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## BROOKLINE PAX NEWS

Volume XXVI No. I www.brooklinepax.org

Co-chairs & editors: Frank Farlow & Marty Rosenthal

January 2015

Webmaster: Mark Levy

# Brookline PAX 2015 Annual Meeting & Awards

Sunday, February 22, 7:00-9:00 P.M.
Martin Luther King Room, Brookline High School
(In the event of snow, check <a href="www.brooklinepax.org">www.brooklinepax.org</a> for possible rescheduling to Sunday, March 8, 3:00-5:00 P.M., Martin Luther King Room, BHS, 115 Greenough Street

Admission: A voluntary donation to the Brookline Emergency Food Pantry (nonperishable food or personal care items)

## Reimagining Justice: Confronting Race in the 21st Century

Miriam Mack, litigation associate at Ropes & Gray, soon to begin a clerkship with the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Ohio, and legal fellow last year at ACLU-Mass, where she did much of the work on the ACLU's racial profiling report on the Boston Police Department

Ms. Mack's presentation will be followed by a period of questions and answers.

## **Election of officers and Board members Annual Awards**

- Jack Backman Social Justice Award: Alice Rothchild
- Ethel & Ben Alper Progressive Activism Award: Lawrence Lessig
- Ethel Halperin Award for Exemplary Achievement: Climate Action Brookline

### **EARLY SPONSORS**

**PATRONS:** Marty & Frank Farlow, Chobee Hoy; **Sustaining Sponsors:** Linda Jason & Andy Fischer, Deb Goldberg, Virginia LaPlante, Julia Johnson & Rep. Frank Smizik, Steve Vogel; **Sponsors:** Sarah Axelrod, Carol & Frank Caro, Chip & Sue Chipman, Rachel Goodman, Sarah Wunsch

## Campaign Kickoff Party - Sunday, April 12, 4:00-5:30, 63 Buckminster Road

Help PAX kick off the race for Brookline's future by supporting thoughtful, progressive candidates! Share food and progressive fellowship, and meet PAX-endorsed candidates as they begin their run for victory in the May Town Elections.

## Join PAX or renew your membership – See back cover

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### Co-chairs' Column

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Year: Still "Earning the Tradition"

## Frank Farlow & Marty Rosenthal

Sometimes it seems the more PAX does, the less of it's visible to the public. Luckily, our 248 Town Meeting Members and other officials and political activists are well aware of us, to the annoyance of some conservatives—but to our pleasure. Fewer and fewer people read newspapers, e.g., the TAB, where we do frequently appear, and like most non-1% groups we do less snail-mailing than we used to, because it's increasingly expensive. So *we need your help*; contact one of us if you know of someone you think might be interested in receiving this newsletter—and please attend to our last paragraph below.

As we launch our 53<sup>rd</sup> year, we continue to emulate Sumner Kaplan, a past Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, who quoted the Talmud: "You are not to complete the task, nor are you free to desist from it." Once again we commend PAX activists for their impressive efforts, including on this newsletter's topics—though it's always the struggle that counts.

Early in the year our Annual Meeting got off to a rousing start with the following awards presented to inspirational progressives: **Edward Snowden** for his critical contribution to a functional democracy; **Clint Richmond** for his tenacious work on surveillance cameras; and **Chobee Hoy** for a lifetime of generous, compassionate, and progressive contributions to PAX and her community.

Our keynote speaker was **Craig Altemose**, founder of 350MA and Massachusetts coordinator of the Fossil Fuel Divestment movement, who spoke on "Divestment in Brookline & Massachusetts from Deadly Energy."

A working group of MassOccupy/Brookline in which one of us (FF) is active had been planning to introduce a resolution in the spring Town Meeting to urge divestment of the Town's \$2.25M investment portfolios. But in his address, Craig encouraged Brookline activists to instead focus first on urging the legislature to pass a bill then before them that would have required the state pension board to divest its direct holdings in fossil fuel companies over a five-year period. The working group followed his advice, and Town Meeting passed their resolution. Although the bill did not quite make it out of committee, with past PAX co-chair & Rep. Frank Smizik's help it will reappear more strongly this session. In the meantime, our local working group has been conferring with the Town's Retiree Healthcare Board, working collaboratively toward divestment of its portfolio.

