

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of Wednesday, September 8, 2011
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chairwoman Annie Gilbert, Paula Colby-Clements, Richard Collins, Dennis Forgue, David Birnbach

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Nancy Duclos, Paul Szymanski

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the School Committee was opened at 7:12 P.M. by Chairwoman Gilbert.

B. Opening Ceremonies

Mr. Collins led the meeting in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Amendments:

Motion: Paula Colby-Clements motioned the School Committee approve to amend the September 8, 2011 Agenda by adding 1) Under Section 5-1: Education – Policy Review: “Use of the Parent Notification (Alert Now) System and List Serve”; and 2) Under Section 7 – New Business - to approve Superintendent McGrath’s Attendance at Intel School of Distinction Award Program Washington D.C.: September 18-21, 2011 and the State Ethics Disclosure Form as required by 930 C.M.R. 5.08(2)(d)1; and to move New Business Item #7 A-Bancroft Property to Education Section 5A – Bancroft School Update. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve.

C. Recognition

1. School Opening – Dr. McGrath said everything went well on the first day of school with over 6,200 students and 870 employees welcomed back. The two teacher workshop days (September 2-3) began with convocation at the Collins Center with Dr. McGrath providing opening remarks followed by a review of the Strategic Plan process and viewing of the DVD “Celebrate What’s Right”. Principals and Directors organized individual school meetings and the Special Education Assistants attended a two day workshop on supporting teachers in the classroom with students who have disabilities. On the first day of school (September 6th) Dr. McGrath and the Town Manager, Buzz Stapczynski rode an elementary bus together as is their annual tradition.

A two-day orientation for new teachers, under the direction of Dr. Eileen Woods, Ann McNamee and Darlene Doucet, was held in late August to welcome and assist new teachers to the district. The Induction and Mentor/Mentee program participants will meet periodically through-out the school year.

The first Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12th with a draft of the Strategic Plan provided to School Committee members afterwards.

2. Professional Status Teachers

Dr. McGrath recognized the thirty-four teachers who have reached Professional Teacher Status by completed a rigorous three-year evaluation process.

C. Recognition (Cont'd)

3. Plant & Facilities School Project Accomplishments

Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration acknowledged the efforts of the school custodians, Ray Tode Director of Technology and the school technology staff, Acting Plant & Facilities Director Maria Maggio and her team, as well as Ed Ataide, and Igor Raniuk in preparing the schools and completing a number of educational items related to safety, security, energy, and technology for the opening of the new school year. They should all be applauded for their commitment to a safe infrastructure.

Dick Collins commended AHS Football Coach E.J. Perry on the wonderful job he is doing with the staff and high school football players. The AHS Football Team will play North Andover High at North Andover on Friday evening.

David Birnbach congratulated AHS Science teacher Steve Sanborn for devoting part of his summer to attending an innovated biological teacher training program at MIT. Twenty-five teachers across the country were selected to attend this program on how to incorporate innovative material into the classroom.

D. Citizen Input

Jen Meagher, Vice President of the Andover Educator's Association and representing a large gathering of teachers at tonight's meeting, expressed their angst over the 371 days they have been without a contract, the longest time ever and not a proud milestone. They feel the proposals from the School Committee are designed to reduce education costs and prep time. The approach the School Committee has taken is not about negotiations, but avoiding negotiations and imposing a vision not educationally sound. Education has always been important to the Andover Community and they urge the School Committee to develop a new approach to collective bargaining that preserves quality education in Andover.

Bob Willard, 76 Tewksbury Street suggests there be more transparency in the bargaining process and perhaps unresolved issues be brought to the attention of the community with positions of both parties outlined.

E. Education

1. FY-2012 First Day Enrollment

Dr. McGrath provided an update on the first day enrollment; there are a total of 6,216 students enrolled an overall 2 additional students from the previous year. The elementary school enrollment is up 18 students for a total of 2,887 students, the middle school realized an increase of 5 students for a total of 1,526 students, and at Andover High School the enrollment is down by 21 students for a total enrollment of 1,803 students.

