

**North Andover School Committee  
Regular Session**

Date: December 11, 2007

Location: NAHS Lecture Hall

Present: Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden, Student Representatives Healey, Moraites and Kinneman. Also present were Superintendent Marini, Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson, and Business Manager Fortado. Mr. Kelly arrived at 7:05 p.m.

**Call to Order**

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

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Chairman's Report**

Chair Whidden stated that with no objection she would be eliminate the first reading of facilities usage fee policy from the agenda this evening in order to allow the subcommittee time to discuss additional information they received. The middle school presentation and executive session would also be eliminated from this evening's agenda.

Chair Whidden stated that the budget calendar has been finalized and would be posted on local cable. She stated that she will meet with the PTO presidents to inform them of the dates of meetings.

**Student Representatives' Report**

There was no student representative report.

**Recognition**

The Committee recognized Nate Richards, Danielle Coughlin, Dan Cosmes and Nick Smith for the program they created to educate all students about students with disabilities.

Dr. Marini thanked the students for their work and for having the courage to teach other students about this important issue.

Mr. Kelly read the citation from Principal Joan McQuade.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Marini had no items to report.

## **MCAS Presentation**

Dr. Hutchinson gave a power point presentation on the MCAS scores and AYP. He discussed trends for concern and specific district initiatives for 2007-2008. Each principal discussed the areas of accomplishment and the areas of concern for their schools and how those concerns are being addressed.

Chair Whidden thanked Dr. Hutchinson and the principals for the presentation and for talking about accomplishments as well as challenges.

In response to questions raised by the Committee, the administrators discussed the high school MCAS science testing sequence, the scores of the low income subgroup, aligning curriculum with MCAS testing and the reason it takes so long for the districts to receive the MCAS results from the Department of Education.

Dr. Ormsby requested that in addition to looking at scoring categories, the administration also looks at information on average scores.

Chair Whidden opened the meeting to questions from the public.

Ms. Dawn Cristecilli gave her views on what has occurred at the Thomson School over the last few years. She stated that she thinks low income subgroup is being used as a crutch, Title I funds were used for district wide Reading teachers rather than being targeted to the Thomson School and that the Thomson School has taken the most staff cuts of all the schools.

Ms. Holly Breen stated that if you take away the low income and special education subgroup scores from the Thomson School scores, the school is still scoring much lower than other schools in the district. She applauded the working being done by Mr. McAleer, but asked what would be done to ensure that her child at the Thomson School was receiving an education equal to that of a child at any other North Andover elementary school.

Dr. Marini stated that he is absolutely committed to ensuring that every child in North Andover receives an equal education. He stated that although this cannot be resolved immediately the administration is already working on this issue.

Chair Whidden stated that it is the Committee's goal to have written curriculum that is consistent across the district.

Ann Marie Ericco stated that she was pleased to hear about all the positive work that is being done. However, she wanted to express her concerns about Sargent's MCAS scores as well. She stated that curriculum and planning and communication need to be addressed. She asked what the process is if a teacher is unable to complete all the curriculum work assigned for the year, who is advised and how is this addressed.

Dr. Hutchinson stated that the system is loose right now and the district depends on principals and the teachers to communicate this information.

Ms. Brenda Reeve asked how school improvement plans could help with consistency among the elementary schools.

Dr. Marini stated school improvement plans are developed to address the needs of the particular school but that coordinated curriculum and instruction should be a part of the plans.

Ms. Allen stated her concern that the physical facilities of the schools be consistent as well.

Chair Whidden stated that Dr. Hutchinson will address curriculum issues at the first meeting each month.

### **Minutes**

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of March 24, 2006. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.**

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the regional school committee minutes of October 22, 2007. Mr. Pybus seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0-1 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden voted yes, Dr. Ormsby abstained.**

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of November 1, 2007. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.**

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Chair Whidden stated that the personnel subcommittee is looking at updating the health benefit policy and the sexual harassment policy.

Mr. Kelly stated that the Facilities Usage Fee Subcommittee would be scheduling an additional meeting to address some new questions that were raised.

Ms. Allen stated that the Facilities Review committee would be ready to make the middle school presentation as soon as they meet with Superintendent Marini and Principal McQuade.

Dr. Marini stated that if there were no objections from the Committee he would be forming a Superintendent's committee regarding athletics.

Mr. Kelly stated that there was no update for the Athletics Subcommittee, the Budget and Communications Group or the Regional Collaboration Group.

**Adjourn**

**At 9:30 p.m. Mr. Pybus moved to adjourn. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Ms. Whidden.**

Approved 1/3/08