

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

DATE: September 4, 2008

LOCATION: Town Hall

PRESENT: Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby, Ms. Whidden,
Superintendent Marini, Assistant Superintendent Hutch and Business
Administrator Fortado.

Call to Order

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

Chairman's Report

Chair Whidden stated that Dr. Marini contacted her in May and informed her that NEASC had placed North Andover High School back on warning. He expressed concern regarding the decision and stated that he would like to meet with NEASC representatives to appeal the decision. She stated that at the time she agreed with that decision but understands that this was a public matter and a public discussion about the issue should have occurred. She stated that North Andover High School is fully accredited but there are issues and those issues are being addressed.

Dr. Marini stated that there were a number of issues he wanted to address with NEASC but that he also agreed the matter should have been brought to the public immediately for discussion. Dr. Marini stated that the high school staff is addressing the issues raised by NEASC.

Dr. Ormsby stated that he wanted to address the issue of tracking at the high school. He stated that this issue had been going on well before Dr. Marini took over asked what we are doing to cause tracking and why we can't resolve the issue immediately.

Dr. Marini stated that Dr. Scuzzarella would be addressing the issue in October.

The Committee requested that Dr. Scuzzarella be prepared to address the issues that cause tracking, that she provide sample student schedules, and that she be prepared to discuss the transition from middle school to high school and the role that teacher recommendations play in the transition.

Public Comment

Ms. Jalbert discussed Rachel's Challenge. She also asked that the Committee looked at the practice of pushing freshmen into taking earth science which locks students out of AP science.

Ms. Gleed applauded Ms. Whidden's statement regarding NEASC. She also discussed the forum that North Andover United is coordinating. She stated that while doing work for the forum she was surprised to learn how many surrounding high schools are on warning from NEASC and questioned whether NEASC is doing cookie cutter reports and

questioned whether they are taking into account the economic climate in Massachusetts. She asked that the warning letter be placed on the website.

Chairman's Report

Chair Whidden stated that she is pleased to have Superintendent Marini leading the North Andover Schools again this year. She discussed ways to improve communication including the use of websites and the possibility of having cable broadcast documents from the agenda during the meetings. She stated that she would be meeting with Dr. Marini to discuss a year long agenda for the Committee. She asked Committee members to provide her with any items they would like included on the agenda. The Committee asked that agendas be published on the district website.

In response to a request from Chair Whidden, Mr. Nobile agreed to review and respond to the referral form from the planning board.

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding an open house for real estate agents to discuss the positive things going on in the North Andover Public Schools.

Sponsorship

Mr. Nobile discussed the donations being made this evening to the Sponsorship Program from Pentucket Medical, McDonalds and Lancer One. In addition to the funds donated, Pentucket Medical is offering free physical examinations for athletes and Lancer 1 is donating evacuation training aids.

Mr. Nobile moved to accept the donations as presented this evening. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

The Committee congratulated Mr. Nobile on his success with the sponsorship program.

Wellness Policy

Lead Nurse Cheryl Barczak discussed the proposed wellness policy. In response to a question, Ms. Barczak stated that part of the policy is meant to discourage the use of taking away recess as a punishment.

Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the Wellness Policy included in the School Committee packet. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Ms. Barczak discussed the yearly health report.

AYP

Dr. Hutchinson gave an overview of how AYP is determined under the NCLB. Dr. Marini and Dr. Hutchinson discussed the steps being taken to improve instruction and student performance at the both the Thomson Elementary School and North Andover Middle School. Dr. Marini also discussed the process used to place Thomson students who opted to participate in school choice under NCLB regulations.

Chair Whidden stated that a full presentation regarding MCAS would be scheduled in November.

Assessment Calendar

The Committee agreed to hold the discussion on the assessment calendar until the next meeting.

Turnover Savings

Dr. Marini stated that turnover savings at this point appear to be approximately \$130,000. He stated that he did not recommend spending any of the turnover savings until Mr. Fortado has an opportunity to analyze projected legal bills for the year.

Thomson Field Update

Dr. Marini informed the Committee that Purchasing Director Joe Lydick has put the project out to bid. He stated that the School Building Committee had provided \$20,000 to refurbish the Thomson field.

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel ó Chair Whidden stated that a meeting will be scheduled for September

Curriculum ó Chair Whidden stated that a meeting is scheduled for September 5th.

Facilities Usage ó no report

School Committee Policy ó no report

Athletics ó no report

Superintendent Search ó Mr. Limpert stated that a meeting is scheduled for September 8th to finalize the advertisement and brochure and that additional funds will be needed.

Mr. Limpert moved that an amount of turnover savings not to exceed \$10,000 be used for advertising and printing costs associated with the Superintendent Search. Dr Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

School Building Committee ó Chair Whidden stated that the Committee is interviewing project managers.

Adjourn

At 9:15 p.m. Mr. Limpert moved to adjourn into executive session to discuss collective bargaining and litigation, not to return to regular session. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

NASC approved 10/16/08