

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of March 3, 2011
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

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

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Dr. Susan M. Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the School Committee was opened at 7:05 P.M. by Chairman Forgue.

B. Opening Ceremonies

Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by singing of the Pledge of Allegiance by Bancroft School- Grade 2 Students Ella Gottfried, Oscar Bunting, Kiara McCormack, Olivia Broderick, Emma Dunn, Thomas Tavenner, Maude Focek, Griffin Hout, Molly O'Handley, Mathew Theirault, Maya Ramasamy, and Leila Zallen Mr. Collins presented the students with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the School Committee.

C. Recognition

Dr. McGrath acknowledged the Leadership Team for their dedicated efforts, time, and contributions in preparation of the FY-12 Budget proposal.

Dr. McGrath recognized the AHS Winter Athletic Teams who have advanced to tournament play. They include: Boys': Wrestling, Track, Gymnastics, Skiing, Hockey, and Basketball Teams; Girls': Basketball, Track, Gymnastics, Skiing, and Basketball Cheerleading Teams.

To clear up a misunderstanding relative to the proposed South School location for the Ballardvale Fire Station, Chairman Forgue clearly stated that the School Committee has not yet taken a position on the proposal. They listened to the proposal presented but have not voted on the proposal. A public hearing was suggested so input could be received from all sides. Chairman Forgue said a communication will be sent to parents via listserv and also put on the School website.

D. Citizen Input - None

E. Education

1. Bancroft School Project Update

Annie Gilbert reported the SBC has been meeting weekly in addition to sub-committee meetings and they hope to have all the design element documents to the estimator by the end of April. A joint meeting with the Andover Design Review Board and the SBC will be scheduled upon receipt of revised exterior elevations from the architects, and they will hold workshops with the residents on West Knoll Road. She thanked the residents, especially those on West Knoll Road, for their collaboration on the project.

2. AHS Program of Studies 2011-2012

Dr. McGrath stated that the first reading of the AHS Program of Studies for 2011-2012 was held on February 10th and posted on the School website for public comment. The only comment received off of the website asked if the Engineering Course is included in the course list. It is included.

Peggy Kruse, asked about the statement to cut courses that have less than twenty students signed up and feels the Administration should consider the value of the course, not just the enrollment number. Dr. Sharkey explained it refers to elective courses that have less than twenty students.

Motion: On a motion by Annie Gilbert with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted to approve the 2011.2012 Andover High School Program of Studies as presented.

F. New Business

1. 2011-2012 School Calendar

This is the first reading of the 2011-2012 School Calendar, which has been sent to the AEA for their review. The proposed calendar has students returning to school September 6th, the day after Labor Day and teacher workshops day scheduled for September 1 and September 2. The calendar includes six early release days for all three levels; elementary/middle/high school. The last day of school would be June 18th and with the addition of 5 snow days (if needed), the last day would be Monday, June 25, 2012.

G. Old Business

1. FY-12 Preliminary Budget Presentation

Annie Gilbert explained the budget being presented this evening is built on assumptions and guidelines adopted in January. The preliminary presentation is a high level snapshot reflecting budget assumptions developed by the Leadership Team in conjunction with the School Committee sub-committee (Annie Gilbert and Paula Colby-Clements) who believe the new process of how the budget is developed will lead to an improved understanding of where we are, where we need to be, and the process to get there. The proposed budget will be presented on March 10th and the final recommended budget after that.

There is a significant budget gap in the preliminary budget being presented. It is important to have a handle on what it cost to deliver services to students. The process takes time and it is challenging to make reductions to meet the budget number while staying within contractual obligations. Paula Colby-Clements said it has been a positive and eye-opening experience of how the budget is put together and the challenges the Leadership Team is faced with. The process will continue until they can reach a recommended budget number, this is just the first presentation.

Dr. McGrath presented the FY-12 Preliminary Budget for the Andover Public Schools starting with the Vision and Mission Statements. The Vision is to be a model public school district for excellence, resourcefulness, and continuous improvement. The Mission of the APS in partnership with the community is to inspire students and ensure that they develop the knowledge, skills, and qualities required to be life-long learners, thinkers, and contributors in a diverse and global society.

