



NORTH ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Christopher Hottel, Superintendent
Kevin Hutchinson, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
James Mealey, Business Administrator
Lauren Fain, Director of Special Education

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

As Superintendent of Schools, I am writing to notify you of a special town meeting scheduled for **November 15 at 7:00 p.m. at North Andover High School**. Please take a moment to review the warrant articles for Special Town Meeting at www.townofnorthandover.com. Below is a brief overview of two of the warrant articles that could have a direct impact on funding for the North Andover Public Schools.

Article 1 - Amend Capital Improvement Plan Appropriations from Fiscal Year 2012- School Roofs Replacement – Green Repair Program.

In June 2011, Town Meeting appropriated funds for three school repair programs that have been approved for reimbursement through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Green Repair Program. Based on design estimates we anticipate the need for additional funds for two of the three Green Repair Projects listed below. While the overall costs of these projects are higher through the Green Repair Program, they result in better energy efficiencies for our schools, and the 47.42% reimbursement of costs from the MSBA results in a lower overall cost to the Town.

1. Atkinson Windows – to replace original windows from 1964
2. Sargent Roof – to replace original shingled roof from 1995
3. Middle School Roof – to replace original roof (not the portion renovated in 1998)

Article 9 - Adoption of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64L Section 2(a) – Local Meals Excise Tax: To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64L Section 2 (a) to impose a local meals excise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

All of the revenue collected from the proposed meals tax would be returned to North Andover to use for local services.

I encourage you to attend Special Town Meeting and be an active participant in these important decisions.

Sincerely,

Christopher Hottel
Superintendent

Green Repair Projects

At the June 2011 Annual Town Meeting \$3.88 million dollars were appropriated for three school repair programs that have been approved for reimbursement through the Massachusetts School Building Authority Green Repair Program. The work is scheduled to be done during the summer break of 2012. Based on design estimates we anticipate the need for additional funds for two of the three projects. These are outlined below. While the overall costs of these projects are higher through the Green Repair Program, they result in better energy efficiencies for our schools, and the 47.42% reimbursement of costs from the MSBA results in a lower overall cost to the Town. (Also outlined below.)

Atkinson Windows - to replace original windows from 1964. By doing so through the MSBA Green Repair Program will result in greater energy efficiencies and 47.42% reimbursement of costs. Projected to save 20% in energy costs per year.

Original Appropriation	\$	1,277,845
Additional Request	\$	-

Sargent Roof - to replace original shingled roof from 1995. By doing so through the MSBA Green Repair Program will result in greater energy efficiencies and 47.42% reimbursement of costs. Projected to save 3-5% in energy costs per year.

Original Appropriation	\$	563,768
Additional Request	\$	177,052

Middle School Roof - to replace original roof (not the portion renovated in 1998). By doing so through the MSBA Green Repair Program will result in greater energy efficiencies and 47.42% reimbursement of costs. Projected to save 3-5% in energy costs per year.

Original Appropriation	\$	2,038,697
Additional Request	\$	522,440
Total Additional Request	\$	699,492

Project Costs to Town without Green Repair Program	\$	2,941,000
Project Costs with Green Repair Program	\$	4,572,479
Green Repair Program Reimbursement	\$	<u>2,168,270</u>
Project Costs to Town	\$	2,404,209

NOTE: The Town tries to maintain a 5% level of Capital costs per year. These projects stay within the 5% level so do not necessitate any additional increase in tax revenues.

Meals Tax

The State of Massachusetts has given local communities the option to increase the meals tax by .75%. The revenues generated by this increase would go directly to the local community. Many communities around North Andover have already implemented this meals tax increase.

Key Points:

- * Other communities have not seen a decrease in restaurant revenues after implementation of the meals tax increase.
- * The State Department of revenue estimates North Andover would receive an additional \$400,000 per year in revenue.
- * Based on the current split between the Municipal Departments and the School Department this could result in an additional \$272,000 available for the annual School Budget.
- * The impact on the consumer is an additional 75 cents for each hundred dollars (\$100) spent.
- * An additional \$272,000 per year could allow us to keep 5 teacher positions that might otherwise need to be cut.