

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: April 15, 2014
Time: 6:35 PM
Place: E. Ethel Little School Cafeteria

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers
Karen Errichetti (not present)
Janene Imbriano
Gerald Venezia (arrived 7:20 p.m.)
Mel Webster

Staff Members Present

Kathleen Willis – Superintendent of Schools
Michael Connelly – Director Finance and Operations
Cindy Elmore – Recording Secretary

Visitors: Mr. Zachary Mullin-Bernstein (Student Representative), Principal Christine Molle and various students, parents and teachers, Mr. Geof Simons, Mr. Dan Tomasello (North Reading Transcript)

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

II. Executive Session:

At 6:36 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to reconvene in Open Session. Motion passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

At 6:59 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers to return to Open Session. Motion passed 3-0 on a roll call vote.

III. A. Public Input:

None at this time

III. B. Student Report:

Zachary Mullin-Bernstein provided the student report and presented his class work.

III. D.1. E. Ethel Little School Presentation:

This was the fourth of five School Committee meetings that take place in each of the schools this year. Principal Molle hosted the presentation which highlighted a variety of initiatives taking place at the Little School this year.

III. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update:

- a) The last SSBC meeting was held on April 8, 2014.
- b) Construction Update: The Gym Floor will be installed in mid-June; the Main Street interior windows have been installed; starting to finish the installation of the ceiling grid; the Middle School brick wall exposed on Main Street will be refinished soon; and VCT tiling in the classrooms has begun and the color patterns on the floors are taking shape.
- c) The access road to the High School at Route 62 will be closed at the start of April vacation so that intersection work can commence. The road will remain closed until September. Abutters have been notified. There will be a police detail assigned during the first week and an electronic sign will be located on Route 62 that notifies the community of the change.
- d) Design Update: FF&E went out to bid at the end of February. The bids were received in March on the items "as specified." A number of samples were requested from vendors who proposed "as equal" items. The Administrators reviewed the samples for quality, durability, and appearance and made decisions. The designers met with the curriculum leaders to review their lists again and they affirmed the items as specified. A list of repurpose items currently in the schools was developed. Student furniture from 10 classrooms and all the Middle School cafeteria tables will be reused.

The MSBA approved budget for the FF&E is \$1,644,000 based on a figure of \$1,200/student. This per pupil cost has been the same for the last 10 years. The current bid total for FF&E is \$1,963,756 representing a figure of \$1,500/student. The Central Office furniture was not part of the bid process but the cost estimate for this is bid is \$108,000. Other small miscellaneous FF&E not yet bid totals \$37,512 for a grand total of \$2,109,268 needed for FF&E. The budget gap equals \$465,268.

The SSBC voted 16-0 to expend the MSBA approved amount so that purchase orders can be issued. The designers will come to the SSBC meeting with a detailed explanation of the items that are included in the additional \$465,268 needed to fully fund FF&E

- e) Invoices were approved and the expenditures report prepared by Phil Dardeno was reviewed. The report also detailed the disbursement of funds by the MSBA to the Town.
- f) Two abutters attended the meeting to address their concerns regarding standing water on their land for 200 hours. The OPM explained the status of grading the berm and swale to complete this part of the project. It is not yet done.
- g) The next SSBC meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2014.

III. C.2. FY15 Budget Update:

The Administrative Council met the day after the FY15 Budget Hearing to debrief and continue to identify alternative funding strategies to address class size at the high school. After much deliberation, the Council identified ways to shift current teaching assignments of several faculty members to provide between 3-4 more sections to the high school to alleviate high class sizes in identified courses. This is a no-cost option that can be implemented for one year.

The Chair and Mr. Connelly provided an update regarding a discussion at the Finance Planning Team held on April 10th, to identify additional town revenue that will cover the funding needed for the Digital Learning Coordinator. The FY15 Budget vote is scheduled for April 28, 2014.

III. C.3. PPS Director Search Update:

The Superintendent's Office concluded a second unsuccessful search process in April 2014. There were 25 applicants screened by eight administrators resulting in the identification of four qualified candidates for interviews. A ten member interview committee made up of teachers, parents, specialists, administrators, and a School Committee member participated in the interview process.

Four candidates interviewed with the committee and one candidate was identified to move forward for interviews with the Administrative Council. The candidate participated in the second round of interviews but the Administrative Council, in their deliberations, did not feel the candidate had the necessary administrative experiences required to assume the position of Director of Pupil Personnel Services based on the candidates' responses to the questions that were asked.

The position has been reposed. In the meantime, Dr. Valerie Ardi Flynn has agreed to return for a second year as the Interim PPS Director if the District is able to obtain a critical shortage waiver from the DESE. The application for the shortage waiver has been prepared for submission.

III. E.1. Minutes:

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to approve the February 10, 2014 Executive Session minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to approve the March 10, 2014 Executive Session minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to approve the March 10, 2014 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to approve the March 24, 2014 Executive Session minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mr. Venezia to approve the March 24, 2014 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

Mr. Connelly provided an update of the FY14 budget and a brief review of the summary and findings associated with the June 30, 2013 *Agreed Upon Procedures Report on the End of Year Financial Report*.

III. E.3. Staffing:

None at this time.

III. E.4. Bids and Donations:

None at this time.

III. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Mr. Venezia provided a brief update from the Athletic Subcommittee.
Mr. Webster provided a brief update from the Finance Planning Team.

Subcommittee Schedule:

a) Policy Subcommittee	April 30, 2014	10:30 AM
b) Finance Planning Team	May 9, 2014	8:15 AM
c) Athletic Subcommittee	May 13, 2014	12:30 PM
d) Evaluation Subcommittee	May 16, 2014	10:00 AM

III. F.2. Administrative Report:

None at this time.

III. F.3. Correspondence: No correspondence at this time

Mr. Webster brought before the Committee an Email/Letter from the Peabody School Committee regarding potential conflict of interest with DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester and his position as National Chair of the PARCC Governing Board. This was an impromptu discussion which Mr. Webster would like to see on the April 28, 2014 School Committee agenda so the Committee can formally review the letter and consequences of Commissioner Chester’s position.

IV. Future Business:

Monday, April 28, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, FY15 Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 12, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Hood School
Monday, May 27, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Town Hall

V. Executive Session:

At 8:37 p.m., the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Motion passed 4-0.

VI. Adjournment:

At 8:50 p.m., the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mr. Venezia to return to Open Session for the sole purpose of adjournment. Motion passed 4-0.

At 8:51 p.m., the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Work
2. E. Ethel Little School – Presentation Agenda
3. FY15 Budget Drivers for Preliminary Modified Level Service Budget
4. Minutes: February 10, 2014 Executive Session
5. Minutes: March 10, 2014 Executive Session
6. Minutes: March 10, 2014 Open Session
7. Minutes: March 24, 2014 Executive Session
8. Minutes: March 24, 2014 Open Session
9. FY14 Budget Report
10. Town of North Reading, Massachusetts Agreed Upon Procedures Report on the End of Year Financial Report June 30, 2013
11. Email from the Peabody School Committee regarding Mitchell Chester as National Chair of the PARCC Governing Board.