

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: May 15, 2008

Location: Town Hall

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

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Whidden called the meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chairman's Report

Chair Whidden asked members of the Committee to provide her with summer vacation schedules. She stated that she would schedule a summer retreat with Irwin Blummer and Bob Gass. She asked members to forward her agenda items for the retreat.

Chair Whidden appointed Selectmen Smedile to the Superintendent Search Committee.

Recognition

It was the consensus of the Committee that extraordinary teachers should be recognized. Dr. Ormsby agreed to assemble criteria for the recognition and stated that any members who would like to give input on the criteria should contact him.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini discussed Town Meeting and congratulated Chair Whidden on moving the preschool forward.

Dr. Marini stated that he would bring the FY09 budget to the Committee for final approval at the next meeting.

Dr. Marini advised that the Thomson principal search is proceeding and two finalists have been selected.

Ms. Allen asked that Dr. Marini look into a complaint she received regarding the Thomson playground/field.

Public Hearing for School Choice

Ms. Allen moved to enter into the public hearing on school choice. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Chair Whidden.

Chair Whidden asked for input from the public. There was no input.

Ms. Allen moved to close the public hearing on school choice. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Chair Whidden.

Mr. Nobile made a motion that North Andover not participate in School Choice for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

NAMS School Improvement Plan

Principal McQuade gave a presentation on the school improvement plan and the reorganization of NAMS for the 2008-2009 school year.

NAMS teacher Liz Sharp discussed differentiated instruction at the middle school. In response to a question, Ms. Sharp stated that differentiated learning does not mean that she is preparing 30 different lesson plans, with differentiated learning every student is engaged which makes classroom management easier. She stated that the current cohort will be presenting to the faculty in June.

Principal McQuade and Dr. Hutchinson discussed essential standards and common assessments. In response to a request from the Committee, Principal McQuade agreed to send examples of essential standards to the Committee.

Principal McQuade reviewed the 2008-2009 school schedule with the Committee.

Mr. Piper and Mr. Nelson discussed the band and chorus schedules for next year. In addition they discussed some of the proposed changes in the classes including some exposure to music composition.

In response to a question by Dr. Ormsby, Dr. Hutchinson stated that, although this won't occur overnight, once we have the hard data we will be able to report out on how students are doing. The assessments should become predictors of how we will perform on the MCAS tests.

In response to a question by Mr. Nobile, Principal McQuade discussed the different ways parents of 5th grade students are informed of the instructional components of the middle school.

In response to questions by Chair Whidden, Mr. Piper and Mr. Nelson stated that music is a teachable skill, it is their goal that music curriculum connect to some academic classes this year, if students cannot afford to rent an instrument the school does have a limited number of instruments available and in the past a rental discount has been offered through the rental company.

In response to a question by Ms. Allen, Principal McQuade discussed the nutrition and health components of family consumer science.

Energy Conservation Management

Chuck Fasnacht of Energy Education, Inc. discussed the proposal submitted in response to the Energy Management/Conservation Program request for proposal issued by North Andover Public Schools. Mr. Fasnacht discussed the analysis Energy Education, Inc. did of North Andover and the savings guaranteed by the proposal. In response to a question, Mr. Fasnacht stated that the new school would be included in the contract at no additional charge.

The Committee will discuss the Energy Conservation Management contract at the June 5th School Committee meeting.

Adjourn

At 9:00 p.m. Ms. Allen moved to adjourn. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Approved 6/5/08