

**Andover School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of January 9, 2013**  
**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

**Members in Attendance:** Chairman Dennis Forgue, Annie Gilbert, Paula Colby-Clements, and Barbara L'Italien

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Finance and Administration, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Nancy A. Duclos, and AHS Liaison Hugh Smith.

**I. Executive Session**

Chairman Forgue opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M. Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy relative to successor contract negotiations with the AEA and to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, B. L'Italien-Y, and D. Forgue-Y. At 6:55 PM. on a motion by Barbara L'Italien and seconded by Annie Gilbert, it was voted to adjourn from Executive Session and to move to Open Session, not to return to Executive Session. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, B. L'Italien-Y, and D. Forgue-Y.

**II. Regular Meeting**

**A. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Salute to the Flag**

Chairman Forgue called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:02 P.M.

Annie Gilbert asked for a moment of silence in memory of Janet Yedinak, Andover Public School Adjustment Counselor who recently passed away and was dearly loved and respected by the Andover School Community. The moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Recognition/Communications**

Superintendent McGrath recognized all of the school custodians and the DPW / Plant & Facilities Workers for their assistance with the clean up during and after the recent snow storm and the cold temperature issues that followed.

Paula Colby-Clements attended the Biodome Project Presentation by the students at Doherty Middle School and was very impressed with the interdisciplinary project the student demonstrated.

Barbara L'Italien said she attended the Peace Concert in December held at the Collins Center in which students from all levels across the district performed.

Superintendent McGrath said AHS is hosting the Regional Robotics Competition for the third time on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. and the public is invited to stop in at any time.

**Bancroft School Update**

The Bancroft School Building Project is on track and going well. Furniture bids received were under budget and they are looking at sample furniture to make sure the furniture meets the requirements. A meeting will soon be scheduled to decide whether or not to move into the new building in April 2014. A meeting will be held on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the technology needs for the school.

Communications Sub-Committee Report - tabled

**C. Public Input - none**

**D. New Business**

**1. AHS Class Size Report**

Director of Guidance, Aixa de Kelley and Assistant Principal, Dr. Luz Valverde, accompanied by AHS Principal Dr. Christopher Lord, presented a thorough report on the annual AHS Class Size Report sharing detailed information on the various class sizes. They are pleased to report the average class size (not including Special Education) for academic and elective classes, is 23 students; a decline over previous years to which they thanked the School Committee in support of this endeavor.

There are 678 sections (full and half) which is an increase of 56 additional courses from 2010; since 2012 26 sections have been added and 50% of the courses have an average of 24 students. Out of 109 sections, 65% have 24 students or below. The Grade 9 composition class shows a 2.7 FTE increase since October of 2010. Two tutorial writing labs will be piloted during second semester for grades 9-12 and a drop-in class is in the design stage.

A breakdown of classes and students was provided:

**Math:** Average of 24-25 students with 101 sections with 43% of the sections with 24 students or less. One math tutorial will be piloted. There are two math programs: Core Plus and Traditional Math and four math levels with 17.32 FTE teachers.

**Social Studies:** Average of 23 students per class size with 87 sections and 67% of the sections have 24 students or less. Currently, there are 15.67 FTE teachers.

**Science:** Average of 24 students capped at 26 due to OSHA Safety Regulations (labs). There are 105 sections with 40% of these sections having 24 students or less. Five sections have 26 students including one section of Exploring Engineering and four half-credit sections in Bioethics. The first year environmental internship program has 23 students. Five teachers have seven sections which is a combination of full and half credit courses. Currently, there are 16.7 FTE teachers.

**World Language:** They are pleased to report a decrease in class size for World Language Courses. Currently, the average class size has 23 students with 71 sections and 51% of the sections have 24 students or less. The first year of the Service Learning Program has 16 students and Spanish 4 students are practicing Spanish through a community service partnership with Lawrence. There are 12.8 FTE teachers.

**Health:** The average class size is 26 and out of 42 sections, 26% have 24 students or less. There are six health sections with 3.6 FTE Teachers.

**Physical Education:** There are 66 sections in Physical Education with an average class size of 25 students and 2.5 FTE teachers. 38% of the sections have 24 students or less.

**Fine Arts:** There are 76 sections of classes including Applied Technology integrated into Fine Arts, with a class size average in the low twenties, and 84% of the sections have 24 students or less. Currently, there are 6.6 FTE teachers.

**Performing Arts:** There are twenty-one sections and 71% of the sections have 24 students or less with 1.5 FTE teachers.

**Band:** One section above 29 students, with 32 students.

Some Performing Arts Classes run before or after school for credit due to space needs.

