

**North Andover Public Schools
School Committee Meeting**

Date: August 14, 2007

Place: NAHS Lecture Hall

Present: Members Allen, Kelly, Ormsby, Pybus and Whidden. Also present were Interim Superintendent Marini, Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson and Business Manager Fortado.

Call To Order

Senior Member Dr. Ormsby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Ormsby advised that the agenda would be taken out of order. He stated that the School Committee reorganization would be first on the agenda and the Committee would then take comments from the public.

School Committee Reorganization

Dr. Ormsby asked for nominations for Chair.

Mr. Kelly nominated Ms. Whidden for Chair. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Whidden voted yes.

Dr. Ormsby asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

Ms. Whidden nominated Mr. Kelly for Vice Chair. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Whidden voted yes.

Dr. Ormsby asked for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Pybus nominated Ms. Allen for Secretary. Ms. Whidden seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Whidden voted yes.

Chair Whidden thanked Mr. Kelly for his hard work as Chair during difficult times. She stated that Mr. Kelly was instrumental in bringing Dr. Marini to the district and working with North Andover United on the override.

Public Comment

Sandy Glead of North Andover United stated that North Andover United is encouraging, in the spirit of the Joint Resolution, the three boards (School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee) to schedule a forum sometime in mid-October with the State Representatives and State Senators to discuss the FY09 budget. She stated that North Andover United feels it is important that the community go into the budget season with full knowledge of what the Town will be facing. North Andover United is offering to facilitate the publication of this meeting to all segments of the community, facilitate the submission of questions ahead of time, and help with the flow of discussion. Ms. Glead stated that she would be meeting with the FinCom and the Board of Selectmen

over the next few weeks to ask them to consider participating in the forum as well. She asked the Committee to take some time this evening to discuss the benefits of participating in the forum.

Ms. Gleed also discussed a new recycling partnership between the Schools and DPW. She noted that this partnership had the potential to save the Town a significant amount of money.

The Committee discussed the request from North Andover United. Chair Whidden requested the proposed forum be included on the next School Committee agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Stan Lipad expressed concern regarding the new high school schedule and asked for the School Committee's thoughts on the change.

Chair Whidden stated that the Committee would be discussing this issue under Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini informed the Committee that Dr. Carla Scuzzarella had been hired as high school principal and John Longley as athletic director. Dr. Marini gave a brief overview of Dr. Scuzzarella's and Mr. Longley's qualifications and experience.

Dr. Marini stated that as of yesterday the district had hired 59 people, 39 as replacements for resignations/retirements/leaves of absence and 20 for new positions included in either the original budget or override budget.

Dr. Marini stated that the Administrative Council (principals, assistant principals and central office staff) had just completed a two day retreat. The purpose of the meeting was to develop goals. Dr. Marini and Dr. Hutchinson discussed SMART (Specific & Strategic, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Based and Time-Bound) goals. Dr. Marini informed the Committee that the goals would be brought before the School Committee sometime in mid-September.

Chair Whidden asked Dr. Marini whether anything could be done to provide access to the elementary libraries even though the Committee was unable to fund the elementary librarian positions.

Dr. Marini stated that he had met with Principal McQuade to discuss the possibility of using the middle school librarian to work with parent volunteers for the elementary libraries. He cautioned that this would have to be done on a small scale as he did not want to dilute the middle school library program.

Dr. Marini and the Committee discussed the change in the high school schedule which now includes a seminar period for each class each week. The seminar period is designed as a working session to allow students to get extra help, review material, or make up work. North Andover High School's schedule is on a six day cycle. Each teacher teaches four one hour classes per day plus a seminar. On the day they don't have a seminar they teach five one hour classes. Students have six classes in their daily schedule. The working session is considered time on learning. There was no cost to the

district to make this change. It was noted that the new schedule enables high school staff to address support for students in a meaningful way. For further clarification on the new schedule, the Committee requested a copy of a teacher's schedule be sent to them. The Committee also requested that representatives from the high school administration, staff and students attend a School Committee meeting to discuss the new schedule later in the year.

The Committee requested that student representatives be appointed to the School Committee as had been done in the past.

Ms. Pristash stated that although she did not serve on the Committee that looked into the schedule change, she was aware that members of the administration, staff, students, parents and school council members were on the Committee. She stated that the group made this recommendation after careful and thoughtful study.

Mr. Pybus stated that during the budget process the Committee spent time reviewing put backs to the budget and asked whether those put backs were being adhered to.

Dr. Marini stated that the put backs were being adhered to and that a complete reconciliation would be presented to the Committee at the next regular meeting.

Ms. Allen asked for an update on the middle school.

Dr. Marini stated that the schedule has been completed and band and chorus are year long programs this year. He stated that Ms. McQuade has worked hard to respond to the needs of the community with the resources available. He stated that Ms. McQuade would be working with Dr. Hutchinson this year looking at the middle school philosophy in a broader perspective.

Mr. Kelly asked whether the Committee would have an opportunity to meet the new high school principal.

Dr. Marini stated that he has asked all new administrators to attend one of the School Committee meetings in September.

Old Business

Dr. Marini and the Committee thanked the North Andover Foundation for Education for their generous donation of \$18,000 to go towards funding an art teacher at the high school.

Mr. Pybus moved that the School Committee accept the \$18,000 gift from the North Andover Foundation for Education to be used to fund a teaching position at North Andover High School. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby, M r. Kelly, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.

New Business

The Committee discussed the proposed School Committee Calendar. It was agreed to approve the calendar with the following additions:

- August 28th meeting will be changed from a regular meeting to a School Committee retreat to be held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the high school library.
- A working session will be added on October 2nd. The purpose of the working session will be to determine guidelines for the FY09 budget. This meeting will be held in the NAHS library.
- A third budget session will be added on January 8th. This meeting will be held in the Selectmen's meeting room if available.

Chair Whidden stated that she will be working with Dr. Marini to develop the agenda items for the year. In addition, there would be some changes to the agenda format. The agenda for the first meeting of each month will include an update on education and curriculum from Dr. Hutchinson and the agenda for the second meeting of each month will include a financial update from Mr. Fortado. Subcommittee updates will be included on all agendas. Chair Whidden stated that Mr. Kelly would be coordinating a way to recognize the achievement of students, staff and volunteers at School Committee meetings.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2007, June 26, 2007, and July 17, 2007 with changes as noted by Ms. Allen on the minutes of June 26, 2007. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.

Dr. Ormsby asked that a system be put in place to follow up on requests made at meetings. He stated that school improvement plans, a budget update from the Special Education Director, and an update on the Food Services account should all be scheduled for future agendas as noted in previous minutes.

Dr. Marini stated that he would put a system in place.

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Kelly moved to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation, not to return to regular session. Mr. Pybus seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden voted yes.

No recording secretary required for executive session.

Approved 9/6/07