

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of September 13, 2012
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

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

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

I Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairwoman Colby-Clements opened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee at 7:05 P.M.

Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sam Maurada a second grade student from the Shawsheen School. On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Collins presented Sam with a Certificate of Appreciation.

B. Recognition/Communications

Assistant Superintendent Szymanski recognized the Food Services Director Gail Koutroubas and Assistant Food Services Director, Ruth Olney, on receipt of the US Department of Agriculture's Healthier US School Challenge Bronze Award given to all three Andover Middle Schools as certified HUSSC Schools. Mr. Szymanski recognized all of the staff in Food Service for receipt of this honor which was given to only 3% of the schools. Gail Koutroubas said it was a team effort with the support and help of the food service staff, school principals, assistant principals, and physical education staff. Applications for all of the elementary schools have been submitted and they hope to hear before November if they have received HUSSC status; applications for Andover High School will follow.

Annie Gilbert reported the public groundbreaking ceremony for the new Bancroft Elementary School will be held on Thursday, October 4th at noontime representing a culmination of a very large effort on the part of many people coming together to make this happen. A school ceremony for students and staff only will be held in the morning.

Dennis Forgue and Annie Gilbert attended a Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting to gather information on status and potential costs to the town/school should the Rolling Green Development move forward. Sometimes the developers offer mitigation towards the impact of the additional services but this tends to be a one-time payment; not covering recurring costs. The next meeting is ZBA meeting scheduled for October 11th.

Dennis Forgue met with State Representative Jim Lyons and spoke with Barbara L'Italien to address space issues at Andover High School as well as the Pre-K situation at Shawsheen.

Mr. Collins congratulated the AHS Football Team on winning the first game of the 2012 Football Season.

Dr. McGrath reported an Alert-Now message was sent out from Andover's Public Health Director Tom Carbone to advise residents of preventative mosquito spraying at the AHS and WMS fields on Monday.

C. Public Input

Roland Kim of 98 Burnham Road addressed the issue of the loss of the Latin Program at West Middle School and the late notification received. He understands it is a difficult position to fill, but the late notification left them without a vehicle for an earlier discussion. There was a meeting held last night at WMS but he cannot accept the decision made since the other two middle schools have a Latin Program.

Julianne Teichert, Grade 8 WMS student in the Latin Program, is disappointed along with many other students about the elimination of the Latin Program and does not feel the Rosetta Stone option provided will address all of their needs nor be as inter-active as a classroom setting. For her, it is a loss of two years of study in Latin and when she starts her freshman year at AHS she and the other WMS students will be behind in Latin compared to the students from DMS and WHMS.

Paula Colby-Clements said the decision is not in the School Committee's prevue. Superintendent McGrath explained this is not a funding issue; the issue is they cannot find a certified Latin Teacher to fill the part-time position. The other two middle schools have teachers who hold dual certifications, WMS does not. They will continue pursue options to assist the students such as reinstating the Latin Club at AHS and purchasing Rosetta Stone Software.

D. Education

1. School Opening & FY-2013 First Day Enrollment

Dr. McGrath reported the first day of school went well for students and was a very encouraging, uplifting day for teachers. The total enrollment on the first day of school was 6,222 –an increase of 14 students over last year.

2. Professional Status Teachers

This year nineteen teachers received professional status on the first day of school. This is an important achievement having fulfilled three full years in the district, being thoroughly observed and evaluated, and demonstrating excellence in teaching.

3. Report: Summer Curriculum Work and Curriculum Steering & Advisory Committees

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos gave an update on the curriculum work completed over the summer with 244 teachers participating. Beginning this year, the new Curriculum Advisory and Curriculum Steering Committees will be rolled out. Their work will strengthen communication, relate directly to the Strategic Plan, and establish a model of inter-dependence. The Steering Committee will consist of one teacher per grade level and represent all content areas from all levels and guide the work in their content area. This will include ELL, Special Education, and Digital Learning. Members of the Curriculum Advisory Group are the worker-bees who, facilitated by the Steering Committee, will move the work forward by content area depending upon the focus of the work. Sixty-two teachers submitted an application to participate. The Assistant Superintendent will work closely with the entire Steering Committee to develop planning and determining how the work will be accomplished. Both groups will advise, recommend and generate the summer curriculum work and professional development offerings, resulting in a full-body district level professional development.

