

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: December 22, 2008

Location: Town Hall

Present: Members Allen, Limpert, Nobile, Ormsby, Whidden.

Call to Order

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

Appointment of Superintendent

Chair Whidden stated that the only agenda item to be discussed this evening is the appointment of a superintendent for the school system. She stated that each School Committee member would be given an opportunity to discuss the candidates and then the public would be allowed to provide input regarding the candidates.

Chair Whidden asked the Committee if they felt the process was rushed and stated that if the Committee wished to step back from the process and make the decision after the holidays they could do so. There was no concern from the Committee regarding the process.

Chair Whidden stated that since there was no concern regarding the process she would like the Committee to discuss the candidates, determine if there is consensus on a candidate, and if there appeared to be consensus she would request a formal motion.

Mr. Nobile thanked the search committee for their work in bringing forward four highly qualified candidates. He discussed the qualities of the candidates and stated that he felt the district needed an experienced superintendent to lead us through the difficult economic times ahead.

Mr. Limpert agreed with Mr. Nobile that an experienced leader will be a necessity for the district. He stated that Mr. Hottel and Dr. Hoffmann both have demonstrated experience in budgeting, curriculum, and labor negotiations.

Ms. Allen agreed with Mr. Nobile and Mr. Limpert that the district needs an experienced leader. She stated that the next superintendent will be leading the district through difficult times and difficult budgets and that both Mr. Hottel and Dr. Hoffmann have that experience.

Dr. Ormsby agreed that an experienced leader is needed. He stated that after the interviews he felt both Dr. Hoffmann and Mr. Hottel have the necessary experience. He stated that he has a slight preference for Dr. Hoffmann but is still very open to Mr. Hottel as well.

Ms. Whidden stated that she believed, after reviewing the priorities set by the Committee and the input from the public, that Dr. Hutchinson was the best choice for the district. She stated that she was not concerned that Dr. Hutchinson has not been a sitting superintendent because he has been mentored by Dr. Marini for the past year and a half and has proven himself by creating policies, implementing an evaluation system, working on negotiations subcommittees, working on the preschool project and in-depth work on the budgets.

Public Comment

Chair Whidden read into the record a letter from Jen Scarpa in support of Dr. Hutchinson. Chair Whidden informed the Committee that the administrators had provided each Committee member with a copy of their letter in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Kelly spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Ms. Parent spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Ms. O'Neil spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Ms. McMillian spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Ms. Dahly spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Ms. Jalbert spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Ms. Hurley spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Ms. Wirtz spoke in support of Dr. Hutchinson.

Chair Whidden closed public comment.

Recess

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Limpert moved to take a 10 minute recess. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Call Back to Order

At 8:40 p.m. Chair Whidden called the meeting to order.

Chair Whidden opened the floor to discussion among Committee members. The members discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates and reviewed some of the letters of recommendation for the candidates.

Chair Whidden asked the Committee to state their preferred candidate for superintendent: Mr. Nobile - Mr. Hottel, Mr. Limpert - Mr. Hottel, Ms. Allen - Mr. Hottel, Dr. Ormsby - Dr. Hoffmann and Ms. Whidden - Dr. Hutchinson.

Chair Whidden stated that since there were three members in support of one candidate a motion to appoint would be appropriate at this time.

Dr. Ormsby moved that the North Andover School Committee appoint Christopher Hottel as superintendent of schools subject to successful negotiation of a mutually agreed upon contract. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 4-1 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby voted yes. Ms. Whidden voted no

Dr. Ormsby moved to reconsider the vote with the goal of having a unanimous vote in favor of Mr. Hottel.

Ms. Whidden stated that at this point she would not reconsider her vote but she may reconsider her position if negotiations are successful.

There was no second to the motion.

Executive Session

At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Nobile moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing union and non-union negotiations, not to return to regular session. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Approved 2/5/09