

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session
October 16, 2008**

Date: October 16, 2008

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

Location: Town Hall

Call to Order:

Chair Whidden called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Nobile moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations to return to regular session at approximately 7:00 p.m. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Reconvene

At 7:05 p.m. Chair Whidden called the meeting back to order.

Public Comment

Mr. Kelly discussed ballot Question 1, repeal of the state income tax. He asked what the impact would be on the school department if Question 1 passed.

Dr. Marini stated that he had not done an in-depth analysis but had spoken to both Town Manager Rees and Business Administrator Fortado regarding the issue. Dr. Marini noted that although the district would look at eliminating things before staff a large portion of the school department budget is personnel. In response to a question, Dr. Marini stated that eliminating everything in the budget except core academics would violate state laws.

Dr. Ormsby stated that people should not be discouraged from voting for Question 1. He stated that citizens should call their representatives and senators to demand that they fund the essential services of education and public safety.

Recognition

Dr. Scuzzarella introduced the ten National Merit Commended Students and the three National Merit Semi-Finalists. Dr. Scuzzarella also discussed the AP scholar announcement and the fact that North Andover High School had an AP National Scholar for the first time ever.

Chairman's Report

Town Manager Mark Rees discussed the FY09 budget. He stated that the town budget is dependent on three major factors, property tax, state aid and local receipts. He stated that property taxes account for approximately 71% of the revenue, state aid 13%, and local receipts 12%. Mr. Rees discussed the FY09 to date revenues. In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Rees stated that he could provide monthly reports for the Committee.

Mr. Rees stated that he had met with Superintendent Marini and that because of the uncertainty in this year's budget, they had agreed to look at ways to reduce costs and/or delay expenditures. Mr. Rees discussed the role of the Revenue and Fixed Cost Committee.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on March 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

The Committee thanked Mr. Rees for his presentation.

Chair Whidden stated that the Committee had been invited to attend a regional meeting with Andover and Haverhill on October 21st.

Sponsorship Program

Mr. Nobile informed the Committee that McDonald and Pangione had agreed to a silver sponsorship.

Mr. Limpert moved to accept the donation of \$2,500 from McDonald and Pangione Insurance. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini discussed the impact of the Governor's first round of budget cuts. He asked that a member of the committee sit in on the Revenue Fixed Cost Committee meetings when possible. School Committee members will be notified of Revenue Fixed Cost meetings.

Dr. Marini updated the Committee on the status of the energy conservation action plan and discussed AYP work being done.

Corrective Action Plan

Dr. Hutchinson reviewed the Corrective Action Plan for the Coordinated Program. He discussed the potential budget impacts of implementing the action plan.

Mr. Nobile moved to approve the Corrective Action Plan for the Coordinated Program Review as presented. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

FY09 Budget Update

Mr. Fortado reviewed the FY09 budget update.

Food Services First Quarter Report

Ms. Murphy discussed the food services budget and the delays in posting state and federal reimbursements. Ms. Murphy also discussed the results of the bids completed in May.

Town Audit Committee

Chair Whidden appointed Ms. Allen to serve on the Town Audit Committee.

Acceptance of Gift

Mr. Nobile moved to accept the gifts outlined in the letter of September 17, 2008 from the Franklin PTO. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Hall of Fame

Dr. Ormsby discussed the Teacher Hall of Fame nomination of Arthur Forgetta submitted by Diane Bassett. He stated that he would invite Ms. Bassett to attend a future meeting to speak of behalf of Mr. Forgetta. The Committee agreed that they would accept nominations for other candidates for an additional 30 days.

Preschool

Chair Whidden stated that the School Building Committee needs the School Committee to approve the conversion of the area in front of the baseball field at the middle school to a parking lot for the preschool. Mr. Fortado stated that converting the area would not create a problem for the busses and that Town Clerk Bradshaw was confident that any parking issues for voters could be resolved.

Mr. Nobile moved to allow the School Building Committee to convert the hard top area in front of the NAMS baseball field to parking spaces for the preschool. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Fieldtrips

Dr. Scuzzarella discussed the proposed field trips for North Andover High School students. Dr. Scuzzarella stated that she would relay the concerns of the Committee regarding the Utah trip to the sponsoring teacher.

Community Programs

Director Rick Galante reviewed the programs and goals of Community Programs. He discussed the balance of funds in the revolving account and the possibility of leasing a dedicated space for the programs. Chair Whidden stated that she did not support leasing space and asked that a community member be appointed to serve on the advisory council. She stated that the School Committee needs to look at what their role is with respect to Community Programs.

Technology Plan

Dr. Marini stated that Ms. Lathrop would give a brief presentation on the technology plan. He asked that the Committee suspend the rules and approve the plan this evening so that the district could qualify for e-rate reimbursement.

Ms. Lathrop thanked the technology staff for their hard work. She reviewed the technology plan with the Committee and noted that the plan would change and grow as the Committee continues to review the plan.

After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Limpert would serve as an observer on the school district's technology committee chaired by Ms. Lathrop, and move forward with the work of the school committee technology planning subcommittee after Ms. Lathrop's committee had presented a preliminary technology report.

Mr. Limpert moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of voting on the technology plan. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Mr. Nobile moved to approve the technology plan as presented. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Minutes

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of September 4, 2008. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2008. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2008. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel – Ms. Whidden stated that the Committee is putting the finishing touches on the personnel manual.

Policy – Ms. Whidden stated that the subcommittee is meeting tomorrow.

Athletics – Mr. Nobile discussed the collaborative raffle. He requested a meeting with Dr. Marini to discuss a code of conduct for all athletes.

Superintendent Search – Mr. Limpert stated public comment would be taken on November 6th and the subcommittee anticipates beginning interviews in November.

In response to a request from a member of the Committee, Dr. Marini stated that Dr. Scuzzarella would be reporting out on tracking at the December 4th School Committee meeting.

Adjourn

At 9:40 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.