In the May Town election, we were pleased with the overall results: 60 of our 63 TMM endorsees took office, as well as 7 of 8 of our townwide candidates, including new selectman Ben Franco and new School Committee members Michael Glover and Lisa Jackson, whom we especially welcome. Continually pushing Town Meeting toward progressivism through our candidate endorsement process is a time-consuming procedure for the PAX board every spring, and checking the results post-election is an activity we usually undertake with some pride.

As an organization and individually, many PAX members put in a lot of time on the state elections last year—many good candidates and four ballot questions. Board members spent many hours on our unscientific but nevertheless thoughtful endorsements, mostly via questionnaires and numerous—at times heated—debates. Our endorsees ultimately did very well among Brookline voters, albeit not so well statewide. Publicized in the TAB and by means of listservs and at some polling places, they were:

- Democratic Primary: Grossman, Cheung, (Brookline's Deb) Goldberg, Creem, Shapiro and Smizik (for Attorney General, after we debated for weeks, neither of the excellent candidates, Healey or Tolman, got the 60% board vote required for endorsement).
- November General Election: Coakley, Kerrigan, Goldberg, Creem and Smizik.
- Ballot questions: #1 Repeal gas tax indexing NO;
   #2 Expand bottle bill YES; #3 Repeal casino gambling YES; #4 Earned sick time YES

We look forward to working, and of course also sometimes struggling, with all the winning candidates. We're cautiously optimistic that, especially with citizen activism, some good things can happen during the next two years at the statehouse—far more so than in Dysfunctional DC.

During the mid months of the year many of us were involved in drafting Town Meeting warrant articles, organizing support for them, attending Brookline's plethora of meetings and hearings discussing, dissecting and advocating for them, and organizing TM presentations, such as those on articles containing resolutions urging termination of the selectmen's authority to sell taxi medallions; support of the Massachusetts Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Act; and the Town's taking a public stand in opposition to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

After hundreds of person-hours on an especially timely set of issues, one major article reorganized the Human Relations-Youth Resources Commission

(HR-YRC). Eventually passing by a 185-18-6 vote, it replaced the old HR-YRC By-law and established the now-renamed Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations Commission. While some activists were dissatisfied, primarily based on the new Commission's lack of investigatory authority, the drafters (the Diversity Committee, headed by selectman Nancy Daly and including one of us, MR) felt—and Town Meeting agreed—that "civilian review" is an abysmal failure everywhere, including (at least on paper) by the former HR-YRC, and that policy oversight by the Commission as provided in the new by-law, including pushing the selectmen to impose meaningful minority hiring, better civilian review, etc., should be more effective than expecting investigation from a commission with minimal staff and complex legal barriers (e.g., privacy laws and lack of subpoena power).

We also sponsored and were pleased to see passed (107-95-5, over selectmen opposition) an amendment (Spiegel-Rosenthal) making the staff person for the commission a "department head," not just a "Chief Diversity Officer," leading in the fall to Brookline's first non-Caucasian (interim) department head in decades, Dr. Lloyd Gellineau.

We had been urging the selectmen to fill commission vacancies that had for a year been preventing it from obtaining quorums, and most of the new commission's seats were filled shortly after the Attorney General approved the new by-law. We are pleased to announce that two of the new commissioners are PAX board members Dwaign Tyndal and Kea van der Ziel. We look forward to its addressing the neverending, but always improvable, ethnic issues and tensions from which Brookline is not immune.

Then at the November Town Meeting, PAX activists successfully initiated or helped with Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing Peace by-law amendments to protect free speech; and resolutions supporting Domestic Workers and better ZBA notifications, as well as resolutions opposing Fracking and Taxi Medallions. Medical Marijuana Dispensaries, supported by 70% of voters in 2012, came under an attack by some residents trying to foreclose the planned dispensary at Boylston & Washington Streets, and maybe everywhere else in town. They were overwhelmingly defeated but have since sought intervention by the Department of Justice, which we hope will dispense just that—and Just Say Nay to the nay-sayers.

