

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: October 18, 2007

Location: Selectmen's Meeting Room – Town Hall

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

Call to Order

Chair Whidden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Cindy Jalbert thanked the Enrichment Council for funding Rachel's Challenge at the high school. She stated that the program was very well received by students and parents.

Recognition

Mr. Kelly discussed the recognition program. Dr. Scuzarella recognized the following students: Colleen O'Grady as a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, Commended Students Catherine Chamberlain, Andrew Chen, Scott Flanz, Brianne Kumar, Harmony Lu, Colin McEntee, Caitlin Murphy, Abigail O'Neil, Muna Sheikh, Kayly Tillman, Elizabeth Webber and Victoria Winslow, and Eric Martin as an Outstanding Participant.

A parent thanked the Committee for adding recognition of student's academic achievement to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini discussed the Rachel's Challenge Program.

Dr. Marini stated that Dr. Hutchinson and the principals have been analyzing the MCAS scores and Dr. Hutchinson would be giving a preliminary report this evening and a more detailed report in November.

Chair Whidden stated that because the report this evening was preliminary the Committee would not be taking public comment. Public comment will be taken during the formal report in November. Chair Whidden encouraged parents with child specific questions to contact their principal.

Dr. Hutchinson gave a preliminary report on the district's MCAS scores.

In response to a question regarding the decrease in the percentage of seniors taking the SATs Dr. Scuzarella stated that it could be that more students taking the SAT in their junior year are doing well enough that they opt not to take the SAT again.

Dr. Hutchinson explained that high school students select which science MCAS test they will take. The MCAS science test will become a binding test with the current sophomores.

Ms. Whidden asked if an analysis would be done on scores for special education students from out of district schools. Dr. Hutchinson stated that he would look into that.

Dr. Marini stated that three high school students had volunteered to serve as representatives on the School Committee.

Old Business

Adoption of Guidelines re: Public Comment

The Committee discussed the proposed guidelines, their encouragement of public comment on issues, and their concern that public comment not be a forum for community members to come forward to criticize individual School Committee members

In response to a question raised by Dr. Ormsby regarding the public being able to make a presentation to the Committee, Chair Whidden stated that she was drafting a guideline on how the public can add items to a School Committee agenda.

Dr. Ormsby requested two minor changes to the public comment guidelines: for a period *of up to 15-20 minutes...* and change goals to *goal*.

Mr. Pybus moved to accept the North Andover School Committee's Guidelines for Public Comment with the two minor changes as noted. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.

Adoption of 2007-2008 Goals

Dr. Marini noted that an additional goal regarding technology had been added to the memorandum. In response to a question regarding the goal indicating class size, Dr. Marini stated that the goals are to serve as guidelines to the administration not binding to the School Committee.

Dr. Ormsby requested that a timeline for appropriate goals be presented to the Committee.

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the updated 2007-2008 system goals as written and presented. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden voted yes.

Dr. Marini asked that the goals be posted on the website.

FY08 Budget Presentation

Dr. Marini stated that Mr. Fortado would be updating the Committee on the FY08 budget this evening. He thanked Mr. Fortado and Town Accountant Lyne Savage for their work with the new software program and noted that additional changes and adjustments would continue to be made to the format of budget updates.

Mr. Fortado made a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the need with the decentralized budget for principals and administrators to be held accountable through the evaluation process for their management of their building/department budgets.

In response to concerns by the Committee Mr. Fortado stated he would be working to make line item names more descriptive.

Chair Whidden stated that she will be working with MASC to draft a policy for the Committee regarding budget transfer authority and procedures.

Status of Grants

Mr. Fortado updated the Committee on the status of the FY08 grants.

In response to questions by the Committee, Mr. Fortado stated that he would get back to the Committee with information on how much grants have increased since last year, whether we applied for more competitive grants this year, and an analysis of the full day kindergarten grant/tuition.

Dr. Hutchinson discussed the title one grant.

Update re: Food Services Revolving Account

Mr. Fortado and Ms. Murphy discussed the food services revolving account budget.

Ms. Murphy responded to questions by Dr. Ormsby regarding the July beginning balance and the August ending balance and whether the numbers presented were actuals.

Ms. Allen moved to table the approval of the Food Services Revolving Account budget until the next financial report and receipt of the adjusted numbers. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.

Other Business

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the regular session minutes of September 20, 2007 and October 2, 2007. Mr. Pybus seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel Subcommittee

Chair Whidden stated that the subcommittee met last week and noted that Mr. Santilli had shared with the subcommittee the Town's new policy manual. She stated that as the subcommittee begins to compile a manual for the schools they would be looking at the Town's manual as well as manuals from surrounding communities.

Facilities Usage Fee Subcommittee

Mr. Kelly stated that a public hearing would be held on October 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school lecture hall to give the public an opportunity to give input on the proposed revisions to the policy.

Facilities Planning Review Subcommittee Presentation

Subcommittee members Chris Allen and Stan Limpert gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee regarding the high school. Mr. Limpert stated that he, Leanna Pristash and Greg Gilligan were tasked with looking at the high school to see if excess space (interior/exterior) existed at the high school that could be used for other services.

Ms. Allen noted that the preliminary finding at the high school is that we are running a tight ship and there does not appear to be space, interior or exterior, for other services. Ms. Allen stated that the subcommittee anticipates making three presentations to the Committee and will have one complete book which includes information on all school space. This book will be used as a living document. She noted that after the presentations the subcommittee would be making a recommendation to the Committee.

The Committee thanked the Facilities Planning Review Subcommittee for their work.

Ms. Allen stated that she would like to present the middle school as soon as possible.

Budget Communication Group

Mr. Kelly stated he anticipates a late October/early November meeting.

Regional Collaboration Group

Mr. Kelly stated that the group would be meeting on October 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at NAHS.

Executive Session

At 9:17 p.m. Mr. Kelly moved to enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and pending litigation, and to approve executive session minutes. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.