

## NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2007

PLACE: North Andover Town Hall—Selectmen’s Meeting Room

PRESENT: William Kelly Chair, Charles C. Ormsby, Tim Pybus, and Tim Pybus  
Chris Allen was absent

Also Present: Richard Bergeron, Acting Superintendent, Steve Fortado, Business Manager, and members of the community.

I. Call to Order: Chairman William Kelly called the meeting of the North Andover School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Recommended Action:

Warrants of bills payable were circulated for signature.

Public Participation: No issues were raised by the public for discussion.

Mr. Kelly noted that the override of June 19, 2007, passed by 400 votes which would allow the District to fund additional teaching positions on the “additions list” prepared by the administrators.

III. Superintendent’s Report

Acting Superintendent Richard Bergeron made his Exit Plan available for members of the School Committee to read, commenting that it gives insight into the office of the Assistant Superintendent.

Appointment of Sick Bank Administrative Representative:

Dr. Bergeron stated that the position would be more appropriately held by the Human Resource Director.

Motion was made by Barbara Whidden to appoint the Human Resource Director as the Sick Bank Representative. The motion was seconded by Charles Ormsby.

Discussion followed, and Mr. Pybus asked why the position should go to the Personnel Director. Dr. Bergeron explained that this person would have knowledge of the teacher contract and be aware of sick days that an employee has available.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

School Improvement Plans:

Dr. Bergeron stated that School Improvement Plans were being gathered and will be made available to the Committee in July.

Special Progress Report – NAHS:

Dr. Bergeron stated that High School Principal, Susan Nicholson, did a great job in creating a positive response to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Mr. Kelly stated that the School Committee would hear back from NEAS&C in the fall.

Mr. Kelly then acknowledged the success of the Girls Softball Team which had played in the State Championship. He stated that although the team lost the final game 2 to 1, they were 24 and 1 for the season. Mr. Kelly also acknowledged the Middle School Math Team who did quite well at a recent competition. He stated that the sixth grade team finished 25 out of 200, and the seventh and eighth grade teams also finished in the top echelon.

#### IV. New Business

##### Summer Meetings Schedule – School Committee:

Mr. Kelly asked the Committee to set a date for a working session where the School Committee would spend the better part of a day working with Dr. Marini and the new Assistant Superintendent. Barbara Whidden recommended Monday, July 16. She noted that the committee must also reorganize in July as well. Mr. Kelly reported that Chris Allen was not in attendance as she was recovering from surgery but said he thought she would be available for the July meeting. It was noted that in the past a representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees had spoken at the summer meeting. Mr. Kelly stated this may again be a possibility but not for the whole day, as it was necessary to have a good working session to make plans for the next school year. Mr. Kelly asked that the Committee think of meeting twice in August if everyone is available, although they may not need both nights. It was agreed to set August 14 and August 28 as the dates for the summer meetings. Mr. Kelly stated if there was a need to change the dates, he would let the members know.

##### Appointment of Lead nurse and School Nurse:

Dr. Bergeron recommended that the position of lead nurse and school nurse be separated if it were the will of the Committee. Dr. Bergeron recommended that Cheryl Barczak be appointed as .6 Lead Nurse and Anne McMonagle be appointed as school fill-in nurse (.4 at the Middle School and .6 at the High School).

Motion was made by Charles Ormsby to appoint Cheryl Barczak as .6 Lead Nurse. The motion was seconded by Tim Pybus.

Mrs. Whidden commented that she had only heard wonderful things about Cheryl's work. Mr. Pybus asked if the position was grant funded and was told that the district's Mental Health Grant pays for .4 of her salary.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was then made by Barbara Whidden and seconded by Tim Pybus to appoint Anne McMonagle to a full-time school nurse position. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

##### Special Education Department Staffing:

Joyce Laundre, Director of Special Education, noted that Grant 94-142 used to support Special Education paraprofessionals is slightly less than \$1,000,000. Through the redesign of special education programs in some of the buildings, Ms. Laundre reported that she was able to meet the needs of students with five fewer paraprofessionals. Ms. Laundre asked that the resulting savings be used to fund 1.5 much needed Educational Team Leaders. Ms. Laundre then asked that the Committee to approve moving \$60,000 from the Tuition Expense line item to Teachers' Salaries, noting that she would use the money to hire a dedicated teacher for an intensive language instruction program at the Middle School. She stated this would avoid the need of placing two or three students who are at risk in an out-placement program.

Motion was made by Barbara Whidden to move \$60,000 from the Private School Tuition line item to the Teachers' Salaries line item in the FY08 budget. The motions was seconded by Charles Ormsby for purposes of discussion.

