

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of Wednesday, May 4, 2011
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

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

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, and Peter DeRoueve-Interim Business Manager

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the School Committee was opened at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Gilbert.

B. Opening Ceremonies

Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Wood Hill Middle Students (Grade 7) Dena Brody and Emma Plourde. On behalf of the School Committee Mr. Collins presented the students with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Annie Gilbert explained that after Town Meeting the School Committee reorganizes and as of tonight, she will be the Chair. Annie acknowledged and thanked Dennis Forgue for his work as Chair this past year, and noted the tremendous job he did navigating through a challenging year. Paula Colby-Clements will serve as Vice Chair this year, and serving as Chair after Town Meeting 2012. Annie also expressed her thanks to the Town for their support at Town Meeting and recognized the other Boards for working collaboratively with the School Committee to arrive at a balanced budget.

C. Recognition

In recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. McGrath thanked all Andover Teachers for the difference they make in the lives of our children every day. Dr. McGrath recognized three teachers Laura Stella, Grade 6 Science Teacher at Wood Hill Middle School, Tim Harkins, Grade 5 Teacher at West Elementary School, and Arthur Iworsley, West Elementary Physical Education Teacher for the following achievements:

Laura Stella was recently awarded the Amgen Award for Teaching Excellence in Science. The award comes in the form of two checks, one to Laura for her classroom in the amount of \$5,000, and one to Wood Hill Middle School in the amount of \$5,000. Laura is one of four recipients across the State of Massachusetts to receive this award (well over 100 applications received). The funds will be used to expand the existing Expeditionary Learning on Expanding Energy Production for the installation of solar panels at Wood Hill Middle. Laura also received a grant award in the amount of \$38,000 from the 3M Corporation to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera.

Tim Harkins is the recipient of the Ingenuity Grant Award from 3M Corporation in the amount of \$3,500.00. Tim submitted the grant application to secure Ipads for podcasting and the funds will allow West Elementary to purchase six Ipads and accessories. West Elementary Principal Liz Roos recognized Tim on an outstanding job of seeking grant monies.

Arthur Iworsley, West Elementary Physical Education Teacher, named the Massachusetts Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Mr. Iworsley, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, will be recognized at the next School Committee Meeting.

D. Citizen Input

Debra Lucci, 276 Andover Street, Neil and Marianne Cashman, 96 Ballardvale Road, Gina Mazzaresse, 250 Andover Street, and Lydia Cardin, 29 Glenwood Road – all from the South School area, shared their feelings about the location under consideration by the Ballardvale Fire Station Building Committee for a new fire station to be located at the corner of Woburn and Andover Street where the South School ballfield is located. The residents feel that building a fire station on the site of the ball field at South School would change the dynamics and integrity of the entire South School neighborhood. The location is already a busy traffic area and they are very concerned about the safety of the students especially at release time. In addition, they are concerned about the noise level when fire trucks are called out which would be extremely disruptive for students in the classroom, and most especially for students with sensory issues. The cost of improvements needed to relocate the field, parking, and driveways would be expensive as well. All of the parents felt an alternative location would be a more viable option.

Annie Gilbert explained that the School Committee will go through the process of listening to the proposal by the Ballardvale Fire Stations Building Committee and the concerns of all parties involved before any agreement or decision is arrived at.

E. Education

Bancroft School Project Update

Annie Gilbert reported on the status of the Bancroft School Project. She said the design documents are due to be sent to MSBA and the various cost estimators on May 17th, the contract for the required construction manager is close to finalization, and today's neighborhood meeting was well attended. The meeting today included a site walk, visuals of the exterior, playground, trees, etc; recent images can be found on APS website under the School Building Committee link. Annie and the Superintendent will be part of a sub-committee working with the Bancroft Principal to choose interior and exterior paint colors. All costs have to be carried forward now as part of the design document.

School Choice

The Chair explained that per Mass Law, the School Committee must vote annually to approve or disapprove participation in School Choice which allows students to attend schools outside of their communities if there is space. Historically, Andover has voted to opt out due to space constraints.

Dennis Forgue motioned that the Andover School Committee not participate in the School Choice Program for Grades K-12 for the 2011-2012 School Year. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements, and voted 4-0 to not participate in the School Choice Program.

Administrative Search Updates - AHS Principal Search and Assistant Superintendent Search

The search timelines were included in the School Committee packets and available on the School Website at www.aps1.net. Dr. McGrath and Human Resource Director Candace Hall attended a High School Faculty Meeting to discuss the search process for the high school principal. The first search meeting for the High School Principal was held yesterday and applications are currently being reviewed. Site visits will be scheduled for the week of May 16th. The Interview Committee for the High School Principal Search consists of three teachers, three administrators and three parents. Candace Hall has also organized a Search Committee for the Assistant Superintendent opening with application deadlines established for May 9th.

F. Old Business

Last Day of School 2010-2011

Dennis Forgue motioned that the School Committee approve Tuesday June 21, 2011 as the last day of school for students and Wednesday, June 22, 2011 for Teachers for the 2010-2011 School Year barring any unforeseen emergencies or inclement weather. The motion was seconded by Richard Collins, and voted 4-0 to approve.

G. Consent Agenda

Quarterly Report

Peter DeRoueve provided an update on the Quarterly Financials ending March 31, 2011 and barring any unforeseen needs from Special Education, we are on track to meet budget at this point in time.

The Special Education Out-of-District Report shows the account to be a little over budget but in good stead overall. Recurring weekly updates from Special Education are a little higher than we would like, but close to the original projections.

Out-of-District Transportation account is running a deficit. It is approximately \$150,000 over the amount funded and he expects this to be rectified for next year. In-house Transportation is an area that also needs to be reviewed for the new school year. The Evaluation and Therapy account is within budget with a savings of approximately \$150,000 to be used to offset the transportation deficit.

On a motion by Dennis Forgue and a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 4-0 to approve the General Fund Transfers as presented in the School Committee packet.

1. Warrants - The Warrants are in order

3. Minutes Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2011, March 24, 2011, March 31, 2011 and Triboard Meeting Minutes of March 7 and March 16, 2011

On a motion by Dennis Forgue with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, the School Committee voted 4-0 to approve the Warrants and the School Committee Minutes as listed.

H. Adjournment

On a motion by Richard Collins with a second by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted 4-0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo

Recorder