

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: January 15, 2009

Present: Members Allen, Limpert, Nobile, Ormsby and Whidden. Also present 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.

Working Session FY10 Budget

Elementary

Ms. Lathrop gave an overview of the elementary schools this year and where they would like to be next year. Ms. Lathrop discussed the FY10 budget requests and the possible impact redistricting may have on the requests. In response to questions from the Committee Ms. Lathrop provided further details on how the principals envision the part-time library aides being utilized in the schools, where the enrollment bubbles are for next year, and the impact of redistricting, including the impact on special education self-contained classroom.

Chair Whidden asked that the administration look at staggering start times for the Atkinson Elementary School and the new preschool to avoid traffic issues.

Maintenance and Administration

Mr. Fortado presented a revised budget summary and discussed proposed changes with the Committee. The changes do not impact the bottom line number. The Committee had no objections to the changes and Mr. Fortado will make those changes and forward the revision to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Mr. Fortado discussed the maintenance budget, the energy conservation work being done with National Grid, and provided information regarding possible TAC performance contracts. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Fortado explained that TAC provides actual equipment through a long-term municipal lease as opposed to Energy Education which guarantees energy savings through conservation, and he explained that the middle school did not fall into the guidelines for current the National Grid program.

Curriculum

Dr. Hutchinson reviewed the curriculum summary sheet with the Committee. In response to a request from the Committee Dr. Hutchinson will put together a brief summary itemizing the \$215,000 and he will look into whether there is a possibility of gaining purchasing power by joining with other communities purchasing curriculum.

Mr. Nobile agreed to contact MASC to discuss possible purchasing power for curriculum.

Special Education

Ms. Laundre gave an overview of the special education department's work this year, the proposed additions to next year's budget and the proposed reductions to next year's budget to offset some of the requests. In response to requests from the Committee, Ms. Laundre agreed to draft a letter to the state delegation regarding the proposed 3% increase in tuition for special education schools, prepare a tutorial presentation to the Committee on special education, and investigate ways to measure the academic achievements of students in special education.

Mr. Nobile agreed to forward any information he had regarding special education from the MASC seminar.

Mr. Fortado agreed to review the FY05/06 budgets to look at the spreadsheet used for special education

Preschool

Mr. Fortado discussed the preschool budget and fees. The Committee discussed possibly raising the tuition for preschool and the possibility of applying for grants now that the new preschool is being built and will be accredited. Ms. Laundre explained the Department of Education's requirement to have a 49/51 split in an integrated preschool (49% special education and 51% typically developing). After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to bring the preschool budget back for discussion on January 22nd. In addition, the Committee would like information regarding North Andover's registration date versus other preschools registration date.

The Committee discussed the budget process and the fact that the budget presented to the Town Manager in time to meet the 120 requirement by charter will not necessarily be the final version of the budget because the Committee does not have revenue numbers or the Town Manager's recommendation to factor in to their decision.

Ms. Allen made a motion to increase the FY09 budget to \$38,139,169, a 4.79% increase. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion.

Dr. Ormsby made a motion to amend the motion to a flat budget with the same dollar amount. There was no second to the proposed amendment.

After discuss regarding the public hearing scheduled for next week, Ms. Allen withdrew her motion and Mr. Limpert withdrew his second.

Dr. Marini stated the importance of the Committee meeting early in the process and coming up with budget assumptions to ensure that the budget they direct the superintendent to bring to them for review is connected to the Committee's values.

Chair Whidden reviewed the next steps in the budget process

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Nobile moved to adjourn. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.