

NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 25, 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- none
 - b. Public Participation - noneBarbara Whidden congratulated Marylou Connors of the preschool for receiving the Children First Award.
3. Superintendent's Report

Dr. O'Connor informed the committee that the first day of School for 1st graders will be a full day of school, also the last day of school will be June 20, 2007
Mr. Fortado advised the committee that the warrants of Bills Payable will be available on Mondays and Tuesdays before the School Committee meetings.
4. Continued Discussion Regarding Middle School

Ms. McQuade and members of the Middle School staff and PTO put together an impressive slide presentation explaining what happens in Middle School. Please see attached.

There was a discussion regarding the necessity and the convenience and positive results of a tri-semester program.

There was discussion on the foreign language program at the Middle School and the Middle school working with the High School to prepare for these students who haven't had any consistent foreign language in Middle School.

Liz Mount a Middle School teacher explained what is meant by informal assessment, which can be varied from working with small groups of students to make sure they are getting the programs to having students assess what they have learned during the day. Students no longer are given the opportunity to do extra credit work to bring up a lower grade.

Bill Kelly introduced the Chair of the Fincom Mr. Michael Batsimm.

Mr. Batsimm reiterated that the Fincom is of the opinion that spending any money from the stabilization fund is not prudent. The auditors and Department of Revenue recommend a reserve fund of 5% of the annual budget. We have \$1.1 million, which is very short of this recommendation. Having lower reserves raises your credit rating. Emergency money should not be used to support an operating budget. If the town needs additional funding it needs an override.

Return to discussion on the Middle School

Kathy Core a Middle school teacher and parent - We need related arts. Not everyone who graduates high school is going to be an engineer. Middle school is supposed to be exploratory. This is where students start to develop different interests. We need to trust the professional middle school staff. We know what we are doing.

Dr. Ormsby the issue of the four versus five classes a day is a common issue. The fundamental problem is we don't look at alternatives and way disadvantages and advantages of each.

There was a discussion on the team time used in the beginning of the day. This discussion was put of for another day,

Mr. Kelly asked how the Math curriculum is going

Mrs. Sharp It is exciting to see what the students are learning. How different units are connecting together. We are still not content with the MCAS scores but we are working on giving the students a higher learning experience.

Mr. Kelly Thanked the Middle school presenter and cautioned that budgetary issues will be the rule of the day.

Mr. Kelly requested a meeting on Wednesday to follow up on the meeting with the budget communications committee on Tuesday.

There was a discussion on what is being represented at the budget communications meetings on behalf of the school committee.

Barbara Whidden relayed that the discussion of fees and reviewing the revolving accounts for the FY08 budget needs to happen.

There was discussion of the feasibility of aligning the fees by sport.

Dr, Ormsby wanted to know when there would be more discussion on the Middle school issues.

Chris Allen made a motion to adjourn. Tim Pybus seconded motion.

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

Meeting was adjourned