

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Budget Workshop, Tuesday, April 6, 2010
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chairman Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert-Secretary, Richard Collins, Paula Colby-Clements, and David Birnbach

Others in Attendance: Dr. Claudia Bach, Dr. Susan Nicholson, and Interim Business Manager Bernie Tuttle

I. Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Forgue reconvened from Executive Session to Public Session 4:53 P.M. in the School Committee Room. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the budget.

Mr. Forgue said the goal of the School Committee is to close the budget gap for FY-10 before April vacation. He provided an update on the Team 470 meeting, and said the sub-committee of the Triboard will meet on Saturday morning in a collaborative effort to close the budget deficit.

II. Bancroft Feasibility Study

The Bancroft feasibility summary submittal date is April 9th and a commitment from the School Committee confirming intentions to redistrict needs to be submitted as well.

Annie Gilbert motioned to have submitted into the record that the School Committee agrees to initiate and implement redistricting upon completion of construction of a new Bancroft School which will accommodate 680 students in Grades K-5. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and unanimously approved.

III. The Budget

Mr. Tuttle responded to questions submitted by Chairman Forgue on various line items in the budget.

1. Line item 120 reflects a \$25,000 reduction in coordinators costs
2. Line item 141 reflects the position of the Grant Administrator position which is fully funded through the Assistant Superintendent's Office.
3. Line item 210 should have been applied for 2010.
4. Line item 220 – reflects administrator's furloughs.
5. Line item 230 reflects a 1% wage split in the teacher's contract in the teaching account.
6. Line item 260 and 250 reflects 2 positions listed in the 250 line that should be reflected in line item 260.
7. Line item 280 represents the 1% wage split plus track and step for specialists (school psychologists, adjustment counselors)

III. The Budget (Cont'd)

8. Line item 320 reflects the change from 5 FTE nurses and 5 FTE LPN's in FY-10 to 7 FTE nurses and 3 FTE LPN's for 2011.
9. Line item 280 Therapy and Evaluation reflects the change back to contracting these services out from using in-house staff.
10. Line item 412 – Plant and Facilities would have that information.

Dennis Forgue noted that twenty-two children should be coming off the Out-of-District rolls with thirteen still in question. The budget allowance shows \$200,000 and is concerned with under funding this account and running a deficit; he will work with Kathy Fink to stay on top of the cost and number of students.. Dr. Bach said Dr. Fink provided her with a packet on special education costs and possible unknowns for the remainder of this year. There is also a potential to reduce private placement by 5% if the State freezes tuition.

In response to Paula Colby-Clements question on eliminating February and April vacation, Bernie stated it could end up costing us money because there would be a reduction in energy savings. Students have to attend 180 days of school and you have to take into consideration the cost of heating, cooling, electricity, and transportation expenses. Mr. Tuttle said if the teachers would agree to take three furlough days it would save \$600,000. As far as offering Early Retirement Incentives, it is difficult to come up with a figure to entice employees to retire early.

David Birnbach said the student headcount is not increasing although it is costing us \$4M more to educate the same number of students for FY-2011 and in reviewing the spreadsheets an area that should be looked at reducing is the department heads. Mr. Tuttle explained the break-out of department heads and the ramifications for cutting those in Special Education that are mandated by law. Dr. Bach said Andover's Administration Team is thinner than any other district our size and pointed out that Program Heads also teach and are responsible for evaluations. She encourages the School Committee to continue getting feedback from the Administrative Team on the responsibilities.

Chairman Forgue asked Dr. Bach and Mr. Tuttle if they have any ideas or suggestions to reduce the budget. Dr. Bach said most items would require negotiations, cuts have trade-offs and it is important to realize the impact on schools and students. Mr. Tuttle said at this point the only place we would see real savings would be reduction of staff.

Annie Gilbert inquired about the rules for using ARRA money and if it can be used to invest in areas we need revenue for (i.e. technology) which would free up other dollars. Mr. Tuttle has a conference call scheduled with the State on full clarification of the rules that govern ARRA funds. Dennis Forgue asked that

III. The Budget (Cont'd)

Bernie provide recommendations on how to close the gap with ARRA funds if allowed. He also stated that Team 470 discussed increasing the cost of lunches by 10 cents to cover utility costs.

In closing, Chairman Forgue said Team 470 will meet on Wednesday, April 7th at Memorial Hall Library and on Saturday at 7:15 A.M. The School Committee will hold a Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 13th.

IV. Adjournment

On a motion by Annie Gilbert and a second by Paula Colby-Clements, the School Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder