



ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Every Child, Every Day, Every Way"

36 Bartlet Street
Andover, MA 01810
(978) 623-8501

Marinel D. McGrath, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools
mmcgrath@aps1.net

November 17, 2011

Dear Andover Parents/Guardians and Staff,

In today's *Boston Globe*, there is an article related to a Town drinking water storage tank adjacent to the Bancroft School property. I felt it was important to address, immediately, the issue of drinking water discussed in the article. Further information on that subject will be provided at tonight's School Committee meeting, which begins at 7:00 pm. In addition, the School Building Committee has scheduled a general update forum for parents and community members regarding the status of the Bancroft School Building project on Tuesday, December 6th, at 7:00 pm at Bancroft School. At that time, issues related to the building project will also be discussed.

Below, please find a statement from Town Counsel Thomas J. Urbelis relative to Town drinking water and the discharge of sediments.

"Every week, the Town of Andover tests its drinking water. In addition, the Town recently asked an independent engineering firm to review results of testing of the water in the storage tank adjacent to Bancroft School Property. Attached is a letter posted on the Town website dated October 24, 2011, from the engineering firm of Camp Dresser and McKee which states in part that:

"This testing has consistently indicated that the Town of Andover's drinking water meets all EPA and Mass DEP drinking water standards. This includes a water sample recently collected from the Town's distribution system adjacent to Bancroft Tank."

Today's *Boston Globe* article also references a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with regard to the discharge of sediments last year. The DEP letter referred to in the *Globe* article, which the Town Manager received today, relates to the wetlands on the property at 2 Bancroft Road. In the *Globe* article, Robert Douglas, the Town of Andover's Conservation Director, is quoted as follows with regard to that discharge last year:

"It has absolutely nothing to do with the Bancroft School; it's on a totally different property," he said. "[The discharge incident] happened before Thanksgiving of last year and it's been discussed by the [Conservation]

commission, and it didn't come up at all by any of these appealing abutters, and they never voiced any concerns about it.... I don't see this having any impact at all on the commission's Order of Conditions, or the location of the school."

In closing, should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact either Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski or Town Counsel Thomas Urbelis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marinel D. McGrath." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marinel D. McGrath, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Link to the letter posted on the **Town website** dated October 24, 2011, from the engineering firm of Camp Dresser and McKee

<http://andoverma.gov/dpw/storagetank.pdf>



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October 24, 2011

Mr. Reginald Stapczynski
Town Manager
Andover Town Offices
36 Bartlet Street
Andover, Massachusetts 01810

Subject: Bancroft Water Storage Tank
Town of Andover

Dear Mr. Stapczynski:

We understand that there has been recent concern regarding the presence and quality of sediment at the bottom of the Bancroft Water Storage Tank with respect to metal concentrations. In general, it is not uncommon for sediment to build-up at the bottom of large water storage tanks such as the 6 million gallon Bancroft Tank. Specifically, water moving through a tank of this size does so at a very low velocity; thus, the tank acts as a "sink" collecting any solids and naturally occurring dissolved metals which fall out of solution from the water.

Even with the presence of this sediment, it should be noted that water serving the Town is tested in accordance with all requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). This testing has consistently indicated that the Town of Andover's drinking water meets all EPA and MassDEP drinking water standards. This includes a water sample recently collected from the Town's distribution system adjacent to Bancroft Tank.

We remain available to further review and discuss any matters concerning the water distribution system. As always, please feel free to call me at (617) 452-6532 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Very truly yours,

Andrew B. Miller, P.E., P.HG
Associate
Camp Dresser & McKee Inc.

cc: Chris Cronin, Acting Director, DPW
Tom Carbone, Board of Health
Bruce Haskell, CDM

