

North Andover School Committee

Date: February 24, 2010

Location: NAHS Library

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

Call to Order

At 6:05 p.m. Chair Limpert called the meeting to order.

Budget Discussion

The Committee discussed questions they had regarding the overall budget process and agreed that Ms. Burzlaff would provide Superintendent Hottel with a list of questions for Town Manager regarding the process.

The Committee discussed the different formats for budget presentation to the FinCom, budget summary, budget detail and budget by location.

The Committee discussed the need to provide reference information for the FinCom including, how many students at each school, square footage of each school and where Title 1 funding goes. The FinCom also needs to hear the indirect costs that town is crediting to the school department. The Committee discussed the importance of the upcoming presentation by Mr. Tobin on foundation budget.

Superintendent Hottel discussed the difference in how the school and town calculate FTEs. All of the town's FTEs are based on 37.5 hours while the school department has positions with varying hours that constitute a full time employee, for example a one season coach is counted as a 1.0 FTE.

The Committee discussed the need to show the employee along with the number of students that the employee services for example Kittredge 5th grade teachers are 2.0 FTE servicing 60 students. The Committee also discussed the need to show that the materials budget is lower this year (approximately 12.5% with the budget freeze) and building principals are looking to PTOs to make up the difference.

The Committee discussed a comment from a selectman who wanted to know why the special education program for emotional needs is not reflected as a reduction in the special education out of district expense line.

The Committee discussed the need for the Town's budget to be as detailed and visible as the school department's budget so the community can clearly see what they are funding for both Town and Schools.

In order to not conflict with FinCom meetings, the Committee discussed the possibility of moving the two School Committee March meetings to Wednesday, March 3rd and Wednesday, March 17th.

Chair Limpert stated that currently the School Committee is scheduled to present to the FinCom on March 18th, he has requested that the presentation be pushed back to March 23rd. Ms. Rhoton

discussed the executive summary for the budget that the Budget and Finance Subcommittee is working on. She stated that a draft would be provided to the School Committee for review at the next meeting. The Committee discussed the importance of each member of the FinCom being provided information in a format that answers all questions.

The Committee discussed the advisory committee's proposed expenditures of SFSF money and the impact each expenditure would have on the district.

The Committee discussed the proposed warrant article regarding transferring funds from the preschool project to the modular project and the proposed revisions to the capital improvement plan. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to move forward and send the proposed articles to the Town Manager and vote to approve the articles at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the proposed kindergarten coordinator/principal mentor stipend position and the importance of having someone lead and finalize the full-day kindergarten accreditation process so that grant funds are not jeopardized in future years. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to move this position forward for a vote at the next School Committee meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:05 p.m. Ms. Allen moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, not to return to regular session. Mr. Nobile seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 Ms. Allen, Ms. Burzlaff, Mr. Limpert, Mr. Nobile and Ms. Rhoton.