PAX members continue to figure prominently in the Saturday noon Peace Vigil as it enters its thirteenth year of "Neither rain nor snow ..." (well, maybe heavy rain or snow).

Most recently we signed on to an amicus brief supporting FAMM and ACLU in seeking easier relief for convicted victims of the Annie Dookhan state drug

lab scandal. (State chemist Dookhan falsified test results in 40,000 drug cases.) And we have weighed in supporting the higher of two proposed Town Override figures, but suggesting that the selectmen offer voters a choice between that and the lesser proposal—to let voters decide and to lessen the risk of a full defeat—the Zero Option. Due to the pressing needs of our schools, Brookline's heart and soul, but not unmindful of the hardship of higher taxes on some, especially seniors, we're neither happy nor cavalier about this; but we're certain that the override is unavoidable, and we're committed to working hard to get it passed, whatever's on the ballot this spring.

Many of us are already skeptical of the Boston Olympics proposal, fearing use of precious public funds sorely needed elsewhere, as well as various forms of detrimental impact on Brookline. And for what? While it has not yet discussed by our board, we heartily commend TMM-6 Chris Dempsey for taking this on.

As the year drew to a close, the board picked up again a discussion it has fitfully tussled with over the past couple of years: how to generate more interest in progressive issues among younger members of the community, and to get more of them involved in the activities of PAX and its board. Cheating a bit on our 2014 retrospective, we're very pleased to report that we have this year formed a committee that has already begun to productively study how we might effectively proceed on this issue. Chaired by board member Carol Oldham, its other core members at present are Puja Mehta and Chris Chanyasulkit. If you are a member or friend of PAX and find the topic compelling, give Carol a call at 617-953-4954.

Finally, Marty is honored to have been recently appointed by Governor Patrick to a resuscitated State Sentencing Commission under the GL c. 211E as one of nine voting members (three judges, three prosecutors and three defense lawyers) to draft changes to all our sentencing laws. This Commission has been moribund since Governor Weld let it atrophy, and we've since seen bursting jails, which—even after the Ferguson, Staten Island, and Cleveland travesties—is still the foremost civil rights issue of the last three decades. Even conservatives like Newt Gingrich are more progressive than our local prosecutors, who since the '70's have had a stranglehold on the statehouse.

For more about our activities and history, PLEASE—YOURSELF AND RECRUIT OTHERS TO—visit our website; and for more about Town Meeting, see the Town website (www.brooklinema.gov). We also urge you and your friends to sign up for PAX's listserv—to e-hear more from PAX folk, including about upcoming events, and occasionally lift a keyboard finger for grassroots lobbying. To sign up, just send an e-mail to dianaspiegel@yahoo.com with your name in the body of the message.

## **PDM UPDATE**

### By Cathleen Cavell

Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts (PDM) was formed in 2003 to promote social justice, political reform, and progressive values throughout the Commonwealth. We focus on local and state-level issues, and on creating and training a network of progressive activists who support one another as well as progressive causes and candidates across the state. Our members are campaign leaders, and PDM provides trainings for workers across the Commonwealth. Every year we endorse progressive candidates for state and local office and host organizing and issue workshops for activists. In 2005 PDM was one of the first statewide organizations to endorse Deval Patrick for Governor.

2014 was an eventful year for the organization, in Brookline and beyond. For the first half of the year we focused on the statewide races and ballot questions. In January 2014, PDM conducted interviews with the leading Democratic contenders for Governor: Martha Coakley, Juliette Kayyem, Steve Grossman and Don Berwick. We reported back to our members the responses of these candidates to an extensive set of questions. In preparation for the Democratic caucuses in February, PDM organized would-be delegates to the June 14 State Democratic Convention who chose not to pledge to a particular gubernatorial candidate, awaