

Andover School Committee
Regular Meeting of March 11, 2014
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

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

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Finance and Administration, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Nancy A. Duclos, and AHS Liaison Hugh Smith.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Forgue opened the School Committee Meeting at 7:03 P.M. in the School Committee Room.

II. Executive Session

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy regarding the tentative agreement for a successor contract with the AEA and to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, B. L'Italien-Y, D. Birnbach, and D. Forgue-Y. At 6:55 PM. on a motion by Annie Gilbert and seconded by Paula Colby-Clements, it was voted to adjourn from Executive Session and to move to Open Session, not to return to Executive Session. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, B. L'Italien-Y, D. Birnbach-Y, and D. Forgue-Y.

III. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute to the Flag:

Annie Gilbert asked for a moment of silence in memory of Richard Collins (SC 1998-2013) and Tony James (SC 2003-2009) both of whom recently passed away. Annie gave a very heartfelt tribute to both Tony and Dick recognizing their many contributions to the Andover Public Schools.

The moment of silence was followed by a Salute to the Flag led by Connor Sheehan, a Grade 5 student at High Plain Elementary. On behalf of the School Committee, Mrs. Gilbert presented Connor with a Certificate of Appreciation.

B. Recognition/Communications

1. Recognition

Annie Gilbert recognized Dennis Forgue as he completes his final term as a member of the Andover School Committee. She highlighted his achievements and noted his deep commitment, energy, and time given to the Andover School Department. Dennis said it has been a privilege to serve, finding the work to be very interesting and a great educational experience, thanks to all!

Dennis Forgue recognized the AHS Boys Basketball Team for their spirit and sportsmanship; they were very entertaining to watch this season.

2. Update: Bancroft School Project

The new Bancroft School is moving right along and rapidly coming together and they are a month closer to completing the building project.

3. FY-15 Budget Subcommittee

Dennis Forgue reported that Dr. McGrath will present the School Budget to the Triboard on Wednesday evening. The Board of Selectmen discussed potentially reducing the school budget by \$400,000 and the Town budget by \$200,000 at their meeting last night. The \$400,000 would be in addition to the \$900,000 delta in the School Committee Budget. The subcommittee will meet on Wednesday morning and he hopes to receive more information at that time.

4. Calendar Subcommittee

David Birnbach reported on the productive meeting held with Dr. McGrath, Scott Armstrong, and Stephanie Ragucci to gather information for a survey to be sent out to APS Staff and parents to query them on their thoughts to change to a new school calendar. The survey will go out to the community in April with the options being considered and would go into effect for the 2015-2016 school calendar.

C. Public Input

Tom Deso, 81 High Street, recognized Dennis Forgue as he completes his term on the School Committee and commented on his service on the Space Needs Task Force in 2008 that resulted in the building of the new Bancroft School.

D. Education

1. PARCC Field Test Update

Dr. McGrath reported that Andover was selected by the DESE as a field test site for the new PARCC test destined to replace MCAS in two years. Nancy Duclos has been working closely with principals, teachers, Joanne Najarian, and the Technology Department to coordinate the testing requirements.

Nancy Duclos reported that the classes and teachers were randomly chosen with approximately 435 students in grades 3-10 taking the test in March which will be completely online. No results on the testing will be provided to the school department or to parents. Information about the PARCC testing is available on the school website at www.aps1.net. Andover students will not be double-tested (MCAS and PARCC). She is working diligently with to ensure the technology requirements are met and that teachers receive training to administer the test.

E. New Business

1. Contract: Teachers – 2014-2017

Paula Colby-Clements addressed the details of the New Teacher Contract effective September 2014-September 2017. There were limited issues and the AEA and School Committee came to an agreement within a short period of time. Teachers have ratified the contract and the School Committee can now approve, or not, the Memorandum of Agreement. The new contract provides a COLA increase of 1.5% for 2014, 2% for 2015, and 2% for 2016. Stipend schedules were reviewed, which had not been updated in ten years, with an impact of less than \$2,000. Teacher tuition reimbursement request was raised to \$1,500 without increasing the current net pool of money, no impact to the school budget. Teachers working for a National Certification can request \$1500 reimbursement towards the registration. Contract language was changed to reflect middle school teaching time from periods to minutes to better allow for flexibility in scheduling, and nurses with a Master's Degree can move to Masters+30.

David Birnbach said the \$881K gap in the School budget along with the additional \$400,000 calls for further discussion for additional tax relief and we should not be committing to a multi-year contract until we know how to make up this gap, with a very small fraction of the budget going towards strategic plan initiatives. David distributed a chart on the contract's impact to the budget and noted he is not comfortable moving forward with a three year contract obligation at this time and it is prudent to wait until we have clarity on the budget number.

The members discussed the budget and noted that the number will continue to be refined as it has been in past years and will be working with the other boards to reduce the number. The Town Manager said collective bargaining agreements have been high/low over the past years due to the recession and history shows we have been able to honor our obligations to employees, even if it may not be easy. Paula Colby-Clements said the collaboration between the school and AEA is a huge win for the district. Items in the Strategic Plan have everything to do with working together and not with more money. Paula and Dennis, as members of the negotiation subcommittee, are required to support the statute because they brought the Memorandum of Agreement forward.

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee approve the Memorandum of Agreement dated January 31, 2014 with the Andover Education Association, Unit A, for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the period from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2017 as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien. Roll call: B. L'Italien-Y, A. Gilbert-Y, D. Birnbach-N, D. Forgue-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski-Y. The motion passed on a vote of 5-1. David Birnbach opposed.

2. Superintendent Attendance at EF Education Shanghai: Global Student

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the participation of Superintendent Marinel McGrath as an Advisory Board Member for the Global Student Leaders Summit in Shanghai, China and to authorize Chairman Forgue to sign the State Ethics Disclosure for Dr. McGrath. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to approve.

3. Subcommittee Appointments: Negotiations: Remaining units

Chairman Forgue invited the School Committee to volunteer for the open negotiation teams.

The teams are as follows:

Negotiations Subcommittees:

Food Services:	Paula Colby-Clements & Paul Szymanski
Administrators:	Paula Colby-Clements, Candace Hall, & Marinel McGrath School
Independents:	Paula Colby-Clements & Candace Hall
LPNs:	Annie Gilbert & Candace Hall
Instructional Assistants:	Annie Gilbert & Candace Hall
Secretary:	Barbara L'Italien, and Candace Hall
Custodians:	Paul Szymanski and David Birnbach and/or Barbara L'Italien

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Negotiations Subcommittee Assignments as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to approve.

4. Disposal of Surplus School Equipment

As per the Town Charter, the School Committee must vote and approve of the final disposal transaction for the library books.

Annie Gilbert motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the disposal of the school surplus property as presented. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

F. Old Business

1. 2014-2015 School Calendar – 2nd Reading and Vote

Three calendars were presented at the 1st reading of the 2014-2015 School Calendar request and were on the school website, available for public comment with thirty-four responses received by the School Committee. Chairman Fogue explained that the AEA has the right to vote to choose not to start before September 1st. The AEA relinquished their vote allowing the School Committee to make vote on any one of the three choices, Calendar A, B, or C. The AEA was split on their choices with 142 for Calendar A, 197 for Calendar B, and 150 for Calendar C. The School Committee discussed the three options and voted as follows:

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar “A” as presented. The motion was seconded by David Birnbach, and voted 4-1 with Barbara L’Italien opposed.

Calendar “A” - 2014-2015

- o August 25-26 – Teacher workshop days.
- o August 27-28 - Students return to school for two days.
- o August 29 and September 1st (Labor Day) no school for students
- o June 15– 180th day of school
- o June 22– 185th day of school if five days are needed for inclement weather or other emergencies.

G. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes: February 6 and 11th SC Meetings
2. Warrants: Three Expense: SW1418B, SW1418A, SW1418
Four Payroll: 14S036, 14S035, 14S034, and 14S037

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

H. Adjournment

At 8:55 P.M> on a motion by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Barbara L’Italien, the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary