

## NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, November 8, 2005

PLACE: North Andover High School Auditorium

PRESENT: Dan Murphy, Chair, Alfred Perry, Assistant Chairman, Charles C. Ormsby, Tim Pybus, and William Kelly

Also Present: Harry Harutunian, Superintendent, Paul Szymanski, Director, Management Support Services, Richard Bergeron, Assistant Superintendent, and members of the School Department and the community.

I. Call to Order: Chairman Dan Murphy, called the meeting of the North Andover School Committee to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Recommended Action:

Warrants of bills payable were circulated for signature.

Public Participation:

Ann Gattis, co-president of North Andover Music Associates, expressed her concern about the future of the music program in the North Andover schools and asked School Committee members what their plans are for the music program next year and in the future. Members of the School Committee spoke about the difficulty of improving academic standards and maintaining a well- balanced program in the face of additional cuts in teaching staff next year. Concluding the discussion, Chairman Murphy stated that more concerning the status of the music program would be known as the budget process evolves, and he urged parents to make elected officials aware of their concerns.

Veterans' Memorial:

David Rand, a Veteran and Dale Street resident, spoke eloquently concerning the creation of a memorial to four young men from North Andover, Michael Dunn, Michael Byron, Gregory Davis, and James English, who had died as a result of the Vietnam war. Mr. Rand stated that after visiting the High School track and seeing the cross-section of the community who use it, he felt this would be the most appropriate location for a memorial. Mr. Rand stated that the V.F.W. and the American Legion support the idea of memorializing the four young men together and will raise the money for this endeavor, which is anticipated to cost around \$15,000. Members of the School Committee expressed their support to Mr. Rand and the other veterans in attendance for the research and the thought that went into the project. Mr. Cassidy, a World War II veteran, spoke about his support for the project and his pride in having the North Andover High School Band march with the veterans. Dr. Harutunian stated that a public hearing will be scheduled before the start of the next School Committee meeting to vote on the proposal.

III. Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Harutunian asked the School Committee to approve a request by the Drama Guild for an overnight field trip to Lenox, Massachusetts on November 18 and returning on November 20 in order to participate in the Shakespeare Festival.

On motion made by Al Perry and seconded by Tim Pybus, it was voted to allow the Drama Guild of North Andover to travel to Lenox, MA on November 18 through November 20 so that members may participate in the Shakespeare Festival. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

Acceptance of Gifts:

Dr. Harutunian asked the School Committee to accept the gift of new playground equipment by the Franklin School PTO to the Franklin School.

On motion made by Charles Ormsby and seconded by William Kelly, it was voted to accept the gift of new playground equipment to the Franklin School by the Franklin PTO. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

Dr. Harutunian asked the School Committee to accept a gift of \$1,500 from Wheelabrator to the North Andover High School Athletic Department.

On motion made by Tim Pybus and seconded by William Kelly, it was voted to accept the gift of \$1,500 from Wheelabrator North Andover, Inc. to the North Andover High School Athletic Department. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

Dr. Harutunian asked the School Committee to accept a gift of \$2,000 from CC & J McDonald's Restaurant to the High School Athletic Department.

On motion made by William Kelly and seconded by Al Perry, it was voted to accept the donation of \$2,000 from CC & J McDonald's Restaurant to the High School Athletic Department. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

Dr. Harutunian advised the School Committee that McDonald's Restaurant had also donated coffee and hot chocolate to the Athletic Department to sell at the Homecoming Celebration.

Athletic/Extracurricular Activities:

Dr. Harutunian praised various High School athletic teams, including the Girls' Field Hockey Team, Boys' Cross Country Team and the Cheer Leaders, for their accomplishments during the fall season. He also congratulated the High School Band for winning the silver medal at the band competition in Framingham.

Bradstreet ECC:

Dr. Harutunian advised the audience that because the Bradstreet School is the oldest existing school in North Andover, built in 1911, the North Andover Historical Association is looking to add it to the Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory list. Dr. Harutunian stated that this proposal conflicts with the intention of the Board of Selectmen, who want to tear the building down and create a parking lot on the site.