4. Report: Technology Initiative: Bond Article

Paul Puzzanghera, CIO of Technology, reported on the status of the Technology Initiative and reviewed the timeline for fall 2012 and the 2012-2013 school year. He shared what has been updated and the problems that remain to be fixed. The \$2.5M investment allowed them to address the challenges of updating servers, storage, eliminating redundancies, combine emails and increasing access. All teachers will be in an innovative modern digital classroom teaching 21st Century skills once all the changes are complete. By the spring of 2013 they expect to have a complete deployment of laptops and projectors and to complete the deployment of wireless devices at the high school and elementary schools.

Although he recognizes that the high school has the most need for updated technology, Mr. Puzzanghera prefers to upgrade one middle school first to ensure everything works and then roll out technology to AHS. His plan is to have the middle school completed by the end of 2012, and begin the high school upgrade in January. The expectation is to order 200 laptops for AHS in November and deploy them in January. The Committee asked if it would be possible to start the high school first and combine 10-20 classrooms at a time.

E. Old Business

1. New Bancroft School Update

Annie Gilbert gave the status of the New Bancroft School Project. The Town Manager has appointed three new members to the School Building Committee, Phase I – (new West Knoll Road access, temporary play area, and parking) has been completed and they have moved onto Phase II which is actual construction of the school building. Both the new traffic pattern and play space, although greatly reduced, seems to be working well. They expect to have all construction bids completed in October and as a cost saving measure the dirt from the current site is being extracted, screened, and reused.

2. CIP Report for 2012 School Projects

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Paul Szymanski provided a summary of the FY-13 CIP Projects approved for School 1, 2, and 3 with many of the major projects completed over the summer. During the Facility Tour they reviewed items to be considered for the FY-14 CIP and talked about how to address them; especially the safety items and the need for additional space at AHS. The Committee discussed alternative ideas for opportunities to alleviate over-crowding conditions at AHS.

3. FY-13 Superintendent's Compensation

Paula Colby-Clements reported that at the public meeting of June 29, 2012 the evaluation of the Superintendent's performance was discussed and it was agreed that Dr. McGrath demonstrated excellent leadership and continued to move the district forward in a difficult year. The School Committee met in Executive Session and decided upon the compensation for FY-13, which requires a vote in open session.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert and seconded by Richard Collins, the School Committee unanimously voted to approve a 2% retroactive increase for Superintendent Marinel D. McGrath for the 2012-2013 academic year effective July 1, 2012.

F. New Business

1. Contract: Andover Administrators' 2011-2014

On a motion by Annie Gilbert and seconded by Dennis Forgue the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Andover Administrators' Contract as presented: (1) a one (1) year contract agreement dating July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 with all terms in effect during the July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010 agreement apply with a 0% increase and (2) a three (3) year contract agreement dating July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 with changes as noted and percentage increases of 1% for 2011-2012; 2% for 2012-2013, and 2% for 2013-2014 and to pay administrators who were on such salary schedule during the 2011-2012 work year retroactive pay in accordance with such salary schedule increase.

G. Consent Agenda

Annie Gilbert motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve the following:

Minutes:	June 7, 2012;	June 20, 2012,	June 29, 2012
Warrants:	Payroll Warrant:	13S008	\$1,024,609.75
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	Payroll Warrant	13S010	\$ 296,661.08
	Payroll Warrant	13SS03	\$ 505,543.80
	Payroll Warrant	13S011	\$ 114,391.77
	Expense Warrant	12S052	\$ 807,527.69

Payroll warrants include retroactive payouts. Paul Szymanski applauded the Janet Wright and Doreen Bille for the time, hard work, and energy involved in completing this task.

H. Adjournment

At 9:14 A.M. on a motion Richard Collins and seconded by Annie Gilbert, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

- Documents: Letter from US Dept of Agriculture
 Announcement of Bancroft School Groundbreaking Ceremony
 2012-2013 Enrollment Chart, Summer Curriculum Chart
 Letter from Nancy Duclos - New Curriculum Groups
 Approved list of FY-13 CIP items
 School Warrants
 Minutes of June 7, 20, and 29, 2012