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Public Notice

The Andover Supervisors of the Checklist will meet at Town Hall on Saturday, March 4 from 11:00 to 11:30 AM to make additions and corrections to the checklist.

After this meeting, no changes can be made to the checklist until Election Day, March 14.

Letters

An Issue with the School Bond Proposal

The school bond issue for the addition of classroom space, cafeteria, energy and safety upgrades may be partially necessary. Safety is imperative. All aspects of this issue should be addressed immediately. The School Board should have corrected these issues as they became known. This includes fire sprinklers, electrical panels and lock down devices. The board replaced the gym floor and some windows as the need arose.

Energy savings is another reason for the bond. I'm all in, but I never heard a word on the cost savings this would create. Are we insulating for nothing? How do we measure the savings? Is the oil budget next year going down? Is the electric bill going down?

Very large single pane windows that extend above the suspended ceiling are in the 1934 building. No thought of replacing these hugely inefficient windows was planned. The corrected heating system will just run continuously. Where's the savings?

An option to send students to another middle school was turned down by the School Board without a proper vetting of the issue. Did we get a cost estimate? Would another school take our students? Is transportation possible and at what cost? All I heard was

primetime. I believe the estimate from the architect is almost two years old by the time bids are solicited. What will happen if there's a price increase that isn't covered by the bond? Who decides what is eliminated? Can you build half a cafeteria?

The School Board refuses to split the bond issue into segments that the town could vote-on, on an individual basis i.e.: Safety, Energy savings, additional classrooms, cafeteria. This all or nothing approach, makes a taxpayer nervous. Everybody wants to keep students safe, but we want options. Not all or nothing!

It's my understanding that the committee was not unanimous. What was the vote and the reasons for dissent?

Twenty-five percent of the population of this town is over age 65. Most are head-of-households. This is a huge burden to a fixed income person. Are we forcing the elderly to sell? I think this bond should be withdrawn and re-submitted when the committee can inform the electorate on these issues. Let the townspeople decide.

Education is the most important thing a young person can get. Opportunity, experience, and inspiration make good students.

John Bourdon

A Message to Our Representatives

When our two new representatives, Anne Copp and Natalie Wells, were elected I wished them the best. But unfortunately, their best has not been supportive of our communities.

They both voted to kill HB 238, which would allow a committee to study broadband availability in our state with emphasis on underserved or unserved areas. Well, both Salisbury and Danbury, and to a lesser extent Andover, all have areas that are underserved.

Ask anyone who is trying to sell his or her house if good internet access is not a factor both in the pricing of the house and how fast it will sell. How about running a business from home, or public school, or home school kids unable to get reliable internet service. These are real issues.

This bill, HB238, is the same bill I attempted to pass last year and due to opposition by Fairpoint and other broadband providers, it was defeated. But this year, enough Republicans joined the Democrats in overturning

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Your opinion matters! Please send a letter to the *Beacon* expressing your thoughts on any local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

wild guesses. Four classrooms could be freed up by sending the 7th and 8th grade students to another school. The opportunities at a dedicated middle school far outweigh what's available at our school, ie: Lab's, music, language arts and greater athletic competition. I found as a young person this experience was a stimulant to learning, changing classrooms every 45 minutes with all new classmates and instructors. Socializing with other groups, grows character. Maybe this will improve the state-wide assessment tests.

Such a large project, with a flat or projected lower student enrollment needs more study. This is not ready for

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

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All Area Progressives, Democrats and Independents— Help Us Organize for Positive Change

Tuesday, March 21 • 7 PM

W.A. Bachelder Library
12 Chase Hill Rd., East Andover

For more info, contact:
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