



On June 12, the Andover community came together to celebrate the many retirees at AE/MS. Cars lined up (pictured below) for a parade through the school parking lot, signs and balloons celebrated decades of service, and Ernie the Eagle came to show his support for Jane Slayton (pictured left), Michelle Stanhope, Gail Parenteau, Holly Gagne, Lynn Tiede, and Vic Stewart (in memoriam). Photo: Kasey Schoch



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Dennis Dobe Takes Over as Principal at AE/MS on July 1

Dennis and his family know Andover well

Shelley Geoghegan, *Beacon* Staff

The following profile was supplied, upon request, to the *Beacon* by the new principal of the Andover Elementary/

university. As the son of a professional artist and college faculty member, Dennis enjoyed a unique upbringing in a home designed and built by his father and friends. Childhood days were spent with friends and siblings building forts, running through the woods, climbing trees, swimming in ponds, and paddling down rivers.

Sailboat racing with his father on Lakes Sunapee and Massabesic had a major influence on Dennis as he grew up, as did his days with family at art fairs, shows, and galleries throughout New England. Dennis enjoyed great success in athletics in high school and college, coached high school cross country and track, and continues to lead a very active lifestyle (running, cross-country skiing, sailing, paddling, and hiking) with his wife and best friend, Nancy – who has spent

her career as a teacher in the Kearsarge and Merrimack Valley school districts.

Dennis and Nancy (happily married for more than 30 years) first settled in Potter Place, where two of their three children were born. The early days of his family at Highland Lake, in the fields, gardens, and on the Blackwater and rail beds around his modest home are some of his most fond memories.

When Dennis transitioned from teaching Social Studies and coaching at Kearsarge Regional High School to school administration, he and his family
See Dobe on page 27



Dennis and Nancy Dobe. Dennis will start on July 1 as the new principal at AE/MS.

Middle School. Dennis Dobe starts his new position on July 1, taking the place of retiring long-time principal, Jane Slayton. While the Beacon was hoping to catch Dennis for an interview, we caught him during a very busy time. We'll catch up with him for a more personal interview for the August issue. Meanwhile, read on and get to know the next guiding force at AE/MS.

Dennis Dobe can be considered “local talent,” having grown up in New Hampshire, and attending New Hampshire universities: University of New Hampshire and Plymouth State Uni-



SAU #46 Superintendent Mark McLean appeared on the big screen to give a speech to Andover Middle School's graduating class of 2020.

Photo: Kasey Schoch

Andover Middle School Class of 2020 Enjoys a Drive-In Graduation

Some hope it becomes an annual tradition

Kasey Schoch, AE/MS Teacher

Andover Middle School eighth graders had a graduation like no other on June 11. Twelve weeks after remote learning began, they were honored with a drive-in style graduation, which some now hope will become an annual tradition for AE/MS.

Cars gathered in the AE/MS parking lot under a beautiful summer sunset (photo, page 26). Staff wore T-shirts that displayed the names of all the graduates, as police, fire, and ambulance crews drove through to kick off the event. The giant movie screen displayed a video graduation containing speeches from Superintendent Mark McLean, Governor Chris Sununu, students, and staff.

It was a night these graduates are sure to remember for years.



Learning Specialist Annie Mackenzie made sure her graduating advisees, Learning skills students, and dorm residents knew she missed them at Proctor's virtual commencement exercises on May 30. Stories on page 26.

Caption and photo: Scott Allenby