

NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2007  
Place: North Andover Middle School  
Present: Chairman William Kelly, Vice Chairman Barbara Whidden, Dr. Charles Ormsby, Tim Pybus, and Chris Allen

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

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Recommended Action:
  - a. Warrants of Bills Payable were circulated for signature
  - b. Public Participation  
A member of the public questioned Mr. Kelly on his election campaign flyer, which stated he would budget realistically to, known funds.  
Mr. Kelly stated that things change, my perception of the budget process has changed. We have a transparent budget, before we didn't. We know what we have for available revenue and we have task that needed to be done.
3. Superintendent's Report  
The Committee recognized Mr. Fortado, Interim Business Administrator  
Ms. Allen wanted to address the Warrants of Bills Payable. She suggested the warrants be available at a set time for the committee to review them.  
Mr. Fortado stated he would set this up
4. Old Business
  - a. Update on Superintendent Search  
Bill Kelly -Dr. James Marini has met with all members of the school committee.  
I would like to vote for the next superintendent for the school year 2007/2008.

Tim Pybus made a motion to appoint Dr. James Marini as interim Superintendent Of Schools. Ms. Allen seconded the motion.

Dr. Ormsby- I have every reason to believe he is competent. He is fully capable of doing a great job. I want to list some red flags. 1. His refusal to have a public review. Why was a public question and answer session not part of the process? 2. I haven't received a resume for Dr. Marini. I have never hired someone without a resume. 3. Dr. Marini is retiring from Winchester. I understand he is insisting on the maximum compensation. What is his motive for coming to North Andover purely financial? 4. The Interim status for Superintendent. That

concerns me. Will he have a long-term stake in our educational results? Will he improve curriculum and standards in our community. Will he take a tough stand?

Barbara Whidden would prefer to have a permanent Superintendent. We have a need for a strong central office team. He is willing to take on the challenge here in North Andover. I would like to amend the motion to state subject to the successful negotiation of the salary negotiations.

Tim Pybus- Dr. Marini is a qualified Superintendent, interviewed and researched by the search committee.

Chris Allen- we are fortunate to have an interim this strong. He is vigorous and interested in making a change. I think he is brave.

Bill Kelly- I have met with him three times. He is hardworking and straightforward. He is an educator and cares about kids.

Roll call vote on motion to amend. Chairman Bill Kelly, Yes, Vice Chairman Whidden, Yes, Dr. Ormsby, Yes, Tim Pybus, Yes, Chris Allen, Yes. Motion to amend passed 5-0

Roll call vote on the motion to appoint Dr. Marini subject to successful negotiation of salary that is mutually agreeable with the School Committee and the Interim Superintendent. Roll call vote Chairman, Bill Kelly, Yes, Vice Chairman, Whidden, Dr. Ormsby, abstained, Tim Pybus, Yes, Chris Allen, Yes. Motion passed 4-0.1

Motion to reconsider by Dr. Ormsby. Seconded by Tim Pybus

Motion to appoint Dr. Marini subject to successful negotiation of salary that is mutually agreeable with the School Committee and the Interim Superintendent. Roll call vote Chairman, Bill Kelly, Yes, Vice Chairman, Whidden, Dr. Ormsby, Yes, Tim Pybus, Yes, Chris Allen, Yes. Motion passed 5-0

b. Subcommittee Report on Redistricting Meeting

The committee discussed the legitimacy of moving the preschool to the Atkinson school and the Royal Crest students to Franklin.

There would be no savings in busing, the costs associated with moving the playground equipment to Atkinson would be costly. Chris Allen will be a member of a subcommittee to look at the schools and see how to utilize classroom space. No action was needed.

c. Presentation of Science Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Michelle Schribner presented the recommendation of the science curriculum committee

There was a question and answer session

Tim Pybus Would the books stand up to time? How are the kits replenished?

The kits are replenished for the first year and then there would be a marginal cost to replenish for future years, the books are used in class, not taken home.

Dr. Ormsby Are there any test results from schools who are using the kit? Any approach, or feedback from other districts that are using this?

The program is too new for gathering this type of information. There are research studies that back each program. People are testing and many communities are supporting these programs.

Dr. Ormsby- is there a five-year cost matrix, or a 5-10 year plan?

Dr. Bergeron- That would be a challenge where we don't know what science will look at 5 years down the road. This is the best program. The key is not in the product you put in the teachers hand it is the training you give to the teachers to implement the product.

Ms. Scribner we are looking at different types of learning. Scientists, psychologists and educators put the kits together. Each kit comes with a textbook. We want our student to read about science. Hands on approach helps get them enthusiastic about learning.

Bill Kelly there are still some questions, we would like to see more comparisons of the programs

Dr. Ormsby made a motion that the Committee has heard the science committees report and thanks them for all their hard work. Barbara Whidden seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. 5-0

d. Discussion regarding FY08 Budget

There was debate about raiding the stabilization fund. The budget communications meeting drafted a resolution for all committees and Selectman to sign stating no one would ask to take from the stabilization fund and the other town boards would support an override. There was debate about the legality of the meeting and the amount of money the resolution would support.

5. New Business

a. Approval of the 2007-2008 School Calendar

Barbara Whidden questioned why the first graders have a half-day the first day of school.

Dr. Ormsby questioned the two half curriculum days.

The calendar will be voted on May 8, 2007

b. Future Agenda Items

Dr. O'Connor presented the committee with a list of possible items for future meetings

Tim Pybus made a motion to adjourn. Chris Allen seconded the motion. Roll call vote Chairman, Bill Kelly, Yes, Vice Chairman, Whidden, Dr. Ormsby, Yes, Tim Pybus, Yes, Chris Allen, Yes. Motion passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.