

## NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, May 17, 2005

PLACE: Superintendent's Conference Room, 43 High Street, North Andover

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

Also Present: Harry Harutunian, Superintendent

I. Call to Order: Al Perry, Assistant Chairman, called the meeting of the North Andover School Committee to order at 7:34 a.m.

II. Recommended Action:

The Warrant was circulated for signature.

III. New Business:

Dr. Harutunian reported to members of the Committee that he had spoken with the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate concerning the possibility of increased school funding. He informed the Committee that while the Governor and the Massachusetts House and Senate are putting more money into school funding, the newspapers are reporting the money will be earmarked for underperforming schools. He advised the Committee that if the Town of North Andover does receive more money from the State, unless the House and Senate state specifically that the money is to be used for school spending, a vote at Town Meeting will be required to send the money to the schools.

IV. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Harutunian stated that the search for the Assistant Superintendent yielded a pool of thirty very strong candidates from which three finalists were chosen. Noting that the three finalists had at some point in their career served as principals in their respective districts, he added that Richard Bergeron, had also served as Superintendent for the Boxborough School District. During a site visit on Thursday, May 12, Dr. Harutunian reported that Karen Hallbauer, Nancy Jukins, Joan McQuade and he had met with Dr. Bergeron's staff and parents and officials in the community. Dr. Harutunian reported that the feedback concerning Dr. Bergeron was very positive, and he recommended that the Committee hire Dr. Richard Bergeron at a salary of \$115,000. per year.

Tim Pybus moved to consider the recommendation of Dr. Harutunian to hire Dr. Richard Bergeron as Assistant Superintendent for the Town of North Andover at a salary of \$115,000. per year. The motion was seconded by Al Perry.

Dr. Harutunian responded to Dr. Ormsby's question concerning Dr. Bergeron's duties as Assistant Superintendent by saying that he would be responsible for K-12 Curriculum, Grants, MCAS, *No Child Left Behind* requirements and the day-to-day operations of the elementary schools, including supervision of elementary school principals. Dr. Harutunian elaborated on the role of the new Assistant Superintendent vis-à-vis curriculum and explained the direction the new language arts curriculum would take under Dr. Bergeron. Mr. Kelly expressed his wish for a strong grant writer, and Dr. Harutunian stated that he will investigate with the Town Manager the possibility of hiring a grant writer who is able to cover his/her salary in the administration portion of the grants. In answer to Mr. Pybus' question regarding the role of the School Committee in hiring the new Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Harutunian responded that the Committee can approve or disapprove a candidate, and it also has the responsibility of approving the salary recommended by the Superintendent. A discussion ensued among members of the Committee concerning the \$115,000. salary recommended by Dr. Harutunian for the new Assistant Superintendent.

Motion was made by Tim Pybus and seconded by Al Perry to approve the hiring of Dr. Richard Bergeron at a salary of \$115,000. per year. A roll call vote was taken and Mr. Perry, Mr. Pybus, Mr. Kelly and Dr. Ormsby voted yes.

V. Other Business

Dr. Harutunian advised the Committee that an Executive Session of the School Committee will be held at 5:00 p.m. next Tuesday, May 24, in the Guidance Office, and the general School Committee Meeting will be held immediately after at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Dr. Harutunian advised the Committee that by eliminating the two technology teachers at the Middle School and the German language program, he will be able to put in both Spanish and French in grades 7 and 8 and maintain teacher prep periods. He informed the Committee that they should be prepared to vote on the closing of the Bradstreet School, the cut list, and redistricting at the Franklin, Kittredge and Sargent Schools at the next School Committee meeting. Dr. Harutunian said the goal would be to have these issues settled before June 1. In response to Dr. Ormsby's inquiry about a presentation concerning the Bradstreet School closing, Dr. Harutunian responded that he is considering using it as a 90-day Middle School and High School alternative education center for thirty non-special education students. He informed the Committee that he will be discussing the idea with five surrounding school districts to see if there is any interest. More discussion ensued among the Committee members regarding a community service component and other possibilities for the facility. If the School Committee approves the redistricting plan as presented at the School Committee meeting on May 24, Dr. Harutunian stated that he will meet with the Kittredge, Sargent and Franklin PTOs to discuss the repercussions. The discussion turned again to staffing and the German language program at the Middle School. Dr. Harutunian remarked that it was not possible to hire a part-time German teacher, and that parents were concerned that German may not last as a foreign language program.

On motion made by Charles Ormsby and seconded by William Kelly, it was voted to adjourn at 8:55 a.m. The vote was 4-0; Mr. Perry, Mr. Pybus, Dr. Ormsby and Mr. Kelly voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

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