

North Andover School Committee

Date: November 12, 2009

Present: Members Allen, Burzlaff, Limpert, Nobile and Rhoton. Also present Superintendent Hottel and Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson.

Location: Town Hall

Call to Order:

Chair Limpert called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Public comment:

A Kittredge parent addressed the modular classroom project and announced the parent informational meeting to be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 and the School Building Committee meeting to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, both at the Kittredge School.

Superintendent Hottel noted an update on the project was posted on the NAPS website.

Recognition:

None, but Ms. Allen did request nominations for the Teachers Hall of Fame be sent to the Superintendent's office marked "nominations", with a deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Consent items

School Committee Meeting minutes for October 15 and October 29, 2009 were reviewed and accepted.

**Motion to accept the above listed minutes as submitted made by Mr. Nobile, seconded by Ms. Allen . The vote was 5-0, Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton**

Chair Limpert requested the following items be addressed out of order:

Three Foreign Exchange trips the NAHS Foreign Language Department has arranged for students. Locations include France, Germany and Costa Rica. Dr Scuzzarella and Artha Gerland presented the plans and after discussions on the number of days out of class, scholarship opportunities and chaperones, asked the committee to approve all 3 trips.

Final comments on time out of classroom generated discussion on how to keep the traveling students up to date with class room work. Both web-based instruction and Skype were suggested as possible solutions.

**Motion to approve the three NAHS Foreign Exchange trip requests made by Mr. Nobile, seconded by Ms. Allen . The vote was 5-0, Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton**

## Memorandum of Agreement

Town Manager Mark Rees was in attendance to request the School Committee approve and sign a memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee.

The MOA states that School Department and the Town Offices will set aside its portion of the \$366,000.00 state aid that may be cut, in order to cover any budget shortfalls.

This agreement will allow the town to set the tax rate and avoid the time and expense of a fall town meeting.

Mr. Nobile asked what happens if more money actually comes in?

Mr. Rees sated the money would go to bottom line as free cash.

**A motion to suspend rules on voting new business was made by Ms. Allen and seconded by Ms. Rhoton**

**The vote was 5-0, Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton**

**Motion to accept the request to sign the Memorandum of Agreement made by Mr. Nobile, seconded by Ms. Allen . The vote was 5-0, Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton**

### Chairman's Report:

Chair Limpert discussed the Kittredge modular project and the importance of the project to the entire school department. He wanted to let the public know that the lack of attendance at school building committee meetings did not constitute a lack of interest on the part of the School Committee.

There have been some comments and concerns on the attendance policies at the schools and with the potential absences with the H1N1 this year, there may be a need to rethink the policies.

He and Mr. Nobile will attend the MASC conference and present on the Preschool Project.

Chair Limpert also thanked the students and staff at both the Thomson and Franklin schools for their wonderful Veteran Days observances.

### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Hottel asked Dr. Scuzzarella to report on the trimester scheduling at the High School.

Dr. Scuzzarella reported that it was going very well, the first trimester is almost over and there were very few glitches in the system. The staff and students were handling it very well. They were looking forward to see how the transition into the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester went.

The school is able to offer many more electives to their students, as well as AP classes.

The use of technology has improved attendance, since parents can check in themselves. Progress reports are more comprehensive and useful to staff and parents. Soon parents will be able to log in and review student grades on a week to week basis. The possibilities are very exciting.

Mr. Hottel had been asked about by the Boston Globe about teacher/student ratio in North Andover, which is on the high side (19:1). In his research, he discovered the information entered into the system to be incorrect. Once corrected, the ratio for North Andover will be around 13/14:1, much improved

The Northshore Consortium response to our request to join was to invite Mr. Hottel to a meeting on March 17, 2010 to discuss the possibility.

Report cards samples are posted on the website.

The Transportation department has had some issues with crowding on some buses. Changes were made, that were not communicated as well as they could have been. The process will be better managed in the future.

Absences have not been as high as other school systems, graphs are on-line to review. The lead nurse for the schools is watching closely. The town has some vaccines and is in the process of determining who and how they will be utilized.

Unfinished business

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of personnel policy manual

Ms. Allen said this represented a lot of hard work-and extended her thanks to Deb Vartanian for all her hard work on the manual

**Motion to accept the Personnel Policy Manual as written made by Mr. Nobile, seconded by Ms. Allen**  
**The vote was 5-0, Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton**

New business

Dr Scuzzarella asked the School Committee to approve her re-allocations of advisor position funds. She and the NATA met to reconfigure the list to meet current needs. There are some title changes, but the actual total dollar amount has not changed.

**Motion to approve the Advisor Position reallocations made by Mr. Nobile, seconded by Ms. Allen .**  
**The vote was 5-0, Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton**

NAMS and Thomson AYP plans

Ms McQuade and Mr. Gilligan, Principals at the North Andover Middle School and Thomson Elementary School both presented their AYP plans for their schools.

Both plans are very ambitious but Ms. McQuade and Mr. Gilligan are very optimistic about the success of their plans and look forward to implementing them at their schools.

#### Subcommittee reports

Athletics-Mr. Nobile has met the goal of raising \$30,000.00, with a big thank you to everyone that helped out.

Budget/finance—Nothing to report, the committee hopes to be meeting in the next few weeks.

Communications-The North Shore Coalition is a group of 16 districts north of Boston that are working on ways to save money. One current project is to list the State mandates that are unfunded, so that the legislators better understand where the money goes and areas they could better help us with.

Elementary School Resources-Moving a little slowly, still waiting for information from the schools, hopes to have information to committee in mid December.

Negotiations-There will be an executive session on Monday, before the working session for a contract discussion.

Policies-Some questions to finish up and then votes can be taken. Probably in the December/January meeting.

Technology-Setting up a meeting with the Director of Technology. An update will be coming.

#### Public comment (non agenda items):

Mark Rodgers from the FinCom committee spoke briefly. He said the Mass Taxpayers Association is predicting a 2 billion dollar loss to the state, which would be about a \$699,000.00 loss to North Andover.

He feels the town would be in dire straits now if an override had not passed 2 years ago. But that the town is no longer accruing any savings in the Healthcare Fund.

Mr. Nobile stated that real estate sales were up 20% over last year in North Andover, it was a sign that people were confident enough to invest in the town.

Chair Limpert asked for a motion to adjourn

**Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Burzlaff, seconded by Ms. Allen . The vote was 5-0, Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile, Ms. Rhoton**

Approved 12/3/09