

NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Place: North Andover High School Lecture Hall
Present: Alfred Perry, Chairman, Assistant Chairman, William Kelly, Dr. Charles Ormsby, Tim Pybus, and Barbara Whidden

Also Present: Dr. Daniel O'Connor, Superintendent, Richard Bergeron, Assistant Superintendent, and members of the school department and the community.

Call to order 6:00 p.m.

1. Warrants of Bills payable were circulated for signature
2. Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA) Report

Dr. O'Connor introduced the attending members Joseph Rappa and Dr. Argenziano

Mr. Rappa stated they have never discussed publicly the EQA report before the committee has had a chance to review it before. This was an extraordinary measure in order to help with the FY08 budget.

Mr. Argenziano stated that the report is standard based and data driven. Looking at data, policies and procedures the period of review was the 03-06 school year
Mr. Argenziano stated that during 03-06 there was no evidence of a district improvement plan in place. School systems need a vision mission, goal and an objective. This should have been presented annually. School improvement plans were not standardized or aligned to a district plan. There was limited evidence of use of data in student achievement. No child left behind provides data to the School Committee and the Superintendent; someone needs to analyze this data. Your budget should be tied into this data. There is no evidence that the school district used any of this data. The Superintendent in place during the review did not communicate with the school committee or the staff. School committee members were not trained. Members of the School Committee have gone far beyond their roll, micromanaging what should be the superintendent's decisions. There was no evidence of the use of MCAS information being used to allocate resources to those students identified as being in need. The Superintendent was not evaluated in public as stated in his contract. The school Committee stated an evaluation was completed, which the Superintendent was not happy with and it was consequently not placed in his file.
There was no evidence of a written plan of district wide professional development. MCAS scores showed the need for this. The increase in funding of 1.8% per year is inadequate to maintain and improve programs. Reductions were happening. The report stated school buildings were well maintained. They highlighted reductions in foreign language, Physical Education, Administration, clerical and maintenance. They

mentioned the revolving account audit. Cash missing from the Community Programs. School lunch program is depleted, and still there were no increases in the prices of lunches. There is a 5 year capital improvement. On scale of 1-100 North Andover is below 50%. As far as leadership North Andover is far below 50%. The students in the district are performing well despite a lack of curriculum, standards, failure to work in subgroups, insufficient funding. I applaud the students and teachers of North Andover for a job well done.

b. Public Participation- None

3. Old Business-

a. School committee discussion re: Proposed FY08 Budget

Al Perry stated that this is a lengthy process. The final budget should be presented to the public next week.

Dr. Ormsby wanted a breakdown of the 410,000 in curriculum line item. Dr. Bergeron stated the Elementary Science Adoption was just a place holder and that adjustments could be expected. The quote represented two recognized approaches. The textbook or inquiry based approach.

There was discussion on what would be needed to meet base budget, \$1,885,000. Were there any plans for receiving other amounts of money? Dr. Bergeron reiterated that any more reductions to the budget would not be acceptable.

Dr. Ormsby wanted to know if we charge the school lunch program for utilities or rent. Can the program create a positive cash flow?

Mr. Szymanski responded we currently do not charge the program. We are trying to stabilize and handle the deficit. There have been no decisions for the future. We are on track if we get the funding for the deficit.

There was a discussion on the EQA audit.

Barbara Whidden stated that the new budget could be crossed with the school improvement plans, bringing the improvement plans to together.

Al Perry stated we needed to pay attention to the three areas in the report, hiring, budget and policy. We need to read this report and bring some things together.

Bill Kelly noted that the EQA pointed out the limited use of data for school improvement. How much data are we using to justify the needs in curriculum and leadership initiatives?

Dr. Bergeron- There isn't an administrator who would be surprised by the EQA comments. It wouldn't be a big jump to tie the EQA to this budget. All of the proposals in this budget are deemed to be critical and reasonable and directly related to the issues raised by the EQA. We have gathered to do an analysis of MCAS scores. We offer coaching to administrators on ways to do an analysis on MCAS data. We realized Thomson was under-performing. We are building the content information available to the Thomson teachers. We are trying to develop an articulated k-12 curriculum. We

have initiatives taking place at the HS and Elementary levels that are related directly to the EQA findings.

There was discussion on the Selectman and Fincom members not supporting a special town meeting.

Dr. Ormsby wanted to get signatures to have a special town meeting called.

Bill Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations with non-union personnel. Ms. Whidden seconded the motion. Chairman Perry yes, Dr. Ormsby, yes, Mr. Pybus, yes, Mr. Kelly yes, Ms. Whidden yes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.