

## NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, December 13, 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:

A parent of a Middle School student expressed concern regarding the morning pickup time for Middle School students which necessitates the students having to wait in the Middle School hallway and lobby for up to 25 minutes before the opening bell rings. Dr. Harutunian responded that he was very much aware of the problem, saying that the High School bus pickup was moved to an earlier time because High School students were arriving late. This, Dr. Harutunian noted, caused a ripple effect through the entire district. Dr. Harutunian concluded the discussion by stating that the schedule will be modified next year and that a transportation rate increase may be required.

III. Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Harutunian commented on an editorial that appeared in the Eagle Tribune written by Ken Johnson. He stated that the editorial was written based on incomplete information regarding a discussion he had with parents concerning fee-based initiatives and mentioned at the previous School Committee meeting. In response to the editorial, Dr. Harutunian stated he and Margaret Sheehan, a parent of a North Andover High School student, visited the Editor in Chief and Managing Editor of the Eagle Tribune and articulated their concerns. Dr. Harutunian stated that the editors recommended a "letter to the editor" be sent to correct any misunderstanding. Dr. Harutunian stated that he would like to continue to look at fee-based initiatives if parents agree it is something which should be pursued. Mr. Kelly commented that he thought it was a creative way to look at things. Chairman Murphy stated that the discussion will continue. Dr. Ormsby stated the editorial will discourage people from thinking outside the box.

- Field Trip Approval

Dr. Harutunian requested approval for the French/American Exchange scheduled for March 17 through March 25 and the German/American Exchange scheduled for April 13 through April 29. He stated that the School Committee has approved these trips in the past and all provisions required by the School Committee for the two new exchanges had been met.

Motion was made by William Kelly and seconded by Tim Pybus to approve the French/American Exchange and the German/American Exchange.

Mr. Perry asked what would happen in the event the National Terror Alert level was raised, and Dr. Harutunian assured him that the Superintendent has the right to cancel the trips if it is in the best interest of the students.

The vote was 5-0: Mr. Murnhy, Mr. Perrv, Dr. Ormsbv, Mr. Pvbus and Mr. Kellyv voted ves.

- Energy Consumption

Dr. Harutunian reported that Paul Szymanski, Director of Management Support Services, had put together detailed Energy Policy guidelines with the hope of saving between \$50,000 and \$60,000 per year. He stated that during the evenings, school thermostats will be turned down to 55 degrees and turned up in the morning so that classroom temperatures will be approaching 68 degrees when students arrive. Dr. Harutunian also requested that the School Committee approve the letter to parents notifying them of the changes. A discussion commenced in which Dr. Harutunian and Mr. Szymanski answered questions by members of the School Committee and a parent.

Motion was made by Al Perry and seconded by Charles Ormsby to accept the Energy Policy guidelines and to approve the letter written by Dr. Harutunian notifying parents of the conservation measures being implemented. The vote was 5-0; Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perry, Dr. Ormsby, Mr. Pybus and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

- Update on School Building Committee Feasibility Study

Dr. Harutunian reported that changes in the State's funding formula of school projects will take place in 2007. He stated that under the old formula, three criteria were used in evaluating school building projects: desegregation, population, and program changes, and Foster Farm was listed based on enrollment (population). The Governor's new system would fund the most worthy project with a finite amount of money.

In addition to a real estate appraisal of each school property, Dr. Harutunian reported that Architect Ken Denisco has worked over the past 6 months to put together an analysis of each school, which includes mechanical and structural components and aerial pictures. Dr. Harutunian noted that not one of North Andover's schools is operating at the capacity it should be. Based on preliminary numbers, Dr. Harutunian stated he felt comfortable that North Andover will have a good report to send to the School Building Committee. When questioned as to whether or not the Bradstreet School was part of the appraisal, Dr. Harutunian asked members of the School Committee to check with the School Building Committee. Dr. Ormsby questioned whether the Foster Farm project could be downsized, and Dr. Harutunian responded that the shape could change but not the site. Bradstreet School was again brought up as an option of kindergarten, but Dr. Harutunian responded that parents have made it clear they want K through 5 schools.

- Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Charles Ormsby to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2005, School Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by William Kelly.

Mr. Kelly suggested that the approved minutes be posted on the School Department's website. Dr. Harutunian responded that this could be done because School Committee Minutes are public record.

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

Mr. Kelly recognized Middle School art teacher Kristan Phelps whose after-school art program was the subject of an article in the Boston Globe. Dr. Harutunian recognized North Andover High School athletes for winning five Cape Ann League Championships.

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