

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: May 1, 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.

Public Comment

Chair Whidden stated that public comment would also be allowed under item six, NAHS GPA.

There was no public comment.

Chairman's Report

Chair Whidden appointed Pam Lathrop, Carla Scuzzarella and Guy Klose to the Superintendent Search Committee.

Chair Whidden stated that the School Committee would be meeting with Glen Koocher of MASC on May 7th to do a superintendent search focus group. In addition, the School Committee is posted to attend the FinCom meeting on May 6th.

Chair Whidden discussed the information in the packet regarding multi-family affordable housing. She stated that George Kohler would like the consensus of the Committee regarding the potential enrollment figures for the Greenery Project. She asked the Committee to contact Mr. Kohler with any questions and noted that Mr. Kohler would be at the School Committee meeting prior to Town Meeting to answer questions.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini stated that applicants for the position of Business Administrator have been received and that he will be meeting with Mr. Limpert, the School Committee representative, to review the applications.

Unfinished Business

NAHS GPA Transition

Dr. Scuzzarella thanked the members of the Academic Standards Review Committee for their work. Mr. Nugent discussed the history of the GPA, class rank and electives at North Andover High School. Dr. Scuzzarella discussed the college admissions process. She noted that it is important that NAHS students are shown in the best light possible to colleges and universities. In addition, it is important that our students are given an accurate sense of their GPA and class rank. Dr. Scuzzarella stated that this has been a long process and the proposed solution is putting in a new GPA scale for the class of 2011 and beyond. The classes of 2009 and 2010 will have two transcripts, one GPA and class rank will be based on the new scale and not include any electives, the second GPA and class rank will be based on the current scale and include electives that are weighted. Dr. Scuzzarella and Mr. Nugent will include with all transcripts to colleges a letter explaining why there are two GPA/ranks. Dr. Scuzzarella stated that this is a complex issue and that the administration is trying to be as fair and consistent as possible.

Members of the Academic Standards Committee, Gorman, O'Donnell and Wesman spoke in favor of the change.

In response to concerns raised by members of the audience and Committee, Dr. Scuzzarella stated that the School Committee would be provided with a copy of the letter to be included with transcripts.

Ms. Jalbert stated her concern that colleges understand the difference in the GPAs. She stated her belief that weighted music should be eliminated for the class of 2009 and 2010.

Ms. Foote stated that the committee has gone through the process and that the students in the classes of 2009 and 2010 set their expectations in a certain way when they entered as freshmen and they should be able to finish their years at the high school under the same expectations.

Brian Wesman stated that any student that really loves band or chorus will stay in the course despite honor/non honor credit.

Ms. Reading stated her concern that the letter to the colleges re: GPA and class rank needs to be very clear.

Josh Lambell stated that honors band and chorus is a huge commitment for students and is up to the caliber of any other honors course.

Ms. Reidel asked about past practice of students receiving credit for a course when they are not in the course full time.

Dr. Scuzzarella stated that there would be no accommodation for freshmen or sophomores and any junior or senior that is the position of not being able to be in the class 6 days will get pro rated credits for the course.

In response to a request by Ms. Jalbert, Mr. Nugent stated that he would try to run ranks before the end of the school year.

FY08/FY09 Athletic Budgets

Mr. Longley gave a presentation on the FY08 and FY09 Athletic Budgets. Mr. Longley stated that he anticipates a deficit of approximately \$22,000 in FY08. He stated that in the past NAAA has covered the deficits. This year NAAA will not be able to cover the deficit. He stated that he was aware early on that there would be a deficit and he has made some reductions to the FY08 budget to lower the deficit.

Mr. Fortado stated that he would be coming back to the Committee for approval to transfer some athletic expenses to the operating budget to cover the deficit.

The Committee discussed the need for inclusion of all students. It was the consensus of the Committee that the subcommittee go back and look at several options including corporate sponsorship, tiered fee structure, and surcharges for the more expensive sports.

Ms. Reading discussed the role of NAAA.

Bus Fees 2008-2009

The Committee discussed the proposed bus fees.

Ms. Allen moved to maintain the FY09 bus fee at \$300, implement a \$30 incentive discount for riders paying on or before July 15, and implement a \$30 increase for riders paying after August 15th. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

FY08 Budget Update

Mr. Fortado reviewed the FY08 budget summary report with the Committee. He noted that there are about \$300,000 in unencumbered salary requirements (coaches, long term substitutes, etc.). The Committee discussed ways the unencumbered amounts could be shown on future reports.

Preschool

The Committee discussed the proposed preschool. It was the consensus of the Committee to support the funding of the preschool through the operating budget.

Subcommittee Reports

Facilities Usage Fee Committee – Chair Whidden the subcommittee to address fees for large tournaments.

Chair Whidden stated that the Town Manager will be scheduling a meeting of the Insurance Advisory Committee. This committee advises the town about insurance issues.

Adjourn

At 9:35 p.m. Ms. Allen moved to adjourn. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Approved 6/5/08