

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: February 5, 2009

Present: Members Allen, Limpert (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Nobile, Ormsby and Whidden. Also present were Superintendent Marini and Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson.

Location: Town Hall

Call to Order

At 6:00 p.m. Chair Whidden called the meeting to order.

Executive Session

At 6:00 p.m. Ms. Allen moved to enter executive session to discuss union negotiations, to return to regular session at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Reconvene

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

Public Comment

Ms. Laura McMillian thanked the redistricting committee and discussed the need for modular classrooms at the Kittredge School.

Chair's Report

Chair Whidden stated that once the Town Clerk certifies a School Committee candidate's signatures, the candidate would begin to receive School Committee packets.

Chair Whidden appointed Ms. Allen and Mr. Nobile to the Naming Committee. She stated that the School Building Committee had requested that the name of the building include Early Childhood Center. She stated that the substantial completion date is scheduled for June 17th.

Recognition

Mr. Limpert recognized three members of the high school band who have been selected for All State, six athletic teams who have won the Cape Ann League Championships and 88 students who were inducted in the National Honor Society.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Marini discussed the impact to the North Andover Public Schools if the proposed Federal stimulus plan passes.

Redistricting Update

Mr. Nobile gave an overview of the redistricting process to date and introduced Christine Karelak. Ms. Karelak reviewed the options presented at the public hearing. She discussed the priorities used to determine the best options for redistricting. She stated that the redistricting committee would make its recommendation to the School Committee on March 5th and that the School Committee is scheduled to vote on the plan on March 19th.

Chair Whidden asked that the redistricting map and handouts be made available at the library. She asked that the principals come to the March 19th meeting with their transition plans and the redistricting committee look into disposal of obsolete items from each of the schools, including the Bradstreet.

Modular Classrooms

Dr. Marini discussed the need for portable classrooms for Community Programs. He stated that the life of the modular buildings is 20 years, a decision regarding restrooms will be made based on the distance of the nearest restroom from the new modular classrooms.

Mr. Nobile moved to approve the expenditure of funds from the revolving account to contract design costs for modular classrooms to be placed at the Kittredge Elementary School to be used primarily to house the Community Programs offices and to provide space for community programs before and after school activities, not to exceed \$10,000. Ms Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Fieldtrip

Ms. Allen moved to approve the High School fieldtrip to Washington, D.C. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

FY10 Preschool Fee

The Committee discussed the proposed increase to the preschool tuition and the addition of a 4.5 day program.

Mr. Nobile moved to create a 4.5 preschool program. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Mr. Limpert moved to increase the 4 day preschool tuition from \$2,600 to \$2,800. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Mr. Limpert moved to institute a \$3,500 per year tuition for the 4.5 day preschool program. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Kindergarten Budget and Fee

Dr. Hutchinson reviewed the kindergarten budget and proposed fee. It was the consensus of the Committee to hold approval on the budget and fee until the next meeting. They requested that Mr. Fortado look into whether the Town Accountant agrees with charging the health insurance to the revolving account and why the estimated enrollment is down from FY09. The Committee asked that they be presented with the real budget without the balance from previous years for kindergarten. The budget should show all funds, grant, revolving and operating funds.

Community Programs

The Committee discussed the proposed FY10 community programs budget. The Committee requested that they be provided with a three year projection for growth of Community Programs and that charge backs for use of facilities show in the FY10 budget.

Technology Consolidation

Dr. Hutchinson discussed the work of the technology consolidation committee. He gave a brief summary of the consolidation report. Mr. Limpert asked that we get an acknowledgement from the town side that they would use funds for their share of the new technology director position. The Committee discussed that one of the first priorities of the technology director should be the webmaster issues.

Mr. Limpert moved to approve the consolidation of technology between the town and the schools. Mr. Nobile 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 job description as defined in the report of the Information Technology Consolidation Task Force. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Goals and Priorities

The Committee discussed the School Committee's goals and priorities that the superintendent used to build the FY10 budget and the impact the current economic climate may have on achieving the goals. The Committee discussed prioritizing the goals.

The Committee discussed a priority of

- Meeting contractual and legal obligations
- Not impacting curriculum in a substantial way
- Class size
- Technology
- Guidance
- Librarians

After the initial discussion regarding priorities, the Committee discussed ways to try to maintain all their priorities while still meeting the budget figure. The Committee discussed reviewing the entire budget for reductions, reducing energy costs, raising bus fees, and looking at the contract settlement. The Committee discussed using a process of working toward a number and having all administrators come up with ways to meet that number within their budget while maintaining academic integrity. After further discussion it was agreed to wait until the Town Manager presented his budget number before giving specific direction to the Superintendent about areas for reduction.

The Committee asked that a seat analysis be done for the transportation fee. Chair Whidden stated that the reduction discussion would continue over the next several meetings.

School Calendar 2009-2010

Dr. Marini discussed the two calendar options being presented, the first options students start school on September 2nd and the second option students start school on September 8th. Dr. Marini stated that he has presented both calendars to the administrators, union and PTO presidents. He stated that he will bring the final recommendation to the Committee on March 5th including final details on the parent/teacher conferences.

Minutes

Mr. Nobile moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008, December 4, 2008, December 17, 2008, December 18, 2008, December 22, 2008, December 29, 2008, and January 6, 2009. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel - the personnel manual will be ready for a first reading by the Committee on March 5th.

Policy – Sections A and B will be presented to the Committee on March 5th. Copies of the draft policies will be forwarded to the PTO presidents.

Athletics – Meeting scheduled regarding concessions and fees

School Building Committee – The committee has finalized color selections for the preschool project.

Budget Communications Group – Mr. Rees will be releasing preliminary budget numbers on Monday.

Adjourn

At 9:15 p.m. Mr. Nobile moved to adjourn. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.