

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: April 28, 2014
Time: 6:32 PM
Place: Middle School – Large Group Room

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers
Karen Errichetti
Janene Imbriano
Gerald Venezia
Mel Webster

Staff Members Present

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

Visitors: Ms. Jackie Lanzaro (Student Representative), Attorney Brad Latham (Eleanor Dell Trust), Mr. Gerry Iandoli (Trustee and nephew of Eleanor Dell), Mrs. Mary Starble (Trustee and Friend of Eleanor Dell), Ms. Vicki Yablonsky, Ms. Lillian Diezemann, Ms. Joan O'Donnell, Mr. Jon Bernard (Principal, High School), Mr. Dan Tomasello (North Reading Transcript)

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

II. Executive Session:

At 6:33 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti 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 5-0 on a roll call vote.

At 7:01 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Bowers to return to Open Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

III. A. Public Input:

None at this time

III. B. Student Report:

Jackie Lanzaro provided the student report and presented her class work.

III. D.1. Eleanor C. Dell Scholarship Fund Presentation:

The trustees of the Eleanor C. Dell Trust of 2008 decided to establish a significant perpetual scholarship fund for the benefit of North Reading High School graduates who are pursuing higher education in teaching or the arts. Attorney Bradley Latham contacted the North Reading School District in December to begin the process of establishing this fund.

In addition, the Trustees of the Eleanor C. Dell Trust of 2008 requested that a room in the North Reading High School be named after Eleanor C. Dell, who was a teacher in the High School. The Trustees also made an additional donation of \$15,000 for supplies for that room and will pay the cost of a plaque that names the room. The Committee agreed and voted to name the 3D Art Room in the NRHS after Eleanor C. Dell.

Principal Bernard made a brief statement and introduced Attorney Latham, Mr. Iandoli and Mrs. Starble (Trustees of the Eleanor C. Dell Trust of 2008), as well as teachers who worked with Ms. Dell and several friends. Mr. Latham presented the Committee with a check in the amount of \$625,000 to establish the Eleanor C. Dell Perpetual Scholarship Fund. Several previous associates of Ms. Dell and friends spoke of what a wonderful, loving, and inspiring woman Ms. Dell was to them and all the students she came in contact with. The presentation concluded with Superintendent Willis, Chairman Webster and all the School Committee members thanking the Trust. It was an emotional meeting and everyone was touched and amazed at Ms. Dell's and the Trust's monumental and thoughtful gift that will be touching many lives in the years to come.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mr. Venezia to name the 3D Art Room at North Reading High School in honor of Ms. Eleanor C. Dell. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to accept and establish the Eleanor C. Dell Perpetual Scholarship Fund. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.2. North Reading High School International Travel Proposal:

Principal Bernard proposed two High School trips for 2014 and 2015. The first trip will be to Québec, Canada, November 13-15, 2014 and the second trip to Berlin, Prague and the Alps, April 16-25, 2015.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Errichetti and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to approve the North Reading High School trip to Québec, Canada, November 13-15, 2014. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Imbriano and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to approve the North Reading High School trip to Berlin, Prague and the Alps, April 16-25, 2015. Motion passed 5-0.

III. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update:

- a) The last SSBC meeting was held April 8, 2014.
- b) There has not been a meeting of the SSBC since the last School Committee Meeting.
- c) Construction on the intersection between the High School access road and Route 62 has begun and the first day went very well. The access road to the High School will be closed until September. The public will access the High School by driving up Oakdale Road from Route 62 and then taking a right onto Dodge Road.
- d) The next SSBC meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2014.

III. C.2. Approval of FY15 Budget:

As a result of the Finance Planning Team meeting held on April 10, 2014 the finalized available funds figure for the FY15 School District budget is \$26,764,015 and represents a 4.4% increase over FY14. Mr. Connelly gave a brief review prior to the Committee voting to approve the FY15 School District budget.

Chairman Webster thanked everyone involved including but not limited to the School Administrators, FINCOM and Board of Selectmen.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the FY15 North Reading School District Budget in the amount of \$26,764,015. Motion passed 5-0.

III. C.3. 2013-2014 School Committee Self-Evaluation:

Mr. Webster acknowledged receipt of the Self-Evaluations from the School Committee members. The Evaluation Subcommittee will review the results on May 16, 2014 and present the findings to the Committee at the May 27, 2014 meeting.