Following the Vision and Mission Statements, Dr. McGrath read the five goals established for the Andover Public Schools. 1. For students to experience schools as an intellectual adventure, understand core knowledge and skills as they develop habits of mind. 2. To expand beyond traditional school boundaries, using technology, innovative structures, schedules, and links with the larger community. 3. Achieve recognition as a model school district. 4. Recruit, retain and develop a diverse cadre of the highest quality teaching personnel, staff and administrators. 5. Establish efficient systems for development, allocation, and alignment of resources to support the District's vision, mission and goals.

The budget process begins with a presentation of the Preliminary Budget, followed by the Proposed Budget to be presented at the Public Hearing on March 17th, and finally, School Committee votes on the Recommended Budget. The challenge for APS is how to deliver educational excellence in a fiscally prudent manner. The top three items important to the Leadership Team are class size, innovation, and PK-12 perspective. The top four challenges they are faced with include: 1. Provide effective education for all students. 2. Meeting local, state, federal revenue challenges and mandates. 3. Funding special education services. 4. Meeting collective bargaining and fixed cost obligations.

The Preliminary Budget is based on the assumptions that the total FY 11 budget appropriation is included, all of the current FY11 positions are brought forward, only continuation programs are recommended, and includes the administrative staffing and expense requests to support the APS vision, mission, and goals, as well as meeting all requirements for statutory and regulatory mandates and accreditation requirements.

For FY-12 the Preliminary Budget is \$65,709,339; minus the FY-11 Adjusted Budget of \$61,140,938, the projected increase is \$4,568,401; minus the .075% available increase of (\$464,163), the FY-12 projected budget gap amounts to \$4,104,238. Salaries for FY-12 including all collective bargaining contingencies,

step and track changes total \$51,146,674 with expenses of \$14,562,665 the budget number is an increase of 7.5%. The components that make up the increase include: \$1,168,635 for contractual salary increases for track/step/longevity, \$1,255,851 for increases in special education tuitions, transportation for regular and special education; salary adjustments in the amount of \$994,945; and Administrative requests to support the APS mission, vision, goals and compliance in the amount of \$1,148,970, for a total increase of \$4,568,401. Dr. McGrath said the timeline before presenting the budget for final approval provides opportunities for meetings and workshops to further refine the budget. Dr. McGrath thanked the Leadership Team for their dedication and acknowledged the work of Peter DeRoeve, Susan Nicholson, Annie Gilmore, and Paula Colby-Clements.

Questions:

- Where will the revenue increase come from and what will be achieved from these dollars?
We will not realize the preliminary budget number of \$65M, and will need to prioritize items. The process over the next few weeks will be to tie the budget to available resources.
- If the services provided are the same as last year, why is there an increase?
Contractual agreements, Special Education out-of-district tuition, and transportation have increased.
- What does the Salary Adjustment of \$994,000 represent?
It is an assumption of a dollar amount for contracts that had to be built into the budget.

Dr. McGrath said the Preliminary Budget Workbook will be posted on-line at www.aps1.net

Interim Business Manager Peter DeRoeve walked the School Committee through the new setup of the budget book which differs from year's past. He reported there are approximately 867 employees with a number of salaries covered through revolving accounts, program fees, grants and federal funds; he noted that many of the grants/federal funds end next year. Page 4 of the budget book contains information in the context of how funds are spent in the program. Also included in the budget book is revenue funding sources summary, enrollment summary, and a location summary section showing where the dollars are spent by level by school. In addition, the budget book includes an expense history, personnel summary and history, revolving account summary a budget function and descriptions glossary.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2011
2. Warrants: In order

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

I. Adjournment

On a motion by Annie Gilbert, with a second by Paula-Colby Clements it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recorder

Documents: Andover Public Schools FY-12 Leadership Team Preliminary Budget Request: March 3, 2011
2011-2012 School Calendar
Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2011