Revenue/Fixed-Cost Review Committee:

Dr. Harutunian thanked Paul Stewart for his efforts in pulling the information together for the School Committee.

Award of Substitute Teacher Contract:

Dr. Harutunian advised the School Committee that OPIS was the only company to bid on the second RFP advertised this school year to supply the North Andover School Department with substitute teachers. In answer to a question from Mr. Kelly, Dr. Harutunian explained that Kelly Services, Inc. had originally been awarded the contract, but the contract had been voided because Kelly Services could not deliver what it had promised.

On motion made by Al Perry and seconded by William Kelly, it was voted to award a three-year contract to Vedior North Andover, dba OPIS of Wakefield, Massachusetts, to provide services of substitute teachers to cover classes of professional teachers who are absent from work; long-term substitute assignments; half-time substitute teachers and temporary administrative personnel. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

FY06 Utility Forecast Update/Unanticipated Expenses:

Dr. Harutunian stated that he anticipates over half a million dollars in cost overruns even if the temperatures this winter are moderate. He added that there is some talk of one-time only State assistance with fuel issues. School Committee members discussed conservation measures, cost projections, contingency funds and maintenance. Dr. Harutunian advised the School Committee the Massachusetts General Laws require that classroom temperatures do not go below 68°, but adjustments to the temperature are made when classrooms are not occupied.

Building Use Warrant Article:

Dr. Harutunian reported that because the Selectmen had taken no action on the School Department's request to put an article on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting in December concerning the revolving account for the rental of facilities, a group of citizens put together a petition for this purpose. Dr. Harutunian noted that the Town Clerk has certified the petition.

IV. Old Business:

Dr. Harutunian submitted a revised Timetable for the Implementation of School Committee Motions A, B, D, E & F, and he advised the School Committee that the modifications appear in blue.

V. New Business:

Discussion regarding 2005 MCAS Scores:

Dr. Harutunian gave the School Committee and the audience three charts, one for the elementary schools, one for the Middle School, and one for the High School, presenting the MCAS scores over the past seven years. Dr. Harutunian noted that the 2005 Grade 10 scores were the highest ever achieved and exceeded the School Committee's goal. In addition, he stated that Middle School math combined scores were also the highest ever achieved. At the elementary level, Dr. Harutunian attributed the slippage in scores for both language arts and science, in part, to the movement of students between schools. During further discussion, Dr. Harutunian shared the approach he will use for beginning the process of re-evaluating the E/LA curriculum, adding that the new curriculum will include more emphasis on spelling and grammar.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Dr. Harutunian asked that the School Committee waive the requirement under new business so that a vote could be taken to approve \$119,000 for carpet replacement at both the Sargent Elementary School and the Middle School and \$814,000 for re-roofing the Franklin Elementary School.

On motion made by Tim Pybus and seconded by Al Perry, it was voted to waive procedures so that action could be taken on the FY07 Capital Improvement Plan request under new business. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

On motion made by Al Perry and seconded by Charles Ormsby, it was voted to support the FY07 Capital Improvement Plan request to replace Sargent Elementary School and Middle School carpet at a total cost of \$119,000 and re-roof the Franklin Elementary School at a cost of \$814,000.

Further discussion ensued concerning the necessity of replacing the Franklin School roof and the possibility of tearing down the Franklin School if a new school were to be built. Dr. Harutunian advised the Committee that once the money has been allocated, it can be put where it is most needed. He added that a feasibility study would be out before the first of the year to decide which schools should be kept

The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

VI. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Ormsby asked the approval of the August 23, 2005, School Committee Minutes be deferred so that corrections could be made.

VII. Other Business:

Chairman Dan Murphy said that the next meeting date of November 22 will have to be changed because of a scheduling conflict.

On motion made by Al Perry and seconded by Charles Ormsby at 7:55 p.m. it was voted to adjourn. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry K. Harutunian, Ph.D., Superintendent  
Secretary, North Andover School Committee

cp