III. C.4. 2014-2015 School District Calendar:

The Administrative Council has recommended a change to the date of the second full professional development day from October 10, 2014 to February 6, 2015, previously scheduled as an early release day. October 10th will now be an early release day rather than a full professional development day. This change will accommodate the schedule of a mathematics consultant working with the school district.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mrs. Errichetti and seconded by Mr. Venezia to approve the change in the 2014-2015 School District Calendar. Motion passed 5-0.

III. C.5. Peabody School Committee Letter:

At the April 15th School Committee meeting, Chairman Webster shared a letter written by the Peabody School Committee and sent to Governor Patrick, Commissioner Mitchell Chester, the Attorney General, The Board of Education and the State Ethics Commission regarding the Commissioner's involvement on the PARCC Governing Board. After a discussion, the School Committee agreed that no further action would be required.

III. D.3. School Choice Public Hearing and Vote:

Under the Education Reform Act of 1993 there is a need to hold a public hearing on School Choice annually. Chairman Webster opened the public hearing on School Choice at 8:28 p.m. Becoming a Choice District means that North Reading will accept students from other cities and towns for enrollment in its schools. Once a student is accepted as a choice student, he or she is a student until graduation or the student opts to withdraw. The district receives an additional \$5,000 from the sending district's Chapter 70 funds for each student accepted. After a discussion, the public hearing closed at 8:37 p.m.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to not participate in School Choice because the program as it is presently constructed ensures that the needs of some of the children of the Commonwealth cannot be met. Motion passed 5-0.

III. D.4. Custodian Contract:

The agreement between NRPS and AFSCME Council 93, Local 1703, Custodial Employees contract effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017 was approved.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to approve the Memorandum of Understanding of Agreement between North Reading Public Schools and AFSCME Council 93, Local 1703, Custodial Employees for a new contract effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. Motion passed 5-0.

III. E.1. Minutes:

None at this time.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

None at this time.

III. E.3. Staffing:

None at this time.

III. E.4. Bids and Donations:

High School Principal Bernard requested that the School Committee accept the following donation:

- a. Athletic Boosters Association donation of \$3,300 to help fund the cost of uniforms for the Boys and Girls Track Teams.

Superintendent Willis requested that the School Committee accept the following donation:

- b. North Reading Community Impact Team donation of fourteen (14) copies of anti-bullying children’s literature for students in grades K-8.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to accept with gratitude, \$3,300 from the Athletic Boosters Association to help fund the cost of uniforms for the Boys and Girls Track Teams. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Imbriano to accept with gratitude fourteen copies of anti-bullying children’s literature for students in grades K-8 from the North Reading Community Impact Team. Motion passed 5-0.

II. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Mr. Venezia provided a brief update from the Athletic Subcommittee. Mr. Connelly also provided a review of the Athletic Program Expense Projections in response to the Athletic Subcommittee’s request for adding varsity assistant coaches to the girls and boys soccer team. This topic will be reviewed for decision closer to the FY14 budget year end.

Mr. Venezia provided a copy of the MASC Legislative Bulletin.

Subcommittee Schedule:

a) Policy Subcommittee	April 30, 2014	9:00 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

II. F.2. Administrative Report:

- 2013-2014 Spring Calendar of Events:

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

III. Future Business:

Monday, May 12, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Hood School
Tuesday, May 27, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Monday, June 2, 2014	7:00 PM	Town Meeting, High School
Monday, June 9, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Monday, June 23, 2014	7:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Town Hall

IV. Adjournment:

At 9:00 p.m., the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mrs. Errichetti to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Work
2. Letter from Latham Law Offices requesting that a room at NRHS be named for Eleanor C. Dell, and donation of \$15,000
3. Trip Proposal to Québec, Canada, November 13-15, 2014
4. Trip Proposal to Berlin, Prague and the Alps, April 16-25, 2015
5. FY15 Budget Vote request from Director of Finance and Operations
6. 2014-2015 NRPS School Calendar
7. Memorandum of Understanding between NRPS and Custodial Employees
8. Gift acceptance memo for a donation from Athletic Boosters Association
9. Gift acceptance memo from NR Community Impact Team
10. Athletic Program Expense Projections – worksheet
11. MASC Legislative Bulletin dated April 10, 2014
12. Spring Calendar of Activities 2013-2014