

**North Andover School Committee  
Regular Session**

Date: April 3, 2008

Location: NAHS Lecture Hall

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

**Call to Order**

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Whidden called the meeting to order and welcomed new school committee members Limpert and Nobile.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Reorganization**

**Ms. Allen nominated Mr. Limpert to serve as Vice Chair of the School Committee. Mr. Nobile seconded the nomination. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden voted yes.**

**Subcommittee Appointments**

Chair Whidden made the following subcommittee appointments:

Personnel Subcommittee:	Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden
Athletics Subcommittee:	Mr. Nobile
Town-wide Technology:	Mr. Limpert
Budget Communications:	Mr. Nobile and Ms. Whidden
Superintendent Search:	Dr. Ormsby and Mr. Limpert
NATA Negotiations:	Ms. Allen and Mr. Nobile
Paraprofessionals:	Ms. Whidden
Nurses Negotiations:	Ms. Allen
Policy Book:	Ms. Allen and Ms. Whidden
Curriculum:	Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden
Facilities Review	Ms. Allen and Mr. Limpert
Facilities Usage Fee:	Ms. Allen and Mr. Limpert
School Building:	Mr. Kelly and Mr. Pybus will remain

Mr. Limpert will be taking over the recognition portion of the agenda.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Marini stated that Transportation Coordinator Pam Zengilowski is present this evening to discuss the proposed change in bell times to bring relief to overcrowded busses.

Ms. Zengilowski discussed the proposed changes to the bell times and the impact those changes would have on the bus routes. In response to a question from the Committee Ms. Zengilowski stated that bus routes for next year won't be finalized until kindergarten information is completed.

Dr. Marini thanked Principal McQuade and Officer Tracy for their work on the recent cyber bullying incident. He stated that the middle school would be working with the District Attorney's office to get educational information out to students and parents regarding their responsibilities in regard to cyber bullying.

### **High School Presentation**

Dr. Scuzzarella notified the Committee that Colleen O'Grady is a National Merit Scholar.

Dr. Scuzzarella thanked the Committee for their support for the night school program "Knight School". She stated that 35 students are enrolled in the program and are making great progress.

Dr. Scuzzarella discussed the High School Core Program of Studies (MassCore). Dr. Scuzzarella stated that MassCore is a DOE recommended program of study. It contains a rigorous list of courses and additional learning opportunities to provide college and career ready academics for high school students. The requirements for MassCore include 4 units of English/Language Arts, 4 units of Mathematics, 3 units of lab-based science, 3 units of History/Social Science, 2 units of Foreign Language, 1 unit of Art, 5 units of Additional Core Courses and physical education as required by law. Dr. Scuzzarella stated that she would like to implement the MassCore Program of Studies for the 2009-2010 school year. MassCore would move the graduation requirement from 100 credits to 125 or 130 credits depending on the final schedule that is selected. Dr. Scuzzarella stated that many NAHS students are already meeting many of the requirements. Only 51 students in Class of 2008 are not in their fourth year of math.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dr. Scuzzarella stated that she would be open to requiring a fourth year of science if scheduling permitted. She noted that it has been her experience that good quality science electives will draw students to the courses voluntarily. Dr. Scuzzarella stated that she is not moving forward with a new schedule for next year because the school has had 3 schedules in two years under difficult situations. She stated that she needs to have staff invested in the new schedule and time is needed for professional development for staff.

Dr. Scuzzarella discussed current and proposed GPA. She stated that the proposed revision to the GPA scale will make North Andover's scale more consistent with the

scale that Massachusetts' state colleges and universities use. Currently, many colleges and universities recalculate the GPAs of North Andover High School students. The revised GPA scale will provide North Andover students with a more realistic picture of their academic standing in relation to college admission requirements. She discussed the transition process that will be used to ensure the transition is fair and equitable to all students.

Dr. Ormsby asked that the Committee receive information on the distribution of GPA for the last graduating class.

Ms. Jalbert asked why there would not be a discussion regarding the fact that electives are only weighted for music.

Dr. Marini stated that Dr. Scuzzarella would be making that presentation in May.

Ms. Jalbert thanked Dr. Scuzzarella for taking on this difficult issue. She stated that April vacation is a big time for visiting colleges for juniors and she expressed her disappointment that the issue was not being addressed this evening.

### **Community Programs**

Mr. Galante gave a presentation on the mission of Community Programs as well as the FY08 and FY09 Community Program budgets.

Mr. Fortado informed the Committee of his discussions with Chris Rogers of Sullivan and Rogers, the accountant who did the Community Programs audit in 2006. Mr. Fortado discussed appropriate ways for the Community Programs funds to be spent down.

In response to questions raised by the Committee, Mr. Galante and Dr. Marini will look into the possibility of offering after school tutoring, MCAS preparation, and even the possibility of offering courses for credit. In addition, Mr. Fortado will look into whether we are charging Community Programs for use of space, and whether the interest income is accruing back to the Community Programs fund.

Ms. Allen moved to suspend the rules to vote to approve the Community Programs budgets.

The Committee discussed the need to have the question regarding interest income answered before approving the budgets.

Ms. Allen withdrew her motion.

### **District Wide Goals**

Dr. Hutchinson stated that the administrators would be reviewing the School Committee's target goals as part of their retreat this summer.

Dr. Hutchinson reviewed the memorandum regarding the following system-wide goals:

- *Establish academic benchmark standards for all students at each grade level in mathematics, science, English/language arts, and social studies. Ensure that the standards are aligned with the State Frameworks.*
- *Develop common assessments for each subject area to measure student achievement and inform instruction to increase individual student achievement.*
- *Adhere to the established five-year cycle for curriculum review.*
- *Review student placement in courses at NAHS to ensure student access to appropriate level courses in all subjects.*
- *Review Advanced Placement offerings and determine if additional AP courses are warranted.*
- *Analyze student participation rate in AP classes and develop a plan to increase participation*
- *Support teachers, principals, and staff through open, responsive communications and in providing clear direction through appropriate academic focus in the context of a supportive and caring environment.*
- *Support the North Andover middle school principal's goals as she strives to:*
  - *Reduce and/or balance class size while maintaining the team concept*
  - *Raise academic achievements by identifying essential standards, creating common assessments, and implementing tiered instruction.*
- *Provide clear and consistent financial information to the School Committee and Finance Committee.*
- *Write and publish periodic information about the school system for the community.*
- *Work closely with the Town Manager's office to facilitate positive working relationships and to identify areas of possible consolidation of school and municipal departments/functions.*
- *Continue the process of developing a new teacher evaluation system for the NAPS.*

Dr. Ormsby stated that he is comfortable with what is being done with the goals. He stated that it seemed in the past the goals were viewed by some as punitive, but the real purpose of the goals is to have people reflect on how we can move the district forward. Dr. Ormsby stated that he is pleased with the teamwork environment and will be interested to see what comes out of the summer activities.

Chair Whidden asked that the summer retreat work look at how subgroups are meeting the goals. She asked that Principal McQuade make a presentation regarding the middle school.

#### **FY09 Kindergarten Fee and Budget**

Chair Whidden recused herself from the discussion regarding the kindergarten budgets and fee. Vice Chair Limpert took the gavel.

Mr. Fortado discussed the recommended full-day kindergarten fee and budgets. In response to questions from the Committee Mr. Fortado discussed how the indirect charges are proportioned, the degree of uncertainty of the kindergarten grant, and why he was not recommending an increase to the full-day kindergarten fee.

**Dr. Ormsby moved to suspend the rules to vote on the kindergarten budgets and fee. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Dr. Ormsby voted yes.**

**Ms. Allen moved to accept the full-day kindergarten budgets for FY08 and FY09 as written and presented. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Dr. Ormsby voted yes.**

#### **Short Term Plan to Address the Structure of Technology Department**

Chair Whidden stated that she had appointed Mr. Limpert to serve on this Committee.

**Ms. Allen moved to approve the resolution creating an information technology consolidation task force. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.**

#### **MASC Policy Book Contract**

Ms. Allen discussed the service offered by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to update school committee policy books.

The Committee asked that a draft contract be provided for their review at the next School Committee meeting.

#### **Town/School Consolidation**

The Committee discussed the proposed town/school consolidations in purchasing, payroll, information technology and facility management. The vote to support Town Meeting Warrant Article 23 will not take away the School Committee's right to vote separately on each consolidation. It was noted that the purchasing consolidation had already moved forward but the Committee would be looking for further information on payroll before that function is consolidated.

**Ms. Allen moved to support Town Meeting Warrant Article 23 - Acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37M consolidation of administrative functions and to authorize the consolidation of all or some of the following functions: purchasing, payroll, information technology and facility management. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.**

#### **2008-2009 School Calendar**

The proposed 2008-2009 school calendar was presented to the Committee for a first review. The Committee discussed the religious holidays in the calendar.

## Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2008. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0-2, Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden voted yes, Mr. Limpert and Mr. Nobile abstained.**

**Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 2008. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0-2, Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden voted yes, Mr. Limpert and Mr. Nobile abstained.**

**Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of March 13, 2008. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0-2, Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden voted yes, Mr. Limpert and Mr. Nobile abstained.**

**Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2008. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0-2, Ms. Allen, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden voted yes, Mr. Limpert and Mr. Nobile abstained.**

## **Adjourn**

**At 9:44 p.m. Mr. Nobile moved to adjourn. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden voted yes.**

Approved 6/5/08