

NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 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.

1. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Recommended Action:
 - a. Warrants of Bills Payable- None
 - b. Cheryl Means Middle PTO president reminded the committee of the needs of Middle School, related arts and technology being top priority.
Mr. Kelly suggested a meeting be scheduled to discuss the Middle School needs in more detail.
A member of the public congratulated Mrs. Allen on her election to the School Committee. He asked the committee to discuss education and ways to improve it at each meeting.
There was a discussion on how to inform the community about what the restoration budget means.
3. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Unanticipated Placements in Out of District Programs
Dr. Joyce Laundre gave an update on the current outlook for added out of district placements. There have been a number of cases come forward over the last 5 weeks. If we don't work fast to make sure we have a program at the high school to offer these students we will have to spend \$30,000 each for out of district placement. There was a discussion on the proposed program for emotionally disabled students.
4. Old Business
 - a. Discussion re: Admin Council's Proposal FY08 Budget Additions
Dr. O'Connor discussed the council's prioritization list.
The high school accreditation is top of the list.
The elementary principal- We are in the final stages of selecting a person for at least one of these positions.
The restoration of teachers at the middle school for related arts and technology
Special Education proposed program funding
Science Adoption- There will be a presentation at the end of the month for the committee's approval.
Elementary teachers
The test wiz computer program
There was discussion on the legal and contractual obligations of some of the items on the list.

There was discussion on the \$250,000 one time allocation from the selectmen that funded the 5 long term substitutes for this year. These positions are not included in the level budget.

Ms. McQuade informed the committee of the prioritization of the related arts teachers at the Middle school. Then the technology program, technology is 25% of the eighth grade MCAS. There is a dire need for foreign language at the middle school.

Mr. Kelly thanked the committee for the hard work and relayed that we still have major issues to overcome.

Dr. Ormsby started a discussion on an article in the Sunday paper regarding Per pupil spending in North Andover compared to other school districts. There was discussion the interpretation of the different school budgets.

5. New Business

a. Approval of Softball Team Trip to Cape Cod

Tim Pybus made a motion to suspend the rules Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. Tim Pybus made a motion to approve the Softball Team's trip to Cape Cod for the Mashpee Softball Scrimmage. Motion was seconded by Dr. Ormsby. Roll call vote: Chairman, Bill Kelly, Yes, Vice Chair, Barbara Whidden, Yes, Dr. Ormsby, Yes, Tim Pybus, Yes, Chris Allen, Yes. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0

Dr. Ormsby made a presentation on Middle School grades and report cards. Dr. Ormsby stated his concern that 50-60% of Middle School students were on the honor roll. The most important question is are we properly communicating to parents and students how the student is doing in comparison to other students. What does a A, B, C, or D stand for in the Middle School. Mr. Ormsby expressed a need to make a decision as a school committee to accurately distribute grades to our students.

Mr. Kelly stated the need for a future meeting to discussion this and many other issues at the middle school.

Ms. McQuade explained the Middle school council has created a three stage plan to address grading at the middle school. They are piloting a reflections of learning grade. Things you cannot measure out in a grade. The school council is willing to give a full report on what they want as far as honor roll and grades are concerned. The high school has not had any complaints about the placement of the eighth graders into ninth grade.

Tim Pybus made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations with non-union personnel. Chris Allen seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Chairman, Bill Kelly, Yes, Vice Chair, Barbara Whidden, Yes, Dr. Ormsby, Yes, Tim Pybus, Yes, Chris Allen, Yes. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0
No recording secretary needed per Chairman Kelly.
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.