

Attendees:

PTO Board:

Stephanie Barry, Caity Castagna, Katija Maravelias, Katie Carbone, Amy Hamilton, Carrie Whibey, Jayashree Mohandas, RJ Johnson

Beth Leavitt
Shannon Scully
Frank McCall

This was the first ever joint in person and online!

Shannon Scully spoke to those in attendance - giving an update on the building projects.
Shannon has 2 kids at Andover High (formerly of Bancroft and Doherty)

School building History:

In 2016, The Town and Schools commissioned a project to look at all schools in town to see what was needed from a facilities perspective. The top needs were Shawsheen, West EI and Doherty. Andover High also made the list because of overcrowding. Tours of those schools were done to see the issues plus solicited feedback.

At the end of the process you submit to the state with #1 priority. The top came up as West Elementary. The Town submitted West EI as top priority. It was accepted on first submission.

A School Facility Study committee for Andover High to help add space. They hired an architect and were surprised to discover the breadth of issues. Nothing could help both educational and physical issues for under \$100M. Andover kept submitting AHS to the state and it was rejected it 10x. A State Senator facilitated a meeting between the town and state and the state didn't believe that AHS was overcrowded based on their requirements. MSBA is a competitive program - and the belief is that AHS being accepted won't happen until at least after the completion of West EI.

Some Financial analysis that has been considered related to AHS:

1. Costs go up every year
2. MSBA provides grants and caps out at a certain point
 - a. West EI will only be reimbursed in the 20ish%

Grant won't match what the cost increase is at a certain point

There is a committee leading the effort.

ASH opened in 1968.

Things trying to address with the building project (Goals):

1. Safety and Security
 - a. 65% of the school doesn't have sprinklers
 - b. Administration is on 2nd floor
 - c. 80+ exterior doors
2. Current/Future Overcrowding
 - a. Should hold 1400 students
 - b. Currently enrolled = 1700 students
 - c. Capacity plan in new building = 1900 (being relooked)
3. Educational Program
 - a. Fewer classrooms than we need
 - b. Size of classroom limit what can be done in the classroom
 - i. Collaboration is difficult
 - c. Classes have been put in media center
 - d. No maker space
 - e. Programs are limited because of space
4. Environmental Condition (hot in summer, cold in winter)
5. Site use and Circulation (traffic)

12/8 is next meeting (REMOTE)

1. Basic upgrades
2. Addition and Renovation
3. Build a new school
 - a. On sledding hill
 - b. On tennis courts
 - c. Practice Field

Process at a high level:

1. Regular meetings, Community outreach
2. Architects are talking to the teachers and staff at AHS
3. Present plans to the community
4. Special town meeting next fall and put it up for a vote
5. One year from that building would begin
6. 3 years total if it's a new building - renovation would take longer

Town meeting on 12/1, Collins Center, 7pm to support West El/Shawsheen. If it doesn't pass, AHS will go on hold. Needs to pass by $\frac{2}{3}$. It will cost even more if it gets delayed. Average taxpayers will pay \$70/year.

For more information: Andoverhighbuildingproject.org - join the mailing list, like the FB page, and view a list of meetings

RJ spoke about the Halloween Festival

This year we pivoted to bring it inside due to the rain
300+ people came to the event and everything worked out great

The PTO made about \$4.5k from the event!

Stephanie spoke about Heritage Night

We moved it back to November. Food services helped with the food which was great. There was a discussion about moving it to a different time. The feeling was that there are too many things in the spring. Plus, it's nice for new families to introduce them to the community and the message it sends. Some of the new families from other countries would do it next Fall. Families that did it in June would do it again next fall.

Amy spoke about:

Learning Labs

Tons of kids participating!

Some of the feedback provided -

- Release the classes at least 24 hours before
- Put the Sign-up genius up at night

Book Fair

- \$9500 in sales at ½ way mark
- \$4700 in scholastic dollars
- Feedback from Beth: Note from a parent that they don't like the toys/stuff
 - Scholastic won't let you eliminate the toys. And Scholastic is a better experience than the previous companies used.

Cultural Arts/Enrichment

Many programs have come into the school so far: Puppet Show, Traveling planetarium, storytellers

Beth felt the schedule was tough - and would like to work on scheduling next year in order to spread it out more

Field Trips:

Kindergarten - June - Children's museum

1st - Stockbridge Theater - march

2nd Butterfly place - june

3rd Boston Tea Party - June

4th Lowell mill - October

5th Concord Museum - May

Beth is interested in bringing in Ball in the house - an acapella group who is breaking down racial barriers through music

Assembly + Workshops with the kids during the day, performance at night with parents

Capital project:

Wes Murphy

Has a need in the music room for a sound system - 4 speakers for each room plus a big screen for when 90 kids are in the room.

Waiting for quotes on everything. It will be around \$15-20k all in (equipment plus installation)

Another idea is that the cafeteria is noisy when doing an assembly - if a wall could go up to help dampen that noise that would be great.

South just put a new projector in the cafeteria that is laser - easier to see with the sun. \$15k

Other:

APS service day in January

Need volunteers for Library, Lunchroom, Math and Cultural Arts

Community Outreach:

Carrie Whibey spoke to the group about a program South Church is working on related to Food insecurity in Andover.

- 19.6% of people in Andover are food insecure. Andover is considered a Food desert - no way to get to affordable grocery stores
- They are working on a Self-service food pantry downtown. Would like to recruit parents to clean and stock it