

**North Andover School Committee
Regular Session**

Date: May 7, 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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:33 and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

Mr. Winslow expressed his concern for the “Day of Silence” that was recently held at the high school and the middle school. (A day that students can remain silent in support of the gay/lesbian community). He felt that this particular event and the club that sponsored it should not be in the schools, that it conflicts with how he raises his children and it’s inappropriate that the schools support or appear to support this “lifestyle”.

Dr Marini responded that although he was not offering a change at this point, the request to reflect on the situation was appropriate and he would do so.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Limpert thanked the other boards, FinCom and Board of Selectmen, for working on and agreeing to a consensus budget for the town, which would be going to town meeting next week and he was hopeful for stimulus funds to help with program costs.

Recognition

Ms Allen presented the signed agreement between the Merrimack Valley Strider organization, the NA Booster Club and the NAPS School Department to rehab the track and field between NAMS and the Atkinson at the clubs’ expense. In recognition of their work, the School Dept will allow them use of the schools facility for seven years without a fee. The rehab will cost approximately \$10,000.00 to complete. It is a major commitment from these groups and their offer is very much appreciated.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr Marini discussed the 5 flu-like cases that were reported at the Franklin Pre-School. Everyone pulled together, got rooms cleaned and sanitized. Classes are back in session, everyone is on the mend and the cases were not confirmed as Swine Flu.

School Choice

Schools can vote to participate in School Choice, where the schools accept students (and funds) from other districts and NA students can attend other schools (again with funds going with them). North

Andover does not typically vote to participate in school choice, but it needs to be voted after a public comment session.

Stan Limpet made a motion to open the floor to public discussion on School Choice, seconded by Chris Nobile, vote was unanimous, 5-0

The only question was what restriction did students have in what school they wanted to attend? You can only attend schools that have opted to offer School Choice.

Chris Nobile motioned to close public discussion, seconded by Chris Allen, vote was unanimous, 5-0
Chris Allen made a motion to vote that North Andover Public Schools not participate in School Choice for the school year 09/10, seconded by Karin Rhoton. Vote was unanimous, 5-0.

Business Administrator Interview

Public interview of Mr. Jim Mealy, currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Nashua Public Schools. Dr Marini is recommending that the School Committee offer Mr. Mealy the position of the NAPS Business Administrator. He is well qualified for the job, comes highly recommended by his references and Mr. Hottel (incoming Superintendent).

Mr. Mealy discussed his experience as a teacher, a DPW business manager and his experience in working with a school system the size of Nashua, NH (12,5000 students, \$130 million budget, 2000 employees). Mr. Mealy discussed his energy saving initiatives and his successful working relationship with Mr. Hottel as reasons he would be a successful candidate for the position.

Chris Nobile made a motion to offer Mr. Mealy the position of NAPS Business Manager, contingent on successful contract negotiations, seconded by Chris Allen. The vote was unanimous, 5-0, Mr. Limpet, Ms Allen, Ms Rhoton, Ms Burzlaff, Mr. Nobile.

FY10 Food Services Budget

Dr Marini introduced Erika Murphy, Food Services Director, to present her budget for next year. Ms Murphy walked the committee through this year's budget, which is in good shape, better than the past few years. Next year's budget has increased somewhat because of the increase in subsidized lunches, food cost increases of 2-6%, but there will be no increase in health care or salary lines next year. Currently, there is a \$10K positive variance that will carry over to the next year and she is expecting a very good year overall.

She is looking into a summer meal program, based on the positive reception of the breakfast program. Ms Murphy is looking into biodegradable trays and other environmentally friendly changes. The Lunch Program will need a new van, probably next year. The current van is 10 years old. She is researching costs.