2. Bancroft School Project Update

The School Building Committee has been busy all summer preparing the final design process and permitting projects. One of the required permits is an Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission of which several abutters have filed an appeal with the Environmental Protection Agency and may file an appeal with the Superior Court. The SBC has voted to suspend construction work, but during the appeal process the architect will continue working on final building plans. The SBC is confident the project plan has met all requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town's Wetlands Bylaw and hopes to be able to work with the abutters to address their concerns.

E. Education (Cont')

3. Summer Curriculum Projects

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos reported on the curriculum projects teachers worked on over the summer with 35% of the district staff participating in Staff Development/Curriculum initiatives led by teachers. The areas of focus this summer: Literacy in grades K-5, Special Education for Grades 5-8, English Language Learners for Grades K-8, Digital Technology Grades 9-12, and Mentor/Mentee Program for Pre-K through Grade 12. Staff from all Departments at Andover High Staff participated in NEASC preparation work, the Middle School Foreign Language Teachers worked on the curriculum for the new sixth-grade Spanish text, while the Middle School Math Teachers aligned the assessments to the new frameworks for the math program, and over twenty-five Middle School Teachers aligned learning targets for the Expeditionary Learning Program. At the Elementary level, the elementary health education curriculum was completed with lesson plans developed for teachers to implement in their classrooms. .

4. Early Release Day Program Overview

This year, all levels (elementary, middle, and high) will participate in Early Release Day activities of which there are six Release Days scheduled. The focus of the Release Days at the High School will be a self-study in preparation for NEASC, the Middle Schools will focus on "One Middle School – Three Sites" challenge-based learning for all disciplines, and in the Elementary Schools the focus will be on Literacy and Math for classroom teachers. Elementary Specialists will work on curriculum refinement, and interpretation of differentiation and intervention.

5. AHS Intel Math School of Distinction

Andover High School was one of the five schools recognized by Intel as an "Intel School of Distinction for Math". Interim Principal Tom Sharkey, Donna Pappalardo (Math Program Advisor), AHS Math Teachers Stephanie Ragucci and Deb Casey along with School Committee Chair Annie Gilbert and Superintendent McGrath will travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the award ceremonies and workshops to be held from September 18-21st.

6. AHS NEASC Update

AHS staff began their self-study project in November of 2010 to identify the challenges and create action plans and to recognize what AHS does well. There are several committees in place with 15-20 teachers on each committee. The Committees will examine standards for Core Values, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment of and for Learning, Culture and Leadership, School and Community Resources to name a few. The standards will be used to evaluate Andover High School and staff will design and analyze, gather evidence to justify a position statement, debate, and vote on each of the standards, with the final product being a statement of strengths and needs.

7. AHS Student Handbook

The changes to the AHS Student Handbook were addressed by Assistant Principal Marilyn Jordan and Interim Principal Tom Sharkey. This year the handbook has been constructed differently and is easier to access. Parents and students are encouraged to become familiar with the Student Handbook. Key pieces of the changes to the Handbook were explained by Assistant Principal Jordan.

Motion: Paula Colby-Clements motioned for the Andover School Committee to approve the 2011-2012 High School Student Handbook as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Collins and voted 5-0 to approve.

E. Education (Cont')

8. AHS Grade Weighting Proposal: Enriched Math

Dr. Sharkey provided an explanation of the changes to the Enriched Math Program which now provides extra-rigor in the Enriched Math Classes for students in preparation for BC Calculus. Changes to the AHS Grade Weighting Scale reflect the more rigorous expectations. The added weight assigned to Enriched Math would be .2 over Level 1; changes in the GPA would not be retroactive and would go in effect for September.

Motion: Paula Colby-Clements motioned for the Andover School Committee to approve the change to the grade weighting scale for enriched math as presented and to allow the changes voted to be reflected in the new Student Handbook. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve.

9. Private Tutoring of Students Policy

Superintendent McGrath explained that this Policy excludes Andover Teachers from tutoring their own students or students they have any current responsibility for, and states that tutoring sessions must be conducted off-site.

As this is a first reading, the School Committee delayed voting until the next meeting.

