

Andover School Committee
Minutes of Workshop Meeting of August 25, 2009
School Administration Building - School Committee Room

Members in Attendance: Chair Debra Rahmin Silberstein, Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, Richard Collins, and David Birnbach

Others in Attendance: Claudia L. Bach, Superintendent, Susan Nicholson, Assistant Superintendent and David Keniston, Business Manager

Chair Deb Silbertstein opened the School Committee Workshop Session at 6:31 P.M. in the School Committee Room. The purpose of the meeting is to receive an overview of the FY10 Approved Budget.

David Keniston, Business Administrator distributed a hand-out outlining the changes from the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget that are now included in the budget. The items listed include changes to Elementary Instructional Technology, PE/Wellness initiative, music staff cuts and realignments, revolving account and extra curricular activity adjustments, and resets of salaries due to give backs by the Central Office Administration, Principals, and the Independents' Unit. An addition of .4 FTE and our share of the salary for the Town Purchasing Agent are also included.

Items not included in the FY2010 Approved Budget as of May 28, 2009 because of timing are: Andover Administrators' salary adjustment, restoration of .2 Health and .2 PE Supervisor the balance of which is being covered by the PEP Grant, expense adjustments from the custodians contract, regular and special education, and the Circuit Breaker. The list also includes changes due to resignations, retirements, and leave of absences since May 28th as well as added revenue from the Shared Resource Agreement with GLTS. The FY2010 Budget reflects the \$1,000,000 increase approved at Town Meeting.

Mr. Keniston's hand-out also included a chart comparing the FY09 Approved Budget with the FY10 Approved Budget as well as a pie chart comparison.

Dennis Forgue asked when the Committee could expect to see a document that will incorporate all the changes. Mr. Keniston said a Final Approved FY10 Budget will be available after the October Special Town Meeting.

The Committee directed questions on the information provided to Mr. Keniston.

Dr. Bach said she discourages the School Committee from making all but the minimum reductions to the budget. The majority of cuts in 2003 and 2004 were never restored and the School Dept has cut from those levels down and more. The Town cut two positions at that time. As of August 17th there have been 57 unemployment claims filed by school department employees as opposed to 2 claims filed by Town employees. Dr. Bach said the formula for reductions between the town and school is not equitable. These reductions are changing the way we are delivering services to students and changing our priorities with further reductions compromising education to students. The Town should make comparable reductions. Regular Education numbers have not grown and could move us from a Tier I System to a Tier II System if we continue with reductions.

Mr. Keniston distributed a comparison of the FY009 Approved Budget vs. the FY10 Approved Budget with possible deficit sources that may have to be considered should Warrant Articles 1 and 2 not pass at the August 31st Town Meeting. The Committee discussed the IDEA money and what percentage can be used to supplant or for recovery. Deb Silberstein asked about the substitute teacher budget and the possibility of reducing the amount budgeted for FY10. Annie Gilbert asked if additional CIP monies would be available as the bids for Bancroft School are lower than expected.

Dr. Bach brought to the attention of the Committee the technology problems facing Wood Hill Middle School. Ray Tode explained that the use of student laptops has diminished greatly over the past 4-5 years. They are maxed out on RAM and because the reliability is low the laptops are not being planned for or used in lessons. The laptops are a tool in the learning process used by teachers and students and it is important to keep the equipment infrastructure up to date to be able to interface with new classroom technology. The choices for correcting this problem include spending more money to bring the laptops up to speed, do a lease purchase, or give the \$166,000 earmarked for the deficit towards the cost of 180 student laptops and 89 teacher replacements with any remaining money used to reduce the deficit.

Deb Silberstein suggested Dave Kenistona and Ray Tode prepare a warrant article for the next School Committee meeting for leasing of required laptops.

David Keniston said we would have a better idea of the budget number after the August 31st Special Town Meeting and if a change in the 65/35 split occurs. Deb Silberstein talked about the possibility of closing a school if necessary.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Work Session was duly made and seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Deb Siblingstein	Yes
	Dennis Forgue	Yes
	David Birnbach	Yes
	Annie Gilbert	Yes
	Richard Collins	Yes

The work session adjourned t 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recorder