

**Andover School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of April 25, 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. Marinell 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 4:24 P.M. in the School Committee Meeting Room in the School Administration Building. The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dennis Forgue.

**II. Budget Discussion**

Paula Colby-Clements reported on several discussions held by the Chairs of the three Boards and communications with the Town Manager. After reviewing revenue and expenses, it seems the expenses for the Cable Franchise account were included twice; therefore there is an additional \$293,500 that could be made available for the school budget. The bids for the West Middle School Heating System have come in higher than expected and will be sent out again. It is possible extra revenues may have to go towards this expense which should be bonded and not part of the operating budget. This item will be discussed again at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Triboard Meeting.

Barbara L'Italien reported that the education portion of the House budget is complete and the expectation is for the Circuit Breaker Budget to be closer to 69% reimbursement not the 65% as thought.

Paul Szymanski reviewed the School Budget Summary and explained that the projected budget now stands at \$69,303,236 an increase of 2.9% over the prior year. They anticipate at least eight or nine retirements and an increase in enrollment for the next school year which will both affect the budget. Further reductions in the budget were made by reducing the starting salary level of new teachers from M-8 to M-6 and making changes to compliance and strategic plan costs. Additional budget reductions have brought the budget gap down to approximately \$375,643; circuit breaker funds are not included in the budget number.

A few of the Strategic Plan reductions include decreasing the number of Digital Learning Specialists at the Elementary level and maintaining ESL teachers at their current level, although the class size of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Class has been reduced.

Mr. Szymanski talked about the Out-of-District Tuition costs and noted there are 900 students in the system with IEP's. Each school year brings different students with different needs, so a 3% increase in tuition is added into the budget. Costs for student services will continue to be incurred through the end of this school year, and if there is a balance in the Circuit Breaker Account it will be carried forward to the next year. Should the FY-14 Circuit Breaker reimbursement comes in at 65% it would add an additional \$1,532,040 to the carry over amount for a possible total of \$2,887,604. Barbara L'Italien noted that if the reimbursement comes in at 69% that would be an additional \$121,105 for FY-14. Mr. Szymanski said the Business Office is following the accounting model and are in compliance with all Massachusetts General Laws.

The Board talked about possible opportunities to further reduce the budget gap, what the Chapter 70 Funds might be for FY-14, Circuit Breaker reimbursement, etc., and if they are ready to vote a number for School Budget for FY-14 today or if they should wait until after the Triboard Meeting next week.

David Birnbach questions the current strategy and supports relooking at everything we are doing with the curriculum and to consider the curriculum proposals he provided to the Committee. He also spoke about creating a "Center for Technology & Engineering" at AHS at relatively little cost, and to eliminate courses no longer relevant at AHS making funds available for new initiatives as he has proposed. The NEAS Study reflected that we are not investing enough money in new courses at AHS. David will not support this budget which laden with more head counts and not supportive of the initiatives he has proposed.

Dennis Forgue moved for the Andover School Committee to approve and adopt \$68,927,593 for the FY-14 School Operating Budget. David Birnbach amended the motion to include an appropriation of \$93,600 for the Science and Engineering Center at Andover High School. The motion was not seconded.

Dennis Forgue moved for the Andover School Committee to approve and adopt the FY-14 Operating Budget in the amount of \$68,927,593. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 4-1 to approve. David Birnbach opposed.

**B. Consent Agenda**

1. Warrant: Expense Warrant SW1317 and Payroll Warrant 135042

On a motion by Dennis Forgue and seconded by Annie Gilbert the Andover School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**C. Adjournment**

At 5:35 P.M. on a motion by Annie Gilbert and seconded by Barbara L'Italien, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to move to adjourn from Regular Session and move to Executive Session to discuss issues related to Collective Bargaining and not to return to Open Session. Roll call: Dennis Forgue-Y, Annie Gilbert-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, David Birnbach-Y, and Barbara L'Italien-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

Documents: Elementary Curriculum Module Proposal  
Proposal for the Center for Technology and Engineering (sTEem)