

North Andover School Committee
Regular Session

Date: March 19, 2009

Present: Members Allen, Limpert Nobile (arrived at 6:20), Ormsby and Whidden. Also present Superintendent Marini, Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson and Business Manager Fortado.

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. Mr. Limpert moved to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation and collective bargaining. Dr. Ormsby seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Call Back to Order

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

Public Comment

Michelle Nadeau introduced Nick Thomas of the high school drama guild. Mr. Thomas discussed the upcoming play and invited the Committee to attend.

Laura McMillan thanked Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden for their work on the Committee.

Kevin McQuade stated that he was disappointed that the redistricting is moving ahead. He discussed concerns over redistricting his neighborhood.

Mr. McLean agreed with what Mr. McQuade said regarding concerns over redistricting.

Chair Whidden read into the record a letter from Ellen Mary Carr regarding redistricting.

Chair Report

Chair Whidden stated that she was trying to schedule a meeting with Dr. Marini, Greg Landry and Senator Baddour to discuss drainage issues at the Atkinson playground. She gave an overview of meeting held with Representative Torrisi, members of the DOR, and Dr. Marini regarding the proposed modulars at the Kittredge Elementary School. She noted that she would be attending the Selectmen's meeting on Monday evening and the FinCom meeting on Tuesday evening.

Recognition

The Committee recognized the following individuals:

Franklin Elementary School Volunteers – Maureen Voisine and Adelyn Oliver
Cape Ann League Coaches of the Year - Rick Dellachiaie – Girls’ Winter Track, Josh Herzog – Boys’ Winter Track, Mike McVeigh – Boys’ Basketball, David Castricone – Wrestling
Boys’ Basketball Tom O’Connell – Cape Ann League MVP - Boy’s Basketball
Girls’ Basketball Nicole Zahoruiko – Eagle Tribune Student Athlete of the Month and MIAA Female Student Athlete of the Month
Boys’ Ice Hockey Ryan Sifferlen – Cape Ann League MVP and Boston Herald All Scholastic
Skiing Kris Hopkins – 1st Place Giant Slalom and Boston Globe All-Scholastic and Tyler Zahoruiko – 2nd Place Giant Slalom and Boston Globe All Scholastic
Swimming Bryan Walcker – North Sectional Champion, Boston Herald All Scholastic and Boston Globe All Scholastic, Michele Walcker – Boston Globe All Scholastic and Boston Herald All Scholastic, Kirsten Kasper, Tori Frizelle, Desirae Deveaux – State Champions,
Track Candice Waldie – Broke NAHS Record for Shot Put, Alex Kramer - New England Indoor 1 mile Track Champion , Cape Ann League MVP, Boston Herald All Scholastic, Monynihan Lumber Student Athlete of the Month, Alex Grimbel – State Champion - High Jump
Winter Cheerleading Squad – North Regional Champions

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Marini introduced Dr. Scuzzarella. Dr. Scuzzarella discussed the parent meeting held to discuss the high school schedule. PAC President Margaret Shaheen shared some thoughts from parents regarding the new schedule.

Redistricting

Dr. Marini reviewed the process used by the redistricting committee and the goals that the redistricting committee is trying to meet with the proposed option. The School Committee discussed redistricting including investigating whether it would be possible to mitigate the cost of bussing, at least for one year, for those students being redistricted.

Mr. Nobile moved to approve redistricting Option 6B. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Community Programs’ Budget

Mr. Fortado presented the Community Programs Budget and discussed the impact on the budget if the purchase of modular classrooms is approved. Mr. Fortado noted that the budget is not running in deficit but the budget reflects the district’s efforts to spend down the balance in the fund.

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

Athletic Budget

Dr. Marini stated that Mr. Longley was unable to attend this evening but Mr. Fortado is available to answer any questions regarding the athletic budget. The Committee discussed the budget, user fees and possibly securing donations to offset the increase in the second sport fee.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the recommended athletic fee as presented but with the stipulation that the higher second sport fee will not be implemented until it is determined if the higher donation goal can be reached. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

After discussion, the Committee decided to delay a vote on the athletic budget.

Preschool Budget

Mr. Fortado stated that he would bring to the next meeting a revised preschool budget for approval that included the five day program.