10. /Policy for Alert Now / Parent Notification System and Listserv System

Superintendent McGrath explained that the Alert Now System is to be used only to communicate only official information, notices of early release, delays, etc. to parents. The Listserv will generate general common purpose communications deemed appropriate from the Andover Public Schools to subscribers and will not be used as a public forum. To receive communications, parents/public can go to the APS website and click on the "Notify Me" tab, choosing the notifications they would like to receive.

As this is a first reading, the School Committee delayed voting until the next meeting.

F. Old Business

1. Sub committee assignments

Annie Gilbert reviewed the list of subcommittee and liaison assignments Committee members will serve on: Negotiations (2 members-Dennis and Paula); Budget (3 members Annie, Paula, Dennis); Policy (2 members Paula, David), and Communications (2 members Annie and David). Liaisons are for our Legislative delegation (Paula), Pre-K project (Dennis), and Student Services Quarterly Review (Paula). School Liaisons are: Bancroft/West Middle – (David Birnbach); South/Wood Hill – (Dennis Forgue); West Elementary/Doherty (Paula Colby-Clements); West Elementary/Shawsheen/AHS – (Dick Collins), and Sanborn/High Plain (Annie Gilbert).

Motion: Dennis Forgue motioned for the Andover School Committee to approve the 2011-2012 Sub-committee and Liaison assignments as presented. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

G. New Business

1. Bancroft Property

Town Counsel Tom Urbelis is here tonight to assist with the action items required to address remaining potential impediments which include two encroachments on school land by abutters; one

New Business (Cont'd)

1. Bancroft Property

being a fence and the other a fence and footings for a skate ramp. The School Committee will request the Town Manager send a notice to the abutters to remove the items.

Motion: Dennis Forgue motioned for the Andover School Committee to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to Richard W. Sylvester, Jr., 264 South Main Street, informing Mr. Sylvester that a survey revealed that the fence and footings for the Skate Ramp installed at the rear of the property is on school property and that these must be removed by October 1, 2011, and that if they are not removed by then, the Town will hire a contractor to remove the fence and footings at the owner's expense. The motion was seconded by Richard Collins, and voted 5-0 to approve.

Motion: Dennis Forgue motioned for the Andover School Committee to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to Greencourt Realty Trust, 280 South Main Street, informing the trust, 280 South Main Street, informing the trust that a survey revealed that the fence installed on its property is on school property and that the fence must be removed by October 1, 2011, and that if it is not removed by then, the Town will hire a contractor to remove the fence at the owner's expense.

2. Appoint Paul Szymanski as GLEC Voting Member

Motion: Dennis Forgue motioned for the Andover School Committee to designate Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration as the Andover Public School Voting Representative on the Board of Directors for the Greater Lawrence Collaborative (GLEC) effective September 8, 2011. The motion was seconded by Richard Collins and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. WMS Water Damage Update

Mr. Szymanski reported on the significant water damage which occurred at West Middle School from Hurricane Irene. Servpro provided a comprehensive response by bringing in over one-hundred pieces of equipment, and they did not encounter mold at any point in the recovery process. The damage was corrected and all appropriate action taken with the building returned to a normal environment. All costs were borne by the roof contractor.

4. Approve Superintendent McGrath's attendance at Intel School of Distinction Award Program in Washington, D.C. September 18-21, 2011 and State Ethics Disclosure Form as required by 930 C.M.R. 5.08 (2)(d)1:

Motion: Paula Colby Clements motioned for the Andover Public School Committee to approve the attendance of Superintendent Marinel McGrath at the Intel School of Distinction Award Program in Washington, D.C. from September 18-21 in accordance with the State Ethics Commission and to authorize Chairperson Annie Gilbert to sign the required State Ethics Disclosure Form for Dr. McGrath. The motion was seconded by Dick Collins and voted 5-0 to approve.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants - Assistant Superintendent Szymanski stated that the Warrants are in order and provided highlights for each of the five warrants.

Motion: Paula Colby-Clements motioned the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Warrants as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue, and voted 5-0 to approve.

I. Adjournment

On a motion by Dick Collins and seconded by Dennis Forgue, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Recorder

Documents: List of Completed School Projects
Memo regarding Proposal for Enriched Math Recognition
Policy: Use of Parent Notification System and List Serv
Policy: Tutoring
Warrants