

**ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 26, 2014**

Date: September 26, 2014
Time: 8:30 am
Place: School Committee Room
Present: D. Birnbach, J. Blumstein, P. Colby-Clements, A. Gilbert, B. L'Italien
Also Present: M. McGrath, P. Szymanski, N. Duclos, A. Reese

1. Call to order - A. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. She stated that the purpose of the meeting is to develop a common understanding of the space needs issues we are facing and to develop a strategy for the coming year.
2. A. Gilbert updated the school committee regarding the existing realities: re capital projects for the schools and town which include: (a) No interest in AHS warrant article last year from BoS/FinCom; (b) Town Yard warrant article (likely between \$15-20 million) may be on the docket this year, (c) Ballardvale Fire Station now somewhere in pipeline as a result of last year's town meeting, (d) Options for leasing space are available in close proximity to AHS; can this be leveraged, and (e) zoning overlay under discussion for train station/Dundee Park/town yard area.
3. DRA Report – P. Szymanski reviewed the relevant sections of the Pre-K and AHS Feasibility Study reports prepared by DRA. In addition, the school committee reviewed the preliminary minimum and maximum cost option sheets we presented to the Tri-board last year.
4. Pre-K – M. McGrath reminded the school committee that after this school year, the PK will be the only program at Shawsheen. A. Gilbert stated that Shawsheen is the most expensive building to maintain on a cost/square foot basis, is not ADA compliant, and the cost of renovating Shawsheen appears to be higher than the cost of adding on to Sanborn (see last section of DRA Pre-K report), so we will need to find an alternate solution for the preschool. P. Szymanski stated that the DRA report addresses putting the preschool at Sanborn and the related costs. M. McGrath stated that she is meeting on October 10 to discuss a potential partnership
5. Andover High School - A. Gilbert reviewed facts about Andover High School which was built for approximately 1600 students with a current and steady enrollment at around 1800 students. Several special education in-district programs have been added to AHS over the years. M. McGrath stated that given the space constraints, there are student scheduling issues since the number of sections that can be run are limited due to lack of classroom space. She said that classroom space has been maxed out and computer labs have been converted to classrooms. Additionally, with respect to operations, four lunches currently run in cafeteria. With respect to programming – M. McGrath said there is a lack of space for (a) interdisciplinary courses/learning and flexible space for collaboration, meetings which impedes our ability to enhance project-based, experiential, immersive learning. M. McGrath updated the school committee on the modest changes made in the media center during the summer. All agreed that the renovation of the media center needed to be a priority. P. Szymanski will draft a CIP request for the library media center and M. McGrath will organize a workshop on re-visioning

the media center which will include AHS teachers, digital learning specialist, library media specialist, students, administration, school committee and architects. The group targeted the November 20 school committee workshop for the date.

6. School committee members and administration shared their perspectives re: Dundee Park space as a possible space for high school program expansion. All expressed an interest in pursuing the space. M. McGrath stated that rented space could provide an opportunity for a multi-disciplinary, project-based program for high school students for approximately 350-400 students. M. McGrath said exploring off-campus space to expand the high school program was very appealing to her and she has added it to her goals. The school committee supports further exploration and program development. M. McGrath indicated that she will meet with HS faculty and staff to explore the idea further and identify an AHS Design Team for a Satellite School. She will update the committee at its October meeting about the next steps.

P. Szymanski shared his research regarding public schools as a lessor of space and the requirements for developing a "Request for Proposal" (RFP). He will work with Tom Watson on the specifications for the RFP.

7. J. Blumstein moved that the Andover School Committee vote to adjourn. P. Colby-Clements seconded. The school committee adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marinel McGrath
Acting Secretary