

North Andover School Committee
Regular Session

Date: April 2, 2009

Present: Members Allen, Burzlaff, Limpert Nobile, and Rhoton. Also present Superintendent Marini, Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson and Business Manager Fortado.

Location: Town Hall

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Senior Member Allen called the meeting to order. Ms. Allen welcomed new members Laurie Burzlaff and Karin Rhoton.

Reorganization of Committee

Ms. Allen called for nominations for Chair.

Mr. Nobile nominated Mr. Limpert as Chair. Ms. Burzlaff seconded the nomination. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton voted yes.

Chair Limpert called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Nobile nominated Ms. Allen as Vice Chair. Mr. Limpert seconded the nomination. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton voted yes.

Chair Limpert called for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Nobile nominated Karin Rhoton for Secretary. Ms. Allen seconded the nomination. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton voted yes.

Appointment of Subcommittees

After discussion, the following subcommittee appointments were made:

Policy Subcommittee – Ms. Rhoton

Personnel Subcommittee – Mr. Limpert and Ms. Rhoton

Budget Communication Subcommittee – Ms. Allen

School Building Committee – Ms. Burzlaff

Negotiations Paraprofessionals - Ms. Allen

Negotiations Secretaries - Mr. Limpert

Facilities Review Subcommittee – Ms. Burzlaff will take over the committee and refocus to concentrate on appropriate equity among schools. Ms. Burzlaff will rename the committee and appoint new members.

Ms. Allen moved to dissolve the superintendent search committee. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton.

Public Comment

Ms. Cindy Jalbert stated that she was representing the PTO presidents and requested that the Committee consider forming a subcommittee to look at the school calendar and the high school start time.

Chair Limpert stated that he would take the request under consideration.

Recognition

The Committee recognized the following individuals:

Massachusetts Drama Fest Acting Awards

Jonathan Vellante

Kelsey Banville

Mollie O'Brien

Ryan Curtin

All State Orchestra, Band and Chorus

John Baylies – orchestra

Yvonne Camacho – band

Tessa Sammartino – chorus

1st Place Merrimack College Think Fest Engineering Competition

James Vayanos

Coach for Merrimack College Think Fest Engineering Competition

Mr. John Green

Boston Globe All Scholastic Art

Erin Gallant – Silver Key

Alice Rodgers Honorable Mention

Yasmeen Iqbal Honorable Mention

Lena Sparks Honorable Mention

Jason Waisnor Honorable Mention

Heather Mendonca Honorable Mention

Dr. Scuzzarella discussed with the Committee the response of staff and students to the bomb threat at the high school. She noted that district staff would be meeting on Monday to have a roundtable discussion about the experience and to discuss what worked and what did not work.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini clarified that the early release days for parent teacher conferences in November were for K-8 only, not the high school. He noted that the parent teacher conference for the high school would be set up by Dr. Scuzzarella.

Dr. Hutchinson discussed the NCLB report card.

Dr. Marini stated that the estimated cost to provide free transportation to the students being redistricted from the Thomson School to the Atkinson School is \$21,239.12.

The Committee asked that additional information be provided showing the estimated cost to provide free transportation to all students being redistricted. The Committee agreed to discuss the possibility of providing transportation to redistricted students at a future meeting.

Preschool Construction

School Building Committee Chair, Bill Kelly, updated the Committee on the status of the preschool construction.

Policies ACA, ACAB, ACAB-R

Ms. Allen reviewed with the new members the work to date on policies and the discussion the Committee had at the last meeting regarding bringing all policies to the Committee for a second reading sometime in October. She stated that these policies were being brought to the Committee for approval now because they need to be approved in time to be included in the student and staff handbooks.

Ms. Allen reviewed the proposed changes to ACA, ACAB and ACAB-R with the Committee. Dr. Hutchinson stated that there should be language in the policies indicating that the policies are to be included in the handbooks.

Ms. Allen stated that she would like to have the community weigh in on the proposed policies and stated that policies that have come before the Committee for a first reading would be posted to the website for public review.

Chair Limpert asked that the draft policies be distributed in PDF format to the School Committee again.

FY10 Budget

Dr. Marini updated the Committee on the state stabilization funds and the federal stimulus funds. He reminded the Committee that although there is a high level of confidence that North Andover will receive the stabilization funds and stimulus funds, nothing has been confirmed yet. He discussed the webinar he participated in that provided some general information on the timeline for receipt of funds, how long districts would have to expend funds and guidelines on how the funds can be expended. He also discussed the anticipated reporting requirements that will accompany the funds.

Dr. Marini reviewed how the FY10 budget was created and discussed the impact to the budget if the stabilization and stimulus funds are not received by North Andover. He discussed the impact of having to take \$550,000 from the budget. The results of the cut could be the elimination of 5 elementary teachers, forced redistricting of 5th graders, elimination of 5 middle school teachers, which would result in the elimination of the two person teams in 6th grade and the foreign language program in the 7th grade. The high school principal is working to create cuts combining staff and materials resulting in the elimination of four teachers and \$50,000 in supplies for allocation for textbooks.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that the .5 guidance position and the .5 technology director position be considered as part of the Committee's minimum required funding. The Committee asked that Superintendent Marini confirm with the Town Manager the dollar amount needed for the technology director position. The Committee discussed concerns about the budget in 2012 when stimulus and stabilization funds are gone. The Committee discussed possible capital items that could be purchased with the stimulus money that would result in savings over the long term such as vans to be used for special education transportation.

Revised Budget Format

Mr. Fortado presented the revised budget format requested by the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed the format provided by Mr. Fortado and agreed that this would be an acceptable format to present to the FinCom and if the School Committee wanted to review budgets by school they could do so.

Personnel Policy Manual – 1st Reading

Dr. Marini stated that the policy manual is designed to parallel what is happening on the Town's side and facilitate the consolidation of payroll. Dr. Marini stated that generally speaking the policy manual refers to non-union employees. Dr. Marini reviewed the change for eliminating summer hours for central office staff.

Naming Subcommittee

Ms. Allen distributed a MASC proposed policy regarding naming of facilities. Ms. Allen noted that Town Clerk Joyce Bradshaw would be on the subcommittee. The Committee discussed the importance to not only the school community but the entire town when naming facilities. The Committee will review the naming policy again at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2009. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2009. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton.

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel – no update

Policies – no update

Athletics – Mr. Nobile stated that the subcommittee is continuing to work on the budget.

Adjourn

At 9:33 p.m. Ms. Allen moved to adjourn. Ms. Rhoton seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton.

Approved 6/4/09