In response to Dr. Ormsby's question as to whether the District pays health benefits, Ms. Laundre responded that the position would probably cost \$46,000 but that she would like to have the difference available in

the line item. A discussion ensued, concluding with a statement by Chairman Kelly that it should be School Committee Policy that the Committee is aware of the potential cost of benefits.

A voice vote was taken, and the motions passed unanimously.

Discussion of Central Office Lease Extension:

Business Manager Steve Fortado brought the School Committee up to date on the current lease with RCG LLC and its obligations if the lease is extended. Mr. Fortado advised the Committee that the current lease expires on July 31, 2008 and that RCG send a letter in March, 2007, offering an extension. Mr. Fortado added that notice should be given at least 9 months in advance if the lease is to be extended and that it could be extended up to three years without the necessity of an RFP. A discussion ensued, and members of the Committee brought forward other options, including: putting out an RFP for other commercial space, pursuing a one-year or two-year lease, and reducing the square footage requirement. Mr. Fortado cautioned that in analyzing any move, the cost of re-location and retrofitting the facility must be considered. Mrs. Whidden stated that she would like to explore what school-owned property options there are, if any. Mr. Kelly stated that his goal would be to pay zero rent by getting back into public space, and concluded the discussion by stating that he would discuss the matter with Dr. Marini.

Approval of School Committee Minutes:

Motion was made by Tim Pybus to accept the School Committee Minutes of January 16, 30, February 13, 15 and 27, March 7, April 4, 10, 24 and 15, May 2, 24, and June 5, 2007. Barbara Whidden seconded the motion.

Barbara Whidden suggested that a process be put in place to approve School Committee Minutes at every meeting or every other meeting. Chairman Kelly said that it had been done bi-monthly and suggested that the Minutes be approved and put on the Website on a monthly basis. Mrs. Whidden suggested that the School Committee secretary report to Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Kelly agreed to take this action item. Dr. Ormsby suggested that a DVD be kept of each meeting, and Mrs. Whidden stated that the School Committee has a line in the budget that would pay for it. Members of the Committee asked that, in addition to minor spelling errors in some meeting Minutes, the meeting Minutes be changed to reflect the following corrections:

January 30, 2007: 1) Reflect that former Chairman Al Perry was at the meeting. 2) Top of page 2: "Dr. Ormsby amended the motion to fund related arts subject to a 3 million dollar budget *increase*."

April 24, 2007: Top of page 2: "*Will he have a long-term stake in our educational results*"?

May 24, 2007: Page 1: "Dr. Ormsby stated that putting aside the issues of class size and facilities, it seemed that school choice *could be* a profitable endeavor . . ." The vote occurred after the discussion.

Barbara Whidden asked what Middle School related arts positions would be paid from the supplemental budget and Merrimack College. Chairman Kelly stated that there was a need to acknowledge Merrimack College gifts on an annual basis, as well as gifts from PTOs, etc. He stated that the web site could be used for that purpose. What positions for related arts from M.S. would be paid from the supplemental budget and Merrimack College. BW.

A voice vote was taken and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes with the above changes reflected in the Minutes.

VI. Old Business

Bradstreet Visit – Tracy Watson and Subcommittee tour:

Tracy Watson reported that on Thursday, June 7, Judy Komer, a building engineer, two general contractors, Vinnie Valentino, a representative from the Fire Department and she had toured the Bradstreet Elementary School building. She stated that they were there to look at the physical aspects of the building and that it was in fantastic condition to be renovated and maintained. In answer to Dr. Ormsby's question about what it would take to bring it

up to code, Ms. Watson replied that it would have to be completely gutted. The cost would be between \$2 million and \$10 million depending on the intended use, Ms. Watson stated, adding that to turn it into a school would be more expensive due to code regulations. Ms. Watson ended her report by saying that the Subcommittee was lucky to have professionals view the building, and they all agreed it is a viable building.

Barbara Whidden then took the opportunity to thank the teachers, staff, administrators and principals for a great job during a tough year. She also thanked the Elementary Science Committee, the Superintendent Search Committee, Committees at the High School working on the NEASC visit, and North Andover United for its work on the override. She thanked the graduates and wished them success and Dr. O'Connor. In particular, she thanked Dr. Bergeron for his dedication and guidance, saying that he is a great man with great integrity. She also thanked School Committee Chair Bill Kelly for his work during a very tough three months.

## VII. Adjourn

On motion made by Barbara Whidden and seconded by Tim Pybus at 8:00 p.m. it was voted to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with non-union personnel. The voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, North Andover School Committee