

**ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2014
Andover High School – Media Center (Library)**

Members in Attendance: Chair Annie Gilbert, Vice Chair Paula Colby-Clements, Joel Blumstein, David Birnbach, absent: Barbara L'Italien

Others in Attendance: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendents – Dr. Nancy Duclos, and Paul Szymanski ; Dan Downs-6-12 Digital Lrng Coordinator, John Berube, Library Media Specialist; AHS Student-Ben Hunt, 12th grader; Design Professionals-Carl Franceschi, DRA, Lorraine Finnegan, SMMA, Philippe Genereux, SMMA

I. Regular Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairman Annie Gilbert called the Workshop to order at 8:30 A.M. Marinel gave the Committee and all in attendance an overview of the Workshop Goals for today. The Mini-Charrette topic on generating design ideas for space, consensus on project design priorities, identifying strategies for developing a successful warrant article and setting a project schedule were to be discussed today. The Committee hoped also to have an update on the preschool and high school spaces and a consensus on policy revisions concerning the Instructional Philosophy Policy.

Meeting members expressed their ideas:

- Should be a learning hub;
- Hub should have short periods of time – putting students and staff together;
- A big challenge is the acoustics in the current media center;
- Media center is usually full; do we really need all the stacks- take up space;
- Space must be configured, flexible, so that furniture/chairs can be moved around;
- Comfortable areas must be created, visibility a must – lots of glass areas where people can be seen;
- Must be inviting for classrooms and projects;
- Technology must be mobile, it's not at all now; mobile carts might be an option
- Teachers supposedly like to use the Media Center for technology; but have issues with space usage;
- Electricity another problem noted; tripping breakers all the time, not enough charging places either;
- Tight linkages to other academic centers important (i.e., Merrimack, UMass, Tufts, MIT, etc);

John Berube responded the stacks needed to be ¾ full for accessibility. In particular, history seemed to be the popular section. He would like to see the media center configured to contain a small theater high quality projector w/video counseling in the quad area towards the front part of the Center. Keeping track of all students is still the biggest challenge in the Media Center. Dan Downs added that he would like to see the Media Center with 2 tiers – the top for storing books and the first floor for classroom space. Student Ben Hunt said he felt updating the computers would be on his “wish list”. He would like to see both Macs and Window computers in the same space area – could be very productive.

Ms. Finnegan noted the lack of space in the current Media Center for breakout areas and also the visibility connection. High School learning “commons” must have visual connections to all pieces.

Mr. Genereux added that the Media Center's entrance should be visible and not on the side. Mr. Franceschi told the Committee that they had looked at college models as inspiration. The need for natural light would bring more people to come to the Media Center and being able to bring food/drinks would also entice students to use the Media Center. He also added the raw space is available to work with here in the Media Center and that it would just need to be configured to their desired space needs.

Mr. Szymanski told the Committee that there are different steps in the development of the Warrant Article, the design, going out to bid and then the submission of the Article. The dollar amount seemed to be in the range of \$500,000 – \$1.2 million.

Mr. Birnbach suggested possibly freeing up some budget money ~ \$100,000 to help out ease the warrant article. AHS Student Ben Hunt pleaded with the Committee to make sure the purpose was clearly stated at Town Meeting; Chairman Gilbert said that she would be meeting with the Chairs on Friday and could plant the idea at that time. Mr. Franceschi said that working within an existing building could always present challenges, but that the summer would be the best timeframe to do work on the Media Center.

Other School Space Updates:

Preschool

Dr. McGrath explained to the Committee that the preschool would remain at Shawsheen for another year. She explained that they spoke with the Pre School Directors about a possible joint venture or 3 way partnership with Merrimack College. The Y is currently undergoing renovations, lots of land possibilities and a possibility of a 2016 pre school may still be a project. We're expecting to hear from the Y CEO for further conversations on the subject. Another option was looking at UMASS Lowell and partnering with them on possible land opportunities at Sanborn School.

High School

Marinel explained that they had a meeting w/AHS faculty introducing the concept of renting space outside the school at Dundee Park. Next steps would be to invite SMMA, New Vista on Dec. 10th to discuss more about their options at DP. Mr. Szymanski is developing the RFP with Tom Watson within a 30 day window. The school committee will be responsible for the contract with the architects, not the lessor; we are also looking at proposing a 5 or 10 year multi year leases. They may require a TM vote depending on the lease agreement length. Furthermore, Dr. McGrath will meet with AHS teachers on the Early Release Day about this concept.

Michael McCarthy, Faculty Advisor of the Model UN Club, would like to take up to 22 students to the Annual Harvard Model UN Conference in Boston on 1/29-2/1/15 (Fri-Sun). Students won't miss any school; this is an extracurricular trip and therefore optional. AHS has always sent students to this educational conference and would like to continue to do so if the SC permits the trip.

Paula Colby Clements moved that the Andover School Committee vote to approve the proposed extra-curricular trip for Andover High School to the Annual Harvard Model UN Conference on January 29-February 1, 2015 as presented and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Andover School Committee Policy entitled "APS School Sponsored Trip and Student Travel Policy". The motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert and voted 4-0 to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM

Respectfully,

Alison Phelan, Committee Recorder