backs of school parents. The issue should be put before residents at Town Meeting. David Birnbach asked if we have optimized the money before us in the most creative way and debates merits of needing more money for x and y. The debate should be how we get more money from the State to cover expenses.

John Zipetto, 14 Canterbury Street said surprisingly the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee went ahead and voted on a \$59.5 M budget. The amount cannot be increased on the floor of Town Meeting. Diane Costagliola said it was irresponsible of the Selectmen to vote on the School Budget amount on a Friday morning of school vacation week. Clarity of the Superintendent's \$60.4M School Budget request is needed and we need to mount a campaign for the additional \$500,000 agreed to. Deb Silberstein wants to move forward with Annie Gilbert's suggestion for a consensus by the School Committee on fees.

The Committee will hold on the Town Manager's recommendation of \$830,400 for the School as this is a significant reduction in School-3.

**D. Citizen Input - None**

**E. Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

Warrant Article 4 – FY2010 School Budget - line item 15 and 16 in the amount of \$59,933,157.

Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend disapproval of WA 22.. The motion was seconded  
By Annie Gilbert, voted 5-0 to recommend disapproval. Recommend Disapproval

Warrant Article 5 – Capital Projects Fund Appropriation Hold

Warrant Article 15 – Insurance Recovery Transfer Recommend Approval  
Mr. Collins motioned to approve WA 15. Annie Gilbert seconded the motion.  
Motion voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Warrant Article 21-Transfer of Funds from Stabilization to School Department Hold

Warrant Article 22-Approp for High School Athletics from Stabilization fund Recommend Disapproval  
Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend disapproval of WA 22. The motion  
was seconded by Annie Gilbert, and voted 5-0 to recommend disapproval.

Warrant Article 42- Town & School Labor Contracts-GBL Amendment Recommend Disapproval  
Annie Gilbert motioned to recommend disapproval of WA 42. The motion  
Was seconded by Dennis Forgue, and voted 5-0 to recommend disapproval.

Warrant Article 44 Payment of Sick Leave Benefits-GBL Amendment Recommend Disapproval  
Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend disapproval of WA 44. The motion  
Was seconded by Annie Gilbert, and voted 5-0 to recommend disapproval.

Warrant Article 45-Stabilization Fund – Greater Lawrence Vocational School Recommend Approval  
Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend approval of WA 45. The motion  
was seconded by Annie Gilbert, and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Warrant Article 56-School Building Maintenance & Renovation Recommend Approval  
Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend approval of WA 56. The motion  
was seconded by Mr. Collins, and voted 5-0 to recommend approval.

Warrant Article 58-Veterans Memorial Auditorium Repairs/Renovations Hold

Warrant Article 59-Feasibility Study/Schematic Design Ban/Shaw \$735,000 Hold

Warrant Article 60-Feasibility Study/Schematic Design – Bancroft \$320,000  
Annie Gilbert recommended approval of WA 60. Motion seconded by  
Dennis Forgue, and voted 5-0 to recommend approval..

Recommend Approval

**F. Consent Agenda**

**Warrant:** Dave Keniston said the Warrants are in order.

**Motion:** Dennis Forgue motioned to approve the Warrant as presented. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert, voted 5-0 and approved.

**G. School Choice**

Dennis Forgue motioned to recommend to not participate in the School Choice Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collins, and voted 5-0 to not participate.

**H. School Calendar**

Dennis Forgue motioned to approve Calendar B for the 2009/2010 School Year. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert, and voted 5-0. The Andover Educators' Association voted to not start school on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**I. Motion to Adjourn**

Dennis Forgue motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the School Committee. The motion was seconded by David Birnbach, and voted 5-0-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder*