

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of May 16, 2013
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chairwoman Paula Colby-Clements, Vice-Chair Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, Barbara L'Italien and David Birnbach

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, AHS Liaison Brian Wivell

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairman Forgue opened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee at 7:05 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building. The meeting began with a moment of silence led Barbara L'Italien, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by West Middle School student Mitch Duerr (Grade 6). On behalf of the School Committee Mitch was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

B. Recognition/Communications

Dennis Forgue recognized Paula Colby-Clements for her work as Chair of the Andover School Committee this past year and greatly appreciates the time and commitment given.

Dr. McGrath talked about the partnership between Intel and the Andover Public Schools and how it has encouraged the way students think about working with science. As a result, fifteen year-old Max McCarthy participated in the six State MIT Region 4 Science Fair earning a fourth place finish and a cash prize. He also placed second out of 300 entries in the State Science Fair for Best Research Project in the State, and received an internship offer from the bio-tech firm Gemzyne located in Cambridge.

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos recognized Shawsheen Physical Education Teacher Kevin Tiller on the release of his book "Great Games Handbook for Physical Education".

She also recognized three Middle School Spanish Teachers Leela Bakshi from Doherty, Linda Kane from West Middle and Norma Villarreal from Wood Hill, who have been invited to lead a 75-minute session at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association Annual Conference. The three Andover teachers will offer participants from New England ways to enhance language acquisition and cultural appreciation through student-centered, project-based learning using music and technology. Leela, Linda and Norma will show the workshop participants how Andover students organize a Spanish rock concert, create music videos using contemporary Spanish music, choose meaningful Spanish music for projects, write and produce an original Spanish musical play. This theme for this year conference is "Collaborate to Promote Languages with a Collective Voice!"

Paula Colby-Clements congratulated and sent best wishes to members of the Andona Society on the 57th year of Clown Town this weekend.

C. Public Input

Bob Willard, 76 Tewksbury Street, commented on the item in the NEASC Report regarding sanitation at AHS. Student population at AHS has increased while the custodial staff decreased from 12 to 10 which would be an obvious reason for the sanitation shortfall at the school, and recommends they

I. Regular Meeting (Cont'd)

C. Public Input (cont'd)

budget to restore the positions in FY-15. Annie Gilbert said NEACS's debrief at the end of their visit included a comment that they noticed AHS students respect each other and their teachers but students don't respect their building which says something about our expectation as a High School Community to allow this; it is more complex of a situation than just a reduction in custodial staff. Brian Wivell is surprised at the quantity of graffiti at AHS and agrees the custodial staff should be increased.

D. Education

1. Update: Elementary & High School Course Proposals

Superintendent McGrath said as a result of the course proposals put forth by David Birnbach at the April School Committee Meeting, a Review Team consisting of teachers, curriculum advisors and program advisors spent a school day reviewing the proposals and very robust discussions arriving at a way to move forward.

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos reported that ten elementary/secondary teachers and program advisors met on May 10th to review and consider the proposals put forth by David Birnbach and they also discussed how the four C's are being taught in the classroom today. The group arrived at two general recommendations: 1) make it a priority for teachers and administrators to be explicit about what we are doing in the classroom, how the four C's are incorporated in teaching, and create ways to communicate this to the community and 2) establish an Innovation Team to conduct research and d The Innovation Team would consist of a core group of faculty members.

The Review Team's examination of the proposals found APS to have similar programs in place. For example: Engineering is Elementary is parallel to the EIE program for Grades 1-5 currently in place through the Museum of Science. World Peace proposal was found to not be a plug and play curriculum and their website had limited information; however, their master class would be an avenue to pursue, costs \$1,250 per teacher and will be revisited later. The High School has a program similar to SCRATCH called SNAP which is gaining traction at AHS. They will develop a sequence of programs for this curriculum, and possibly SNAP could become part of an Enrichment or Engineering Program. Computing Applications and Thinking – they will work to develop this into appropriate programs. Stanford Project is a pilot program and more investigation needed.

Dennis Forgue asked if parents could participate in the Innovation Team. Dr. McGrath said as needs arise for expertise in a specific area a request would be put out to the community for assistance.

The Committee discussed the development of an Innovative Team (I-Team), who should be involved, how it should be structured etc. They feel it should be a broad-based group to include APS staff, parents, community members, etc. Brian Wivell suggested having student 'buy-in' and input, but acknowledged the timing of the presentation of the proposals was difficult and did not allow them to be included for FY-14. David Birnbach said a lot of the initiatives are in new domains and there may not be the expertise inside of APS and we should consider looking at outside experts to help.

David Nelson, 76 Gould Road asked what the implementation time frame would be. Dr. McGrath said some teachers would be trained this summer and some aspects can be implemented into the current curriculum with more difficult courses taking longer to turn around. We have to meet the

D. Education (Cont'd)

1. Update: Elementary & High School Course Proposals (Cont'd)

Massachusetts frameworks and maintain some courses for college acceptance requirements. Karen Pustell, 9 Hearthstone Place said her son uses SCRATCH and finds it to be an outstanding program encouraging students to be creators, not consumers. Melanie Ziegler, 9 Mohawk Drive, fully supports the proposal to bring SCRATCH grades 4 and 5. Several other parents in attendance encourage the implementation of these programs, the creation of an Innovation Team, and to seek out community resources.

2. Update: Bancroft School

Annie Gilbert reported on the status of the New Bancroft School which is rapidly proceeding. Currently, the School Building Committee's primary job is to negotiate the GMP (guaranteed maximum price) now that funding is in place. On Monday trees will be planted along the West Knoll Road driveway on the south side, and meetings were held with the direct abutters on the plantings.

E. Old Business

1. Monthly Financials

Paul Szymanski provided a review of the monthly financials noting that after scrubbing accounts they are now projecting an ending balance of approximately \$400K however they are using some of these funds on shovel-ready CIP projects that can be awarded in the remaining time with remaining dollars; therefore anticipating returning at least \$100,000 to the Town's free cash account.

F. New Business

1. School Choice 2013-2014

On a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Annie Gilbert, the Andover School Committee unanimously voted to not participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program for Grades PK-123 for the 2013-2014 School Year.

2. Award of Transportation Contracts

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski explained the new transportation contracts to be approved by the School Committee.

a. Regular School Bus Transportation Town-wide

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one-year contract extension for Regular School Bus Transportation Town-wide to Trombly Motor Coach Services, Inc, of Dracut, Massachusetts for a total estimated cost of \$1,622,700.00; for the period commencing August 28, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

b. Mid-Day Kindergarten Transportation

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one-year contract extension for Mid-Day Kindergarten Transportation to Trombly Motor Coach Services, Inc, of Dracut, Massachusetts for a total estimated cost of \$169,290.00; for the period commencing August 28, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

c. Extracurricular, Field Trips and Athletic Transportation

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one-year contract extension for extra-curricular, field trips, and athletic transportation to North Reading Transportation of Methuen, Massachusetts for the period commencing August 28, 2013 through June 30, 2014 as

F. New Business (Cont'd)

c. Extracurricular, Field Trips and Athletic Transportation (Cont'd)

described in their price proposal dated May 15, 2013 for the proposed pricing. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

d. Special Needs In-Town 2013 Summer

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one-year contract extension rate to continue the contract of Special Needs Transportation Services for 2013 Summer In-Town Transportation, to North Reading Transportation of Methuen, Massachusetts for the period commencing August 28, 2013 through June 30, 2014 as described in their price proposal dated May 15, 2013. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

e. Special Needs In-Town 2013-2014 School Year

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one-year extension rate to continue the contract of Special Needs Transportation Services for 2013 Summer In-Town Transportation, to North Reading Transportation of Methuen, Massachusetts for the period commencing July 1, 2013 through August 27, 2013 as described in their price proposal dated May 15, 2013. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

f. Special Needs Out-of-District 2013-2014 School Year

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one-year contract extension rate to continue the contract of Special Needs Transportation Services, for 2013-2014 Out-of-District Transportation, to Northeast Network Transportation of Methuen, Massachusetts for the period commencing August 28, 2013 through June 30, 2014 as described in their price proposal dated May 15, 2013. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

g. Special Needs In-Town Out-of-District 2013 Summer

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve a one-year contract extension rate to continue the contract of Special Needs Transportation Services, for 2013 Summer Out-of-District Transportation, to Northeast Network Transportation of Methuen, Massachusetts for the period commencing July 1, 2013 through August 27, 2013 as described in their price proposal dated May 15, 2013. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Middle School Travel Requests

Superintendent McGrath reported on the two middle school travel requests and stated all paperwork was in order.

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Wood Hill Middle School 6th 7th and 8th Grade students to Spain, France, Monaco and Italy during the February 14-23, 2014 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled "APS School-sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy". The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert voted 5-0 to approve. Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extracurricular trip for Doherty Middle School 7th & 8th Grade students to New York City on November 9-11, 2013 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled "APS School-sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy". The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert voted 5-0 to approve.

4. Disposal of Surplus School Equipment Paula Colby-Clements moved the Andover School Committee vote to approve the disposal of surplus school equipment as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to recommend approval to dispose of surplus equipment.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Warrants

Payroll Warrant #13S045 and 13S046, and Expense Warrant #SW1319 and SW1319A.

On a motion by Annie Gilbert and seconded by Paula Colby-Clements, the Andover School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

H. Adjournment

At 9:01 P.M. Paula Colby-Clements motioned for the Andover School Committee adjourn from Regular Session and move to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Collective Bargaining matters and not to return to Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien.

Roll call: Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Annie Gilbert-Y, David Birnbach-Y, Barbara L'Italien-Y, and Dennis Forgue-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

Documents: School Transportation Contracts
Monthly Financials – April 30, 2013
Warrants