There has been a 41% increase in dual enrolled programs over last year. Additional learning opportunities include 240 students in the Community Service Program; 9 students in Independent Study, 34 seniors in Senior Exhibition, and the Andover High School Help Desk Intern and Innovations Lab has 14 students.

There has been a 9% decrease in Directed Study with 54 sections; 57% of the sections have 24 students or less.

Superintendent McGrath said the average class size is in-line with class sizes for the middle and elementary schools. Annie Gilbert said the comparative data was well presented and great information to have available. The information will be available on the Andover Public Schools website.

2. CREST Collaborative – Language Change: Approval for Borrowing

Barbara L'Italien reported on CREST Collaboration which provides services to students on IEP's. She explained that the Mass General Law was changed and a new model collaborative agreement vetted by the DESE. Most changes now require a 'Super' majority vote for borrowing, loans, and mortgages. A copy of the new Collaborative Agreement was provided.

Barbara L'Italien motioned for the Andover School Committee to agree to support and approve the new Collaborative and Amended Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.

3. Multi-Year Bus Transportation Contract Requirement

Superintendent McGrath explained that in order to advertise for the seven multi-year bus transportation contracts the School Committee must authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration Paul Szymanski to put out a bid and award a contract that exceeds three years.

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve bid specification contract language that will require bids for transportation services for a three-year term with two, one year option to extend for a total term of five years at the owners' discretion. The contracts to bid include: Regular Education Transportation, Mid-day Kindergarten, extracurricular, field trips, and athletic transportation, Special Education In-town Summer and Special Education Out-of-Town Summer transportation, Special Education in-town school year and special Education Out-of-District school year transportation. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 4-0 to approve.

E. Old Business

1. Redistricting Plan 2015-2016 Implementation

Annie Gilbert acknowledged the loyal core of community members who have been following the redistricting policy meetings and their participation has been very valuable. She also recognized Transportation Coordinator Mary Lu Walsh on the incredible job of providing information on all of the streets, students, neighborhoods, and district lines.

In order to populate the new and larger Bancroft School, enrollment data was reviewed to determine school capacity numbers developed by the architect team. Time was spent looking at new and future

developments. New software for transportation was used by Mary Lu to determine new district lines and student enrollment number by neighborhood to develop target enrollments for each school.

Dennis Forgue said the school principals were very helpful during the process and provided information on the number of regular education classes were needed by building and to develop seating capacity for a mid-point range of class size and to have equitable class sizes. The goals were to move the fewest number of students possible, keeping as many neighborhoods whole as possible, meeting the goal of 93% capacity at each school, and to not affect change at the middle schools.

Mary Lu Walsh said through the use of the district map they estimated the number of students to populate the schools and separated the town into zones. Seed zones were identified as areas with walkers or people who do not live on the border of another school with no reason to change schools. The information provided shows zones and schools affected. The disbursement of students includes students moving out of Shawsheen School and into their neighborhood schools.

Laura Putnam, Newport Circle, has one daughter in Grade One at High Plain Elementary and is requesting she remain at High Plain. She reviewed the number of other students moving in/out of High Plain and that it would be an even 'swap' to let the eight students involved remain at High Plain. Susan McCarthy, President of Sanborn PTO, appreciates the time the members of the Redistricting Committee have put into this endeavor and commented that the communication was open and the Committee flexible; it is not an easy process. Valarie Mosher, a Bancroft School parent, asked what the next steps are.

Next steps include continuing the public information and comment period. The public is asked to send their comments to the School Committee and the School Committee will vote on the Redistricting Plan at their February 6, 2014 meeting. The School Committee will vote on the district lines and look at special requests based on timing and implementation in 2015.

Superintendent McGrath said the School Committee has delayed implementation of the Redistricting Plan until September 2015 which means Shawsheen School Pre-K to Grade 2 will stay in place until then.

Shawsheen School will register students for Kindergarten for 2014 as they normally would; however, placement will be for one year only 2014/2015 after which the students will return to their assigned neighborhood schools for first grade.

District Kindergarten Registration Forms and information will be available on the Andover Public School website by January 13, 2014. The redistricting information is also available on the website.

**F. Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes: November 14, 2013 revised
2. Warrants: Superintendent McGrath reported the warrants are in order.

Annie Gilbert motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 4-0 to approve.

**G. Adjournment**

At 9:05 P.M. Annie Gilbert motioned the Andover School Committee adjourn the meeting of January 9, 2014. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 4-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo  
Recording Secretary

Documents: AHS Class Size Analysis, CREST Collaborative Agreement, Elementary School Capacity Estimates, Redistricting Scenarios