

School Board News

By Doug Boisvert
 Chairperson, Andover School Board

Welcome to another edition of School Board News. At every meeting, we have a usual routine: roll call and call to order, accept minutes from the previous meeting, review and accept the financial reports, listen to the Board chairperson's report, listen to the principal's report, open the floor to public participation – there is hardly any lately. Where is everyone?

During the meeting, the manifests are signed by Board members. (What are the manifests? Good question. They are a list of checks written to vendors, insurance companies, telephone and cable suppliers, and school employees that must be signed by the Superintendent and the School Board before the checks can be sent to the appropriate parties.)

Before adjourning the meeting, we listen to any information the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent have for the Board. On occasion, we might enter non-public session.

At our last meeting, on February 1, we had the opportunity to review the information that the Merrimack Valley Facilities Study Committee has put together. It was very comprehensive.

The two representatives – Mark Hutchins, a Merrimack Valley School Board member from Salisbury and the Facilities Committee Chairperson, and Fred Regan, the Facilities Director – presented the information via a DVD they have compiled. The presentation was about 40 minutes long and loaded with proposed changes to the Merrimack Valley High School as well as two other

facilities within the Merrimack Valley School District.

Our students will benefit from an enhanced learning environment from the changes that will be made to MVHS. More information to follow in the near future.

We revised the 2005-2006 school calendar. There was a discrepancy with a date that we were legally obligated to adhere to. Next we discussed the Long Range Plan. Jane Slayton, Mike Martin, and Christine Barry have been diligently working on the plan.

We next discussed preparation for the School District meeting on March 7. Our budget representative is under the weather at this time and hopefully he will be mobile on March 7. The Board discussed alternative solutions if he isn't able to make the meeting.

The Board discussed the facility study that we have a warrant article for. A brief discussion ensued about how it will work in conjunction with the town while it updates its Master Plan. Both the School Board and the Master Plan Update Committee can benefit from each other during the next year or so by sharing critical information.

Robin Boynton has been the most recent representative to the PILOT program between the town of Andover and Proctor Academy. Robin has brought back some good information about what Proctor and the town share and how each benefits by having the other.

Just a reminder: the School District meeting is on Monday, March 7 instead of the traditional Saturday before Town Meeting. The meeting starts at 7 PM. Hope to see you there.

East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
 Chief, East Andover Fire Department

My uncle was giving me a hard time the other day about firemen cutting a big hole in a perfectly good roof during a house fire. I won't repeat what he said, but he did have a good point. Why do we do that?

Let's assume that a rescue is not required and we are able to concentrate on the fire. The fire officer has several options open to him. The first is a neat trick that will slow or, in some cases, extinguish the fire.

If the fire officer finds that the walls, roof, and windows are all still intact, he may order his attack crew to "try steam." At that point the crew will fog a stream of water into the building. The water will turn to steam and penetrate all parts of the building. The humidity will be so high that the fire will have a very hard time burning. The fire will slow and in some cases the fire will go out.

In order to make that trick work the building must be sound and the fire must have created a lot of heat. The heat part is never a problem, but the fire

doesn't let the building stay sound, or safe, very long.

The temperature inside a burning building often reaches more than 1,000 degrees. That is too hot for even the best-trained and best-equipped fire fighters. The heat and smoke will rise to the highest point in the building and work its way back down to the lowest point. The hot mixture is looking for a supply of oxygen in order to go "Boom!" Not good.

At this point we can no longer use steam as the primary extinguishing method. The pressure and heat must be removed, and soon. Now is the time for a big hole in the roof.

A large trench cut is made high on the roof, letting the hot gasses and smoke escape safely from the home. At the same time, an attack crew makes an entry, putting out the fire using lots of water. Steam will still be generated, but will escape from the vent cut in the roof.

It takes a lot of training and experience to be able to read a fire and know which plan will work best.

Firemen don't like to cut holes in roofs. Well, maybe we do...but just a little.

POLICE BLOTTER

By Glenn Laramie
 Andover Chief Of Police

The Andover Police Department responded to 80 calls for service during the period January 15 through February 15. Here is a partial list.

Responded to accidents on Raccoon Hill Road and Beech Hill Road

Investigated three domestic disputes on Beech Hill Road and one on Main Street

Investigated cruelty to animal complaints on Emery Rd and Cilleyville Rd
 Covered a burglary on Salisbury

Highway
 Issued three parking tickets
 Covered seven motorist assists
 Issued four motor vehicle summons and 12 warnings
 Investigated a bad check case on Main Street
 Assisted the Fire Department and State Police on various calls

Arrests
 Christopher Jordan of Andover, age 37, on a warrant
 A juvenile in Andover for tobacco violation

Hazard Mitigation Plan Drafted

By Jane Hubbard
 Hubbard Consulting

The Andover Hazard Mitigation Committee has completed a final draft of the Andover Hazard Mitigation Plan. The final draft has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) for their review. Upon approval by FEMA, the Town will formally adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan. If you would like to review a copy of the Plan, contact Mark Stetson, Town Administrator, at 735-5332.

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