

**School Committee Meeting
Regular Session**

Date: October 2, 2008

Present: Members Allen, Limpert, Nobile, Ormsby and Whidden. Superintendent Marini, Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson and Business Manager Fortado

Location: Town Hall

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 asked the Committee members to provide two dates in December that they would be available to interview superintendent candidates.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini discussed Dr. Hutchinson's Elementary Teaching and Learning Update handed out at elementary open houses.

Chair Whidden stated that she received the document at open house and was pleased as a committee member to see the information delivered to parents.

In response to a question Dr. Hutchinson discuss pacing.

Dr. Marini discussed the redistricting committee's timeline.

Donations for Sponsorship Program

Mr. Nobile discussed the athletic sponsorship donations from Watts, Shaw & Company, Thunder Sports and Orthopedic Specialists. He noted that the program is within \$6,000 of the goal for the year.

Mr. Doug Moulter from Orthopedic Specialists presented the donation to the Committee.

Mr. Nobile discussed the Championships Knights program scheduled for November 16th.

Mr. Limpert moved to accept the donations from Watts, Shaw & Company, Thunder Sports and Orthopedic Specialists. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Coordinated Review Corrective Action Plan

Dr. Hutchinson gave the Committee an overview of the proposed corrective action plan in response to the Coordinated Program Review findings. He stated that the Committee would have the final plan for approval at the next meeting. In response to questions raised, Dr. Hutchinson estimated that we have 78 students who speak 18 different languages. Dr. Hutchinson and the Committee discussed possible efficiencies that could be gained by working with other districts.

Superintendent Goals

Dr. Marini informed the Committee that although the format of the goals has been changed the content remains the same as presented at the last meeting. Dr. Marini reviewed his proposed goals for the 2008-2009 school year. In response to concerns raised by the Committee Dr. Marini stated that he would look into ways to measure some of the action items that are not easily quantifiable and would add the use of technology including email and school messenger under the communication goal.

Mr. Nobile moved to approve the 2008-2009 goals with the addition to goal five of maximizing technology. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Budget Directives

Dr. Marini reviewed the proposed FY10 budget directives.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to change class size guidelines to:

Grades K & 1 - 18-20

Grades 2 & 3 ó 20-24

Grades 4 & 5 ó 23-25

No class should exceed 26 at grade K-3 level and 29 at grade 4 & 5 level.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Fortado and Dr. Marini discussed the work currently being done on energy conservation. Chair Whidden asked Mr. Fortado to notify the FinCom that the Committee is no longer pursuing the energy contract.

Chair Whidden asked that the following items be added to the FY10 budget directives: Fund Coordinated Program Review, Fund Standards Based Curriculum and Restore Elementary Library Services.

Dr. Marini and the Committee discussed union negotiations as well as the Insurance Advisory Committee that is currently working to resolve health insurance issues. Dr. Marini discussed the GIC, MIIA and other insurance options.

Chair Whidden opened the budget directive discussion for public comment.

Michele Nadeau asked when the Committee expects to receive a report from Mark Rees regarding the current state of the town's finances. Ms. Nadeau asked whether the Committee anticipated problems with this year's budget due to the economic difficulties in the country.

After discussion the Committee asked Dr. Marini to invite Mr. Rees to come to a School Committee meeting to discuss the FY09 and FY10 budgets.

Sandy Gleed stated that the FinCom had given instructions to Mr. Rees that at each FinCom meeting he should submit a summary of where we stand. She noted that to date the FinCom had not received any updates. Ms. Gleed stated that Town Accountant Savage should have information on free cash now that she can provide to the Committee.

After discussion the Committee directed Dr. Marini to request the town manager provide the committee with the 5 year budget projection, the FY10 projected revenues and the FY09 revenues to date.

Mr. Limpert moved to approve the FY10 budget directives as amended. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

GLEC Bylaw Agreement

Ms. Allen moved that the Collaborative agreement of the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative be amended to reflect adjunct membership status, with such amendments reflected in bold in the introductory paragraph, Organization, New Members and Method of Termination provisions of the agreement and contained in the attached revised provisions. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

FY09 Grants and Revolving Accounts

Mr. Fortado updated the Committee on the status of the FY09 Grants and Revolving Accounts. In response to a question regarding Merrimack College donation Dr. Marini stated that he was meeting with representatives from the college. In response to a request from the Committee Mr. Fortado will provide the Committee with information on ways community programs can spend down the balance of the revolving account and will check to see if driver's education is offered through community programs and if so why the cost of the program is so high.

Middle School Presentation

Ms. McQuade discussed the 2008-2009 NAMS schedule, the progress on essential standards and common assessments, and the AYP status and actions planned. Ms. McQuade and Dr. Scuzzarella discussed the transition from middle school to high school.

High School Presentation

Dr. Scuzzarella stated that her staff will be looking at the earth science issue as part of the larger high school leveling issue. In addition, Dr. Scuzzarella stated that she would get back to the Committee with information on how students are placed in Algebra II and whether it is based on the Algebra I grade or Geometry grade. The Committee discussed how calculus could be better marketed to students.

Dr. Scuzzarella updated the Committee on the status of NEASC and what has been done and is being done to address the concerns raised in the NEASC report. Dr. Scuzzarella stated that she would provide the Committee with periodic updates regarding the scheduling work being done.

Dr. Scuzzarella updated the Committee on the status of the Knight School program.

Chair Whidden stated that due to the late hour if there would no objection from the Committee she would move the audit committee appointment and acceptance of the gifts from the Franklin PTO to the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Superintendent Search Committee - Mr. Limpert stated that community members interested in submitting information on the qualities they would like to see in the next superintendent can email the information to supersearch@northandover.k12.ma.us.

School Building Committee ó Chair Whidden stated that to save money the School Building Committee is considering creating a parking lot of 35 spaces from the current middle school parking area next to the field. She asked that Mr. Fortado check with the bus company regarding eliminating that waiting area and that Dr. Marini talk with the town clerk regarding any concerns she may have about eliminating that parking used during elections for students.

Adjourn

At 9:57 p.m. Mr. Limpert moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and personnel and not to return to regular session. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

NASC approved 10/16/08