

**Andover School Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of February 7, 2013**  
**School Administration Building - School Committee Room**

**Members in Attendance:** Chairwoman Paula Colby-Clements, Vice-Chair Dennis Fogue, Annie Gilbert, Richard Collins, and David Birnbach

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos, Assistant Superintendent Paul Szymanski, and AHS Liaison Brian Wivell

**I. Regular Meeting**

**A. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Colby-Clements opened the Regular Meeting of the School Committee at 7:03 P.M.

Mr. Collins asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by South Elementary student Lauren Cole (Grade 5), and Julia Cole (Grade 3). On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Collins presented Lauren and Julia with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**B. Recognition**

The Andover Robotics Club and their Advisor Minda Reidy, were recognized by Annie Gilbert for qualifying for the State Championship which was held at Andover High School on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> with sixteen teams from New England participating. The event involves collegial team work and the robotic competitions were outstanding. Andover will compete next in the Massachusetts FTC Championship Tournament in Bridgewater, MA on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Wivell recognized and thanked Becky Ledig, AHS Social Studies Advisor, for chaperoning the Student Council at the conference and spending her free time assisting them.

**C. Public Input - none**

**D. Communications**

Dr. McGrath announced that the Andover Public Schools and Central Office will be closed on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> with all weekend activities cancelled due to the winter blizzard coming on Friday.

**1. Bancroft School Project Update**

Annie Gilbert announced that the "Topping Off" Ceremony for the new Bancroft School will be held on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. Students and guests will be invited to participate in the signing of the last steel beam which will then be put into place with part of it exposed in the gym area of the new building where their names will be visible.

**2. Budget Subcommittee Report**

Paula Colby-Clements reported that the Superintendent and the Leadership Team have been working through the budget process and will be meeting again next week. Prior to the upcoming Tri-board meeting to discuss revenue assumptions, they will meet with Greg Serraro, the Finance Committee Liaison to the School Committee. The budget is a collaborative process and further discussion is needed to make informed decisions.

## Education

### 1. Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Student Presentation

Eri Kobayashi, an exchange student from Japan attending AHS this year, and talked about her country and her experiences here at Andover. Eri said her desire to come to the United States was to learn the 'real' English Language and for the high school experience which she has found to be very different from high school in Japan. In Japan, they attend school until 6 pm leaving little extra time for after-school activities. In Andover the daily routine and dress code is much more relaxed. She did find teachers at AHS to be very helpful, supportive, and approachable and thanked everyone for welcoming her.

Eri's host parent, Jan Brown-McClure provided information on the RYE Program for high school and college students and talked about the opportunities provided by the Rotary which encourages service above self.

Superintendent McGrath said Tony Wagner's speech on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills to Andover Staff at the January 31<sup>st</sup> Release Day was very uplifting. She also spoke about the many exciting educational opportunities evolving: the project-based learning initiative for middle schools, a pilot program with EdX for on-line courses for high school students, partnership opportunities with Merrimack College to develop a concept paper on a vision for pre-schools, exploring professional development opportunities for Andover teachers through Merrimack, certification opportunities, hosting fellows from the college who are student teachers in our classes, and a new Master's Program in Community Partnerships, etc.

### 2. AHS 2013-2014 Program of Studies

Chris Lord, AHS Principal along with Director of Guidance, Aixa DeKelly presented the 2013-2014 AHS Program of Studies to the School Committee. All of the Program Advisors, Steve Sanborn, Patricia Whalen, Becky Ledig, Jorge Allen, Katherine Richard, and John Norton, were present at the meeting. Aixa DeKelly said the objective was to update course descriptions in the Program of Studies reflecting more on the practices of the four C's. There is a change in the language for credit information encouraging students to enroll in eight studies. The Mass Board of Higher Education increased graduation requirements effective with the Class of 2016; all students will need to take 1 credit of math each year. Ms. DeKelly reviewed the new course offerings under consideration, new community service opportunities, some of the changes in the courses offered include the restoration of Drawing to a 1 credit course for Visual Arts, course titles in Math are now more clear, revisions to Geometry and Algebra descriptions and restoration of Algebra I for Freshmen, courses in English Language Arts have been revised with two classes deleted. In Science, Environmental Science is now an Elective, several course descriptions were revised, and the Physics of Art/Music deleted. There are some changes to the titles of Special Education courses and the addition of Standard Consumer Math 2 and TOPS Program included. In World Language an advanced beginner Latin and Chinese Course are being offered. The Second Semester Open House at AHS will be held on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

Dennis Forgue motioned for the Andover School Committee vote to approve the 2013-2014 AHS Programs of Studies as presented. The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert and voted 4-0 to approve. Mr. Collins was not in the room at the time of the vote.