Chris Allen made a motion to accept the FY10 Food Service Budget as presented, seconded by Karin Rhoton. Vote was unanimous, 5-0

FY10 Athletic Budget

Jon Longley, NAPS Athletic Director presented his budget for the FY10 year. He did not increase any of the fees for athletics, but did cut \$40,000 from the budget, in the areas of transportation, uniforms, equipment repairs and replacements which will hurt long term. Other funding sources need to be researched and considered. Scholarship requests are increasing in this economic climate. The committee thanked Mr. Longley for his diligence in keeping the fees the same and Mr. Nobile for his fundraising efforts for the sports program. Dr Marini acknowledges the difficulty of this budget and reminded the committee of the long-term issues this will create.

**Motion to accept the athletics budget and fees for fy10 made by Chris Nobile, second Chris Allen
Vote was unanimous 5-0**

Naming: Second Reading

There have been some changes and reconsiderations regarding the naming of the building policy. It has been edited to reflect the person that's have actively contributed to the town schools, or to the town overall. **Motion to accept policy as presented (sections FAA and FF) made by Chris Allen and seconded by Chris Nobile, vote was unanimous, 5-0**

Preschool Name:

The committee discussed naming the new preschool the North Andover Early Childhood Center and then dedicate it to someone at a later date, perhaps using the Educator Hall of Fame process to accept nominations.

Motion to name the preschool the "North Andover Early Childhood Center with a later dedication made by Chris Allen, seconded by Chris Nobile, vote was unanimous, 5-0

FY10 Budget

The committee discussed some of the warrant articles for the town meeting that apply to the School Dept and/or have changed, including funding for the portables for Community Programs, the new telephone systems, the request from GLEC for a maintenance account and the transfer of Bradstreet back to the Town.

Dr Marini discussed the budget as agreed between the 3 boards, that there is nothing extra, it is a level services budget. Part of the agreement on this budget is that if federal/state stimulus money comes in the way it is expected, that \$120K will be returned to the town stabilization fund and the superintendent is asking the School Committee to sign a memo agreeing to this.

Motion made to endorse the memo to return the \$120K to the town stabilization fund as written by Chris Allen, seconded by Chris Nobile, vote was unanimous, 5-0

Motion to accept the budget for FY10 as presented made by Chris Allen, seconded by Chris Nobile, vote was unanimous, 5-0

Community Programs Modular Classrooms:

These modulars were 3 years in the making. It was a true partnership to get this done and everyone was extremely helpful.

They may not be purchased, may be leased. Need a signed agreement that says the School Committee will authorize the payment from the community program revolving acct. There is no cost to the town we will use \$50k from Merrimack College, Franklin roof surplus will be transferred, the \$301,-000 balance to be paid by the revolving account.

Motion made to sign agreement regarding Modular Payment as requested by the Town Accountant by Chris Allen, seconded by Chris Nobile, vote was unanimous, 5-0

Motion to approve payment for the modular class room debt service from the revolving account for FY10 made by Chris Allen, seconded by Karin Rhoton, vote was unanimous, 5-0

Town Meeting Presentation

Chair Limpet reviewed the short presentation that he and Dr Marini would be making at Town Meeting this year. It will include accomplishments, budget summary and plans going forward.

Chris Nobile made a motion to approve the TM presentation, seconded by Laurie Burzlaff, vote was unanimous, 5-0

New Business

Mr. Fortado requested money be transferred from one account to another. The committee will need to suspend the rules to vote on new business.

Motion to suspend the rules to vote on new business made by Chris Nobile, seconded by Chris Allen, vote was unanimous, 5-0

Motion to transfer \$800.00 from high school activities expense account to high school activities stipend account made by Chris Nobile, seconded by Chris Allen, vote was unanimous 5-0

Motion to authorize an increase in the transportation revolving account contracted services account from \$154,000.00 to \$204,000.00 in order to pay transportation costs made by Chris Nobile, seconded by Chris Allen, vote was unanimous 5-0

Sub Committee Reports:

Personal-Mr. Limpet is about ready to dissolve the committee, work is complete

SC Policy-Ms Allen is handing the committee to Ms Burzlaff and Ms Rhoton

School Building Committee-The modulars will go to the SBC to oversee while being built.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 was made by Chris Allen and seconded by Chris Nobile; vote was unanimous, 5-0