

# Andover School District New Hampshire Legislature News 2005 Annual Meeting

By Elizabeth Walters  
Concord Monitor staff

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[On March 7,] residents continued what has become a tradition for Andover School District. Along with passing a teachers contract and an operating budget of \$3.18 million, they finished the session by approving a resolution addressed to New Hampshire's congressmen: No more underfunded mandates.

Under legislation enacted in 1975, the federal government is supposed to fund 40 percent of a school's special-education costs. The percentage of special education Washington pays for has risen over the years, but it's never approached the promised amount; Robin Heins, the SAU's business administrator, says the federal government currently gives schools about 17 percent.

"Every year, we write a letter to our United States senators and congressmen pleading with them to fund the full 40 percent," said David Hewitt, a school board member.

The discussion of special education funding started when voters looked through the budget and asked about an increase from actual expenditures of \$19,282 last year to a budget appropriation of \$82,000 for the current year to a

request of \$128,000 for the budget being voted on.

"We do project that from this year to next year, there will be a 17 percent increase in special education costs," Hewitt explained.

The meeting's 70 to 80 voters unanimously approved sending the resolution to Washington. Howard Wilson, noting that the state Department of Education is revising its minimum standards, suggested having the school board sue the state if it didn't provide funding for the measures, but the measure was defeated.

Andover is not acting alone. [The following week,] residents of Shaker Regional School District [voted] on a resolution that calls upon the federal and state governments to fully fund all of their educational mandates, and two years ago, many districts in the state passed resolutions criticizing No Child Left Behind as an unfunded federal mandate.

After the special-education discussion, residents passed the budget without altering any of the figures. It represents an increase of \$166,000 over last year.

They also approved the first formal teachers contract negotiated by the school board and the teachers association. When the union formed a few years ago, teachers were already under a contract. This fall, both sides worked out the new agreement, which will increase salaries and benefits by \$52,379 in the first year for the district's 46 teachers and will make the district's pay scale more competitive with others in the region, according to a school report.

Heins said last night's vote, which passed with only one vote against, was similar to the convivial atmosphere of the contract negotiations.

"Everybody was very happy with the outcome," she said.

Jay Hubbard, a third-grade teacher at Andover Elementary Middle School, said the vote was an affirmation.

"It makes me feel like the community appreciates what we do, and the children, and the quality of the education that they're getting," he said.

By James Danforth  
State Representative

In the coming months the legislature will be considering new legislation dealing with school funding, estate planning, and new emissions testing as well as many other topics.

One of the common themes most new legislation will face is funding. With limited income, choices must be made and many good ideas and programs will be underfunded or cut.

## Red Sox from page 1

pick the up-and-coming players and try to guess or 'scout' the young ones and pick the ones who will make the squad.

They have the 40-man roster plus the many minor leaguers and those who are listed as "invitees" and "non-roster" players. This year a total of 98 players were in camp.

My grandsons and I have picked a few winners and some that were disappointments. I recall Tony Clark was a "booming" hitter in spring training of '02 and we thought he would be great with the Green Monster, but as you know, Tony didn't last and never seemed to reach his potential. Two years ago we choose David Ortiz as "the real deal" and he has proven us correct.

This year, keep an eye on George Lombard as a backup outfielder and Tim Hummel as a backup third baseman. Dave McCarty is a good bet for backup at first and outfield. Adam Stern is one that seems to have good prospects.

Kevin Youkilis is the third baseman behind Bill Mueller, but has been working out at first base. You can see the flexibility that Manager Terry Francona is developing for the Red Sox.

There are a lot of really good young players trying to make the squad, but it will be tough for them to break into the lineup this year unless there are injuries. Young players to take note of include Kelly Shoppach, a catcher who is ready, but how do they carry a third catcher behind Jason Varitek and Doug Mirabeli? There is a sensational shortstop in Hanley Ramirez who would be ready, except we now have Edgar Ren-

Your opinions matter in the present as the majority of the current legislation will be voted on in the next six weeks.

Starting in April, Representative William Leber (retired) and I will be on Ragged Mountain Cable TV (Channel 8) reviewing bills that are on the House calendar. We will also be dealing with topics like school funding and taxation. If you have questions please contact me directly at james.danforth@leg.state.nh.us.

teria. Even though Ramirez started the triple play in the spring game, he will not be needed this year.

Jeff Bailey is listed as a catcher but spent time in the outfield and first base and is a good hitter. I liked the looks of Roberto Petagine on first base, but with Ortiz, Millar, and others cross-training for first, it is unlikely we will see him.

The good news is: The Red Sox are deep! And if we don't have a spot for some of these good players, they make good trade bait for pitchers.

Oh yes, we have some great names in the pitching ranks, but they are aging and hurting. So how long will it be before we need help?

Curt Schilling and David Wells are great and with great attitudes around the training camp. Bronson Arroyo looks really good on the mound and Wakefield is the same old Wakefield, but he comes through when needed.

The new guy, Matt Clement, may work out okay after a shaky start - his first pitch was hit for a home run. The bullpen looked okay with some new help coming: John Halama, Jack Cressend, and Lenny DiNardo to name a few.

It is fun to lean on the fence and watch, listen, and occasionally converse with the ballplayers. Most are very cooperative and friendly. Some are really outgoing and easy to talk to, such as Johnny Damon, the "favorite friendly Red Sox." His long hair is changing the grooming of our young school age boys. Have you been to middle and high school lately?

But Johnny has a great attitude and along with the "devilishness" of Kevin Millar (who joked that he had to learn to tie a tie before going to visit the President) and the Caribbean charisma of David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez, the Red Sox should be a strong favorite to REPEAT. That is the word from Kevin Millar this year for the team's motto, or charge - "REPEAT!" You heard it here first.

We open in New York, and a week later it is the Yankees at Fenway, April 11 through 14. Play ball! REPEAT!

## Community Calendar

The *Beacon* needs volunteers to help gather items for "Mark Your Calendar" on the back page of every issue of the *Beacon*. If you can help, call Charlie at 735-6099

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