

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: January 6, 2008

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

Location: NAHS Lecture Hall

Call to Order

Chair Whidden called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Nobile moved to enter into executive session to discuss non union contracts, to return to regular session at 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 7:00 p.m. Chair Whidden called the meeting back to order.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini stated that the bids have been received for the lease of office space for the Central Office and that he will be making a recommendation to the Committee in the near future. He updated the Committee on the process being followed for the possible use of the Carriage House at Stevens Estate.

Dr. Marini updated the Committee on the work of the energy conservation committee. He stated that energy conservation is one of the unknowns in the FY10 budget.

Dr. Marini updated the Committee on the work of the redistricting committee. He noted that a public hearing is scheduled for January 27th.

Dr. Marini notified the Committee that Principal Gilligan will remain at the Thomson Elementary School through next year and that Mr. Grant will remain as assistant principal at the high school through next year.

Mr. Fortado gave a brief update on the energy audits.

Educator Hall of Fame

Dr. Ormsby discussed the nomination of Arthur Forgetta to the North Andover Public Schools Educator Hall of Fame.

Dr. Ormsby moved to elect Arthur Forgetta to the North Andover Educator Hall of Fame as the inaugural inductee. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

The Committee discussed having Mr. Forgetta attend a future School Committee meeting and discussed the process of selecting a classroom and installing a plaque to honor Mr. Forgetta.

FY09 Second Quarter Report

Mr. Fortado updated the Committee on the status of the FY09 budget. He noted the only red flag is in special education and that Ms. Laundre would be discussing that issue later this evening. He stated that he would have a report on grants and revolving accounts at the next meeting.

Ms. Laundre provided an update on special education programs and circuit breaker funding. Ms. Laundre noted that with the exception of transportation she anticipates having sufficient funds to meet special education obligations. She anticipates the deficit to be \$200,000 in transportation. She is addressing the deficit by not filling a vacant ETL position, eliminating the out of district coordinator position, and freezing all PD money. Those reductions will result in a total savings of approximately \$80,000. She stated that she and Mr. Fortado will be examining the transportation costs to determine why, when fuel costs are declining, costs are increasing. She stated that she would be meeting with GLEC to discuss the issue also.

After discussion with the Committee, Ms. Laundre agreed to look into the possibility of joining an additional collaborative and the possible benefits of the district purchasing a van or sharing a van with a surrounding community in an effort to reduce transportation costs.

Dr. Marini thanked Ms. Laundre for the outstanding job she has done monitoring the budget.

FY10 Budget Presentation

Mr. Nobile presented information regarding the Town's budget process and the Commonwealth's budget process. Dr. Marini gave a powerpoint presentation regarding the FY10 budget, including how the budget was developed. He noted that this is the beginning of a long budget process. He is aware of the fiscal climate but it is his responsibility to develop a budget that tells the community what he believes the school department needs. He stated that when further information is known regarding the Town's revenue he anticipates the Committee will, after reflection, make thoughtful and difficult decisions regarding the FY10 budget.

Chair Whidden opened the floor up to questions from the Committee. She asked that the Committee keep the questions general because the Committee has several budget meetings scheduled where particular sections of the budget will be addressed in more detail.

The Committee discussed where budget uncertainties fit into the process, whether or not they should revisit budget priorities given the fiscal climate, whether the percent increase for the entire budget should be reduced, and whether a salary reserve figure should be included in the budget or whether it should be removed and the unions made aware that any increase would be contingent on insurance savings. The Committee agreed they would need to further discuss strategies and goals regarding negotiations in executive session. In addition, the Committee agreed to continue discussion at a future meeting regarding the Town Meeting process and

whether, if additional money became available in the spring, the Committee could present a revised budget request.

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel ó a meeting will be scheduled during the first week of February

Policy ó next meeting scheduled for January 26th

Athletics ó no update

Curriculum ó will present the curriculum timeline at a School Committee meeting in late January

Superintendent Search ó reviewing executive session minutes, negotiations with Mr. Hottel should be complete by the end of the week

School Building Committee ó Triumph will be the modular company for the preschool

Adjourn

At 9:25 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 2/5/09