

**Andover School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of February 6, 2014**  
**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

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

**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. Call to Order**

Chairman Forgue opened the School Committee Meeting at 6:30 P.M.

**II. Executive Session**

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy regarding the tentative agreement for a successor contract with the AEA and to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert. Roll call: A. Gilbert-Y, P. Colby-Clements-Y, B. L'Italien-Y, D. Birnbach, 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, D. Birnbach-Y, and D. Forgue-Y.

**III. Regular Meeting**

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

Chairman Forgue reconvened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:15 P.M. in the School Committee Room. Annie Gilbert asked for a moment of silence followed by a Salute to the Flag led by Bancroft Students, Joseph Hall, Alan Svendsen, and Ema Svendsen. On behalf of the School Committee, Annie presented the students with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**B. Recognition/Communications**

**1. Recognition**

Barbara L'Italien recognized former AHS student Annalisa Drew who is participating in the half-pipe skiing competition at the Winter Olympics this Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dennis Forgue spoke about an article in the *Andover Townsman* that relates to taxes and increases in the tax rate. He said disconnects in communication happen and there is a need to continue to improve communication with the Finance Committee. David Birnbach offered to lead a sub-committee to establish an economic dashboard that would allow for full transparency graphically providing economic information. Dennis said there is a request for data that needs to occur with the entire Finance Committee and School Committee and they need to begin the dialogue first, and then look at the solutions. There should be confidence in the data available.

**2. Update: Bancroft School Project**

The Construction Team made the decision to continue with the initial plan to finish the new Bancroft School by May 22<sup>nd</sup> and for students to move into the school in September 2014. Progress is going along nicely.

**3. Update: FY 15 Budget Subcommittee**

Members of the budget subcommittee met regularly and committed to providing the Board of Selectmen an overall budget number by January 2014, which they did. Budget numbers will be better clarified once health insurance bids are received, and the Governor's and House budgets finalized. The Town-School Budget is a

moving target and school administration presented a level services budget that is 4.8% over the FY-14 budget with additions to provide for student services, COLA assumptions for staff, and additional positions to accommodate student needs. The FY-15 Preliminary School Budget will be presented at a School Committee meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Early resolution of local aid numbers would be beneficial

4. Update: Facilities Subcommittee – AHS Feasibility /Space Study

The Space Needs Feasibility Study was approved to look at the current classroom space at AHS which has limited ability for flexible scheduling. Overcrowding in the cafeteria was alleviated somewhat by increasing the lunch periods from three to four; however to accommodate this there is an interruption in the middle of a block. The Feasibility Study will look at the cafeteria, kitchen area, and media center for flexible use of space as well as additional space for classrooms and for the Special Education Program. DRA, the architectural design firm selected, has been collecting input from all the stakeholders on the challenges the high school space presents and will bring their recommendations to the subcommittee. A warrant article, to approve funding for schematic design services and to create options for the community to agree upon at a future town meeting, will be brought to Town Meeting this May.

Dennis Forgue announced that a tentative agreement on the new contract has been reached with the AEA. The negotiations went very well with both parties working together towards an agreement.

C. Public Input

Kerry Costello, President of the AEA, echoed Dennis's comments about the collaboration between both parties during contract negotiations and hopes the spirit of collaboration continues. The AEA will vote on the contract on Thursday, February 13, 2014.

D. Education

1. Wood Hill Middle School – Student Presentation: Project-based Learning

Wood Hill Middle School Principal, Patrick Bucco, stated that tonight's presentation of Project Based Learning (PBL) incorporates the 4C's along with technology and is a great example of how the middle schools are incorporating PBL into their curriculum. Teachers are utilizing what they learned from the training provided by the Buck Institute with their students resulting in creative projects and learning.

WHMS Science Teacher, Joshua Shenker explained that their project, modeled after the television show "Shark Tank", improves student performance, keeps students engaged, integrates technology and uses collaboration and critical thinking. Students were charged with improving upon an already existing device or system and selling the idea to an audience.

Grade 8 students Hannah Littlewood, Anna Shahtanian, and Cece Vieira presented their product 'Micro-Cooler' designed to cool hot food, chill drinks, etc, etc. (the opposite of a microwave that heats up). The students explained how they used Google Drive to communicate ideas and develop their design and presentation. The project can be found by going to: <http://science8wh.wikispaces.com>.

2. 2014-2015 AHS Program of Studies

Superintendent McGrath said the Program of Studies at AHS represents the overall strategic projections. Nancy Duclos guided the process by working closely with Program Advisors, the AHS Principal and the Director of Guidance. Nancy Duclos stated it was a multi-phased process with the Superintendent setting the framework. Their guideline questions fell under the See, Think, Wonder protocol to gain an understanding of what the Program of Studies had to offer, identifying the strengths and challenges of each, targeting areas for further revisions, and developing new courses in Digital Learning, Engineering, Performing Arts, and World Language.

Aixa deKelley, Director of Guidance at AHS, provided a review of the new courses being offered and noted that all changes were developed with the common goal to engage students in a challenging learning environment. Effective with the Class of 2018, there will be a change to the graduation requirements to match the recommendations of the Mass Common Core to better prepare students for college. The new courses in the Program of Studies for 2014-2015 will be communicated to all current students and parents and presented to incoming eighth grade students and their parents at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum and Orientation Night on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Collins Center. Upon approval, the 2014-2015 Program of Studies will be posted on the AHS website.

Paula Colby-Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2014-2015 AHS Program of Studies as presented. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert and voted 5-0 to approve.

**E. New Business**

1. 2014-2015 School Calendar – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

The School Committee was presented with three calendars for the 2014-2015 school year for their consideration. Calendars A and B both have a pre-Labor Day start for teachers so the AEA would have to vote their approval on one of these two calendars. The third calendar, Calendar C, has the traditional starting date for teachers after Labor Day requiring no vote by the AEA. As this is the first reading of the calendars, no vote is required at this time. A vote will be taken at the March 6<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting. The calendars will be placed on the APS website to provide a public input opportunity.

Brad Weeden, 1 Summer Street, is disappointed in the three calendars presented. There is no change with respect to any of the items discussed last October. Shannon Scully and Valarie Mosher expressed their views about the two hours students spend in school on Release Days. It is not, in their opinion, a day of school but a waste of time.

**F. Old Business**

1. Redistricting Plan – 2015-2016 Implementation

Dennis Forgue gave a brief update on the Redistricting Plan and Annie Gilbert reported receipt of seven emails since the last presentation. One new question arose, asking if there would be consideration given to students moving to two schools, this year and then again in 2015. Mr. Forgue said the School Committee will vote tonight on the district lines, and then develop a process for special considerations.

Barbara L'Italien motioned that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2015-2016 Redistricting Plan developed by the Redistricting Subcommittee as presented for implementation in September 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

2. Warrant Article Language - Schematic Design for AHS Additions & Renovations

The School Committee is required to vote on the language of the Warrant Article for the Schematic Design for AHS prior to the Warrant Article deadline of January 31, 2014. Paul Szymanski worked with Ed Ataide from Municipal Services, and Assistant Town Manager Steve Bucuzzo to develop the language for the Warrant Article.

**Warrant Article: Schematic Design – Andover High School Additions & Renovations**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$350,000 for the purpose of paying costs of schematic design services associated with additions and renovations at the Andover High School located at 80 Shawsheen Road, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7, Clause (3A) of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other

enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action related thereto.

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the language put forth to the Town Manager on January 31, 2014 for a Warrant Article for the 2014 Annual Town Meeting regarding schematic design for Andover High School additions and renovations as presented and subject to revision y Town Counsel. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby-Clements and voted 5-0 to approve.

**G. Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes: SC Meeting Dec 5, 2013; Tri-Board Meeting Dec 9, 2013; SC Meeting Jan. 9, 2014;
2. Warrants: Expense SW1416, Payroll 14S031, and Payroll 14S032

Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Paula Colby Clements and unanimously voted to approve.

**H. Adjournment**

At 9:40 P.M. Annie Gilbert motioned the Andover School Committee adjourn the meeting of February 6, 2014. The motion was seconded by Barbara L'Italien and voted 5-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo  
Recording Secretary

Documents: AHS Program of Studies  
2014-2015 School Calendars  
Redistricting Scenario