

**North Andover School Committee  
Regular Session**

Date: January 26, 2010

Location: Town Hall

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

**Call to Order**

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Limpert called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Consent Agenda**

There were no consent items.

**Chairman's Report**

Chair Limpert thanked the administration for their work on the budget to date.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Hottel updated the Committee on the status of the Sargent Principal Search. Superintendent Hottel reviewed some of the changes and additions to the district website. Community members can go to the website and there is now a link to send budget questions via email to the administration. All questions and answers will be posted to the website

**Discussion and Approval of the FY11 Budget**

The Committee continued discussion regarding the FY11 budget. Chair Limpert stated that the Town Charter dictates when the school department's budget must be provided to the Town Manager. Mr. Mealey stated that three identified needs have been removed from the list: the \$4,700 Unifund item is a requirement and must be included in the budget, the athletic need has been removed as it did not address any of the School Committee's ten directives and the facilities manager position has been removed until further discussions with the Town regarding consolidation take place. Mr. Mealey reviewed the administrators' and the School Committee's priority ranking of each of the identified needs. Mr. Mealey reviewed the narrative justifications provided by the administrators for each of the identified needs.

In response to a question by the Committee Mr. Mealey stated that the \$54,000 budgeted amount for teacher salary does not include benefit costs. It was noted that the Town uses \$65,000 as a cost estimate for new positions. The committee discussed the importance of the cost saving benefits of the behavioral program and the possibility of using tuition savings from joining the North Shore Consortium to pay for the behavioral program. The Committee also discussed possibly obtaining a grant writer to cover some of the identified needs such as security at the high school.

The Committee discussed the ranking of the identified needs and noted that the administration and the Committee's top three prioritized identified needs were the same. The vote this evening provides the

Town Manager with the school department's budget number, the Committee and administration will continue to examine and fine tune the budget details.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding what identified needs to include in the budget and what final dollar amount should be presented to the Town Manager for the FY11 budget.

**Mr. Nobile moved to vote a budget for FY11 with an increase of 3.41% based upon the top four items on the priority list. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.**

The Committee discussed the need to present the budget in a manner that provides a clear picture to all constituents including the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and parents. They discussed the need for the administration to review identified needs 5 through 31 and begin to look for other ways to fund the items including looking at grants and further exploration of virtual high school

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **School Committee Comments**

The Committee discussed the positive process used for the FY11 budget.

Ms. Allen encouraged the community to attend the upcoming Coffee House student performance at NAHS.

Ms. Burzlaff thanked the Superintendent for addressing the budget questions online but asked that the administration respond this evening to the question about the teachers receiving a salary increase if the contract remains unsettled.

Mr. Mealey stated that if the contract is not settled teachers will not receive a salary increase. However, step and column moves will go forward for those teachers that qualify. He noted that anticipated step and column moves are included in the recommended FY11 budget.

Ms. Rhoton encouraged the community to read the article in the *Eagle Tribune*, North Andover's Own Rudy.

#### **Adjourn**

**At 8:40 p.m. Ms. Allen moved to adjourn. Ms. Burzlaff seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.**