

**North Andover Public Schools  
School Committee Meeting  
May 24, 2007**

Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the NAHS Lecture Hall. Present were School Committee Members Allen, Kelly, Ormsby, Pybus and Whidden. Also present were Superintendent O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent Bergeron and Business Manager Fortado.

**Executive Session**

**Mr. Pybus moved to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation and strategies relating to negotiations and to return to regular session at 7:00 p.m.. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0, Allen, Kelly, Ormsby, Pybus and Whidden voted yes.**

Chair Kelly called the meeting back to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Recommended Action:**

- Warrants of Bills Payable were circulated for signature
- Public Input – None

**Public Hearing re: School Choice**

Chair Kelly opened the hearing on school choice. Dr. O'Connor explained the DOE requirement that each year, prior to June 30th, the School Committee hold a public hearing and vote on whether to participate in school choice for the upcoming school year.

**Mr. Pybus made a motion that the North Andover School Committee vote not to participate in school choice due to district enrollment, class size, facility issues and for programmatic reasons. Ms. Allen seconded the vote.**

Dr. Ormsby stated that putting aside the issues of class size and facilities, it seemed that school choice could be a profitable endeavor for NASC since North Andover would be receiving tuition for out of district students to attend school and our fixed costs would remain the same. He asked Dr. O'Connor to respond.

Dr. O'Connor stated that for North Andover school choice is a bad idea. He stated that North Andover is having trouble providing the types of programs we want for our own students and we are unsure about the future so school choice is not a good option for North Andover. He stated that once a district accepts a student in school choice that student has the right to attend North Andover schools through grade 12.

Ms. Allen asked whether we could pick and chose the student grade levels.

Mr. Fortado stated that the Committee could set the number of students the district would accept and the grade level of those students. He also informed the Committee that there

is a cap on the amount of money the district will receive per student. He stated that currently that cap is \$5,000.

Mr. Pybus stated is concern that by opening the district up to school choice we could end up with students from other districts who are leaving their district because of problems they have had and those problems may well become North Andover's problems.

Mr. Fortado acknowledged that although districts can select the number of students and the grades of students to accept the actual students are selected by lottery.

Mr. Fortado discussed his experience in Georgetown with school choice.

Dr. Ormsby asked if the district would be protected against special education costs for incoming choice students.

Mr. Fortado stated that the special education department would provide data to the DOE and the state would determine how much to charge the sending district to pay for services.

**The vote was 5-0 Allen, Kelly, Ormsby, Pybus and Whidden voted yes.**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. O'Connor announced three new administrators, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Roy and Mr. Jackson. Dr. O'Connor stated that the new administrators would start July 1<sup>st</sup> and would be involved in the evaluation course over the summer. Dr. O'Connor asked Dr. Bergeron whether the Association has accepted the new teacher evaluation program.

Dr. Bergeron stated that during the last negotiations the Association agreed to join in partnership with the School Committee to redo the evaluation instrument. He stated that Association is set to go with the new evaluation.

Chair Kelly reviewed the School Committee calendar. He noted the walk through of the Bradstreet School was a posted meeting so any member that wanted to attend could do so. He informed the Committee of an error on the calendar, the meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> is noted as a Tuesday when it is actually a Thursday. He asked that the Committee meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> begin at 6:30 p.m. rather than 7:00 p.m. There was no objection to the request. Chair Kelly asked that members email him there vacation schedules so meetings could scheduled over the summer. He estimated two or three meetings would be held during the summer.

Mr. Kelly thanked Mr. Fortado for his work on the FY08 budget document.

Mr. Fortado thanked Camille McLaughlin, Supervisor of Accounts, for her help in putting the budget document together. He stated that since he can't claim ownership to this document he would like members of the Committee to call or email him with any areas in need of clarification.

Mr. Pybus asked when whether the Committee could anticipate receiving monthly budget updates.

Mr. Fortado discussed the conversion to Unifund. He noted that Unifund is a user friendly system that will show monthly and year to date actuals but not monthly budget.

Dr. Ormsby stated that the budget update format put together by Ms. Whidden and Mr. Maguire was a good format. He also requested a spending profile on major line items be provided in late November.

Mr. Fortado stated that he would put something together for the Committee to review.

Mr. Pybus stated that the Committee should also be kept informed of any unexpected expenditures.

Ms. Whidden asked that Mr. Fortado provide copies of the FY08 budget to the Finance Committee and that the Finance Committee be provided with copies of the monthly updates as well.

Dr. O'Connor discussed the NAHS band's upcoming trip to Washington to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Allen discussed the role of the Facilities Review Subcommittee. She stated that this is not a redistricting committee. The goal of the committee is to look at facilities and determine what the optimal use of all facilities would be including the high school, middle school and Bradstreet School. In addition, she stated that the subcommittee would be looking at possible additions, buildings, or portables. She stated that the Facilities Review Committee would put that information into a clear and concise format and report back to the School Committee. She stated that the first meeting is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the NAMS library.

Chair Kelly stated that on June 7<sup>th</sup> he would be attending the MASC Northeast Division Meeting in Chelmsford. He stated that the purpose of these meeting is to allow a dialogue between communities regarding potential cost sharing. He stated that the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was to look at ways to cost share in the area of special education. He invited all Committee members to attend and requested that Joyce Laundre, Director of Special Education be invited to attend.

**At 7:55 p.m. Mr. Pybus made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Whidden seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Allen, Kelly, Ormsby, Pybus and Whidden voted yes.**