

North Andover School Committee
Regular Session

Date: April 16, 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. Chair Limpert called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

Mr. Tripp distributed recommended changes to the naming policy. He asked that the Committee review and consider implementing the changes which would provide more residents with an opportunity to present names.

Mr. Smith, speaking on behalf of the American Legion, asked that the naming guidelines be expanded to include a veteran or other member of the Town who has shown commitment and loyalty.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Marini stated that the cost to provide transportation for all redistricted students is \$34,045.

Dr. Marini asked the Committee to accept an anonymous donation to the school department of \$2,400. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that a revolving account be set up and that the new superintendent and a member of the School Committee discuss how donations of this type can best be used.

Ms. Allen moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of voting in a new revolving account. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton.

Ms. Allen moved to set up a revolving account to accept generic donations. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton.

Ms. Allen moved to accept the anonymous donation in amount of \$2,400. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.

Dr. Marini stated that he will send a letter on behalf of the Committee expressing their appreciation for the donation.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Marini and Ms. Burzlaff updated the Committee on the Suburban Coalition meeting.

Chair Limpert stated that he would like to schedule a working session for April 29th to discuss the FY10 budget. He stated that he would invite Superintendent Hottel to attend the meeting to give his input.

Mr. Nobile suggested that surrounding communities be invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

Chair Limpert stated that on Monday evening the FinCom agreed on a budget for the school department and the municipal side which seemed reasonable and also on Monday evening the Board of Selectmen voted to support warrant article for the modulars at the Kittredge School.

Chair Limpert stated that he had asked Ms. Burzlaff to chair the school calendar/school start time subcommittee. He also stated that Ms. Burzlaff would be revamping the former facilities resource subcommittee to focus more on resource equity among the schools. Mr. Limpert also stated that Ms. Burzlaff would be replacing Ms. Allen on the policy subcommittee.

Dr. Hutchinson informed the Committee that the North Andover nurses have been invited to make a presentation regarding food allergies to the School Nurses' Convention in Boston.

Recognition

The Committee requested that anyone who would like to nominate someone for recognition contact Ms. Allen. The Committee discussed the possibility of having recognitions at a special meeting or perhaps the School Committee visiting schools for recognition.

Special Education Budget

Ms. Laundre discussed the special education budget deficit, the cause of the deficit, and the actions the special education department has taken to offset the deficit. Mr. Fortado stated that as a whole the district is running in the black. He reviewed the management plan put in place to cover the special education deficit and the tracking system put in place for special education expenses.

Mr. Nobile asked that the administration look at different ways to bid out special education transportation services and look into whether we can begin to receive invoices electronically to help with tracking process.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Fortado estimated that we would have approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 to prepay tuition for FY10. Mr. Fortado stated that because of this year's increase in special education costs, an additional \$100,000 had been built in the FY10 budget for special education transportation and a 3% increase built into the budget for special education tuitions.

Approval of Preschool Budget

Dr. Marini stated that the Committee had approved the preschool fee earlier in the year and that the administration now needs the Committee to approve the budget. Ms. Laundre discussed the 49/51 special education/regular education split requirement and discussed how enrollments were estimated.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the FY10 preschool revolving account budget as presented. Ms. Rhoton seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Mr. Rhoton.

Technology Savings

Mr. Fortado reviewed with the Committee his memorandum outlining the technology savings

Policy Approval

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Rhoton, Ms. Allen stated that a policy can be amended at any time by a vote of the Committee.

Ms. Allen moved to accept policies ACA, Nondiscrimination of the Basis of Gender, ACAB, Sexual Harassment, and ACAB-R, Sexual Harassment Administrative Guidelines and Procedures as presented. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.

Personnel Policy Manual

Dr. Marini discussed the personnel policy manual which will be a common manual between the town and schools.

Ms. Allen moved to accept as presented the North Andover Public School District Personnel Policy dated February 17, 2009. Ms. Rhoton seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton.

Naming Policy

Ms. Allen stated that because members of the public had presented recommendations for changes to the policy she would like to table the naming policy until the next School Committee meeting. It was the consensus of the Committee to table the issue. Mr. Nobile asked that the Committee keep in mind that there are different components to this policy including memorials.

FY10 Budget

Dr. Marini discussed the FY10 budget and the updated information regarding the anticipated stimulus and stabilization funds. He stated that Mr. Rees had information that North Andover would receive \$100,000 less in Chapter 70 funds. The Committee discussed the restrictions on the stimulus and stabilization funds and began discussion on how the one time supplemental money may be able to be used to decrease future costs such as an investment that would result in energy conservation.

Knights' Lights

Ms. Allen moved to suspend the rules. Ms. Burzlaff seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.

Mr. Nobile moved to support the Knights' Lights Program. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.

Subcommittee Reports

Athletics – Mr. Nobile stated that they are working on the budget to present to the Committee in May. Ms. Allen discussed the recent meeting with the Boosters and MVSA regarding the proposed middle school track refurbishment. She stated that additional information will be brought to the Committee in the near future.

Adjourn

At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Nobile moved to adjourn. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, and Ms. Rhoton.

Approved 6/4/09