

**NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

(Revised – June 14, 2005)

DATE: Monday, April 25, 2005

PLACE: North Andover High School Auditorium

PRESENT: Daniel Murphy, Chairman; Alfred Perry, Assistant Chairman; Charles Ormsby;
Tim Pybus; William Kelly
Also Present: Harry Harutunian, Superintendent; Ronald Binkney, Assistant
Superintendent

I. Call to Order: Dan Murphy, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Harry Harutunian opened the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Mary Ellen Kennedy who passed away in a tragic house fire.

Dr. Harutunian was pleased to report that the Franklin School had a reasonably good day. The day began with an announcement to students. There were grief counselors on hand to talk to staff and students. The Trauma Intervention Program of Merrimack Valley, Inc. (TIPS) was at the school from 5-7p.m. for families who needed support.

Dr. Harutunian also thanked Chief Dolan for his outstanding support; Pam Lathrop is doing a superb job as well as the entire staff at Franklin.

There is a scholarship fund set up in memory of Mary Ellen Kennedy.

Mary Ellen Kennedy Scholarship Fund
C/O Sovereign Bank
555 Chickering Road
North Andover, MA 01845

II. Recommended Action: The question was asked if anyone would like to discuss anything not on the agenda. Everyone said no.

III. Student Accomplishments: Dr. Harutunian informed the committee of the athletic accomplishments for the 04-05 school year as well as congratulating the DI team competing in the regional competition.

IV. Old Business: FY 06 Budget Request & Recommended Reductions - REVISED

Dr. Harutunian submitted a revised budget breakdown of school department funding which includes the reduction of the \$280,000 for K-5 math materials. Dr. Harutunian will be purchasing these materials with FY05 money. Steve Dawe asked if the

\$280,000 is left over money from this year's school budget. Dr. Harutunian responded by explaining that \$124,000 is from the math pilot program and the remainder is the 20% that the principals are asked to hold from their FY05 budget.

Mr. Kelly thanked Dr. Harutunian for his thorough response to his question regarding elementary guidance counselors and their role at the elementary level. Guidance counselors play a very intricate part in helping classroom teachers and students who have issues during the school year. Dr. Harutunian strongly recommends that these positions not be cut from the FY06 budget.

Bea Fink proposed her concerns regarding the budget:

1. Regular Ed. Class teachers received 10.66% increase in the past, and she recommended a cap of 4% increase and this would result in a savings of \$900,000.
2. Cannot afford to add new staff with an increase in enrollment of only 23 students.
3. Strongly recommended capping increases.

Mr. Perry asked Ms. Fink how could capping be done? Her response was that other communities are capping at 3% and control step increases would keep things under control, we should be able to do the same.

Dr. Harutunian explained that from 1999 to present there was an increase of 400 new students at the North Andover High School and a reduction of one teacher. The new staff is at the High School level, and not at the Middle School or Elementary level.

Mr. Ormsby is endorsing the cuts. He recommends looking at the salary step structure for teachers.

There was conversation between Mr. Kelly and Dr. Harutunian on energy reduction programs for the schools. Dr. Harutunian informed the committee that he is looking into two different companies (gas and electric) to help reduce energy costs. These two companies would be paid from a small percent of the savings. Dr. Harutunian commented on building the Foster Farm School as energy efficient.

Mr. Murphy asked for an update regarding Mr. Pybus and Mr. Perry's meeting with the Finance Committee, and Selectman Stewart and Coggiano. This meeting was to discuss where money could be distributed and redistributed for fire safety, public safety, reserves and DPW. They did not reach a resolution and will be meeting again on Monday, May 2, 2005.

Mr. Kelly sat in on the Finance Committee meeting regarding all town budget operating expenses on cutting from *critically necessary items* to the *nice to have items*. Health insurance was brought up as a luxury for town officials. Would this be unfair to present users to take away health insurance?

Ed Maguire stated: "Why are we looking at any increases if there are layoffs?"

Mr. Murphy replied that we would lose good teachers if we had no increases. Mr. Perry agreed that if there was a zero base increase, teachers would leave. We need to continue our goals to excellence. Mr. Ormsby commented that the North Andover teachers' pay scale is not that low compared to other towns, and we shall ensure that key employees are well compensated.

On motion made by Al Perry and seconded by Tim Pybus, it was voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy session for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the North Andover Teachers' Association, and not to return to regular session. 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