Transportation

The Committee discussed the possibility of providing assistance with transportation costs to the redistricted families. The Committee requested that Mr. Fortado bring back to the Committee information on the cost of providing transportation to redistricted families for one year.

The Committee stated that they would look into possibly instituting a policy providing free transportation for one year any redistricted students.

Dr. Marini stated that the public is welcome to come to the Central Office to view the notebook containing all redistricting information.

The Committee discussed the bus fee for FY10.

Mr. Limpert moved to approve the bus fee of \$300. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Ms. Zengilowski requested that the Committee approve the same early/late fee procedure that was used last year. The procedure is for payments postmarked or received on or before July 10 the discounted fee is \$270, for payments postmarked or received between July 11 and August 7 the fee is \$300, and for payments received after August 7 the fee is \$330.

Mr. Nobile moved to continue the early and late fee procedure. 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 approve the transportation revolving fund budget. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Kindergarten Budget & Fee

Mr. Fortado discussed the proposed kindergarten budget and fee.

Dr. Hutchinson discussed the three sources of funding for full day kindergarten, the operating budget, the full day kindergarten grant, and tuition revenues. He noted that North Andover's tuition is lower than

surrounding towns. The Committee requested that Mr. Fortado put together a sample kindergarten budget that showed the revenues from the three sources.

Mr. Nobile moved to approve the kindergarten revolving fund budget. Mr. Limpert seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Mr. Limpert move to approve the kindergarten fee at \$3,000. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

FY-09 Third Quarter Report

Mr. Fortado and Dr. Marini discussed the third quarter report. They noted that the budget is tracking in the negative and discussed the steps being taken to address the special education deficit. Dr. Marini stated that he had implemented a spending freeze on non-essential items for all departments. Mr. Fortado stated that he would be monitoring the budget closely and would report back any significant changes. In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Fortado stated that the salary reserve is the last cushion this year and some of that money will be needed for the move. He stated that he is optimistic that money will be freed up due to energy savings achieved.

Chair Whidden reminded the Committee of their responsibility to file a statement of interest for the Atkinson window replacement which will provide additional energy savings.

FY10 Budget

Dr. Marini updated the Committee on the preliminary information he had to date regarding the federal stimulus money. He stated that this morning information was released that the Governor's recommend budget had North Andover receiving an additional \$1.2 million. He stated that this figure still needs to be approved by the legislature. He discussed the impact to the district if the federal stimulus money is not received and we need to reduce the budget to the Town Manager's number. Dr. Marini noted that the stimulus funds could not be used for increases in teacher pay, he noted that he was concerned that if we do receive the stimulus money the town manager budget allocation may be reduced by that amount.

Chair Whidden stated that she would be making a presentation to the FinCom on Tuesday evening regarding the FY10 budget.

District Goals

Dr. Ormsby gave an update on where the district is in relation to the goals set five years ago by the Committee. He stated that he was pleased to see the goals almost right on target with the exception of the elementary schools which need more focus.

Policies

Ms. Allen gave an overview of the policy review process. She stated that the Committee could go through section by section and approve or wait until the fall, publicize the draft policies and vote all at once in the fall. After discussion it was the consensus of the Committee that the policies be brought for approval all at once in the fall.

Dr. Hutchinson stated that the district was cited in the coordinated program review for not having a policy on discrimination published and asked the Committee to bring that policy forward soon for approval.

Athletics

Mr. Nobile stated that he estimated the end of April for the completed code of conduct. He stated that work continues to move forward regarding the concession.

School Building Committee

Chair Whidden stated that Mr. Kelly was unable to attend this evening to give an update on the School Building Committee but he would be at the next meeting. She informed the Committee that the ground breaking is scheduled for April 3rd at 3:30. Chair Whidden reminded the Committee that they would need to appoint a member to serve on the school building committee.

Minutes

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2009, January 15, 2009, January 20, 2009, January 22, 2009 and February 5, 2009. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Dr. Ormsby and Ms. Whidden.

Retirements

The Committee and staff thanked Chair Whidden and Dr. Ormsby for their years of dedicated service on the School Committee. Chair Whidden and Dr. Ormsby thanked the Committee members and staff of the North Andover Public Schools.

Adjourn

At 10:00 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 4/2/09