## **F. New Business**

### **1. Senior Center Parking**

Don Robb, Chair of the Council on Aging, was unable to attend the meeting. Instead, Paula Colby-Clements read a statement submitted by Mr. Robb relating to the Senior Center's concerns about the Parking lot at DMS and upcoming changes. Mr. Robb's statement said they find the Parking Plan submitted for DMS, Youth Services, and the Senior Center to be acceptable. They hope that a public hearing will provide an opportunity for the appropriate information to be available to all parties.

### **2. AHS Tennis Courts**

Brian Frykenberg, along with Alan Hibino, Richard Nil and Mike Wartman updated the School Committee on the fundraising efforts by the Friends of Andover Tennis to renovate the courts at AHS. The tennis courts are 24 years old and in dire need of repair. They are a safety hazard and will have to be closed if not fixed. The Friends have raised \$40,000 to date and which will be given to the Town towards repairs estimated at approximately \$320,000 - \$400,000. Construction plans have been prepared by Chris Huntress and the Friends of Andover Tennis have been working with the Town on this project. A Warrant Article is in the CIP for Town Meeting and if passed, construction will take place in July and be managed by the Town.

### **3. Gift to Schools:**

The AHS Track Boosters gifted \$52,980 to the track program to purchase new high-jump pads. The gift is in excess of \$5,000 and requires a formal vote by the School Committee.

Annie Gilbert motioned for the Andover School Committee vote to accept the gift of \$5,980 for the express purpose of purchasing high-jump pads for the AHS Track Program. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forge and voted 5-0 to approve.

### **4. Bancroft School Warrant Article**

The Warrant Article requesting additional funds that appears in the Warrant Article for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, February 11, 2013 is a funding request only. The School Building Committee has been able to reduce the request to \$5,715,000 through a line item for hazardous material removal in the amount of \$100,000 which was not needed.

On the request of the School Building committee, Annie Gilbert moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the Bancroft Elementary School Warrant Article that the Town appropriate the sum of five million eight hundred and fifteen thousand (\$5,815,000) dollars in addition to the forty-three million eight hundred and thirty-five thousand (\$43,835,000) dollars appropriated by the December 6, 2010 Special Town meeting for the design and construction of a new 680 student K-5 Bancroft Elementary School (approximately 106,486 square feet) on Bancroft Road including offsite improvements that are part of the project to be constructed pursuant to a construction contract procured in accordance with the provisions of M.G. I. Chapter 149, or a contract utilizing construction management at risk delivery method in accordance with the provisions of M.G. I. chapter 149A, as determined by the School Building Committee and which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years, said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation, the Treasurer is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G. I. Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority; that the Town acknowledges

that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) Grant Program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 44 percent (44%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA; or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA all as provided in the project funding agreement dated September 1, 2011, between the MSBA and the town. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and unanimously approved.

It was noted that the amount of the appropriation request will be amended at the Special Town Meeting.

**G. Consent Agenda**

Dick Collins motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Forgue and voted 5-0 to approve the following:

Minutes: School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2013  
Warrants: Payroll Warrant: 13S031; 13S032, and 13S512 and Expense Warrant #SW1311.

**H. Adjournment**

At 8:30 P.M. on a motion by Dennis Forgue and seconded by Annie Gilbert, the Andover School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 7, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

***Dee DeLorenzo***

Dee DeLorenzo

Recorder

Documents: AHS Program of Studies and document noting changes to Course Offerings  
Friends of Andover – AHS Tennis Court Renovation Fact Sheet  
Minutes of January 10, 2013