

**North Andover School Committee  
Regular Session**

Date: January 11, 2010

Location: NAHS Library

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

**Call To Order**

At 5:00 p.m. Chair Limpert called the meeting to order.

**Race To The Top**

Chair Limpert stated that the only item on this evening's agenda was continued discussion and decision regarding participation in the Race to The Top program.

Superintendent Hottel introduced NATA President Rob Nardone. Superintendent Hottel discussed the DESE workshop he, Mr. Limpert and Mr. Nardone attended in Worcester. Superintendent Hottel stated that in response to concerns by the Committee he had met with principals and the union regarding the Race To The Top MOU and that the principals were supportive of the program stating that the MOU fit in with things North Andover was already doing such as the revised teacher evaluation process and using data to improve instruction.

Mr. Nardone stated that the union was looking forward to being a participant in the Race To The Top program and driving the changes. He stated that the union was looking forward to determining the future and being able to put their fingerprints on these changes.

Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson stated that he did not feel participation in the Race To The Top program would create a significant additional workload as the district is already doing and reporting per federal grant requirements on many of things in the RTTT proposal. He stated that the outcome could be improvement of student achievement and improvement in teacher professional development.

The Committee discussed some concerns with the possibility of costs outweighing the grant funds for some initiatives and the possibility of not being able to opt out of the program. They also discussed the fact that all the other districts would be in the same situation and that there would be strength in numbers if the state proposed something unacceptable and did not allow districts to opt out.

Mr. Nardone discussed the collaborative effort between the union and the administration to move this program forward.

Ms. Caron stated that as a teacher she was not made aware of this program.

**Mr. Nobile moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Race To The Top program and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the School Committee the Memorandum of Understanding as presented this evening. Ms. Allen seconded the motion.**

Mr. Nardone stated that the union leadership had just decided to sign the MOU on the RTTT. He stated that this was a leadership decision and as more detailed information becomes available that information will be disseminated to the teaching staff.

Ms. Burzlaff reviewed the assumptions she was making while voting in the affirmative on signing the MOU. She stated that a parent, Jenn Scarpa, had suggested that the Committee include a cover letter to the DESE outlining the assumptions made when approving the MOU. The Committee asked Ms. Burzlaff to forward the list of assumptions to Superintendent Hottel and directed the Superintendent to include the assumptions in a cover letter along with the signed MOU to the DESE.

**The vote was 4-1 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile voted yes, Ms. Rhoton voted no.**

**Ms. Allen moved to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Committee the Memorandum of Agreement between the Superintendent, School Committee and Mr. Nardone as representative of the NATA. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.**

Ms. Allen stated that an executive session would need to be held after the meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> for an update on negotiations.

The Committee agreed, due to the special election, to cancel the meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> and to hold the public hearing on the FY11 budget on January 21<sup>st</sup> and schedule an additional meeting for January 26<sup>th</sup> to vote the budget number.

#### **Adjourn**

**At 6:10 p.m. Ms. Allen moved to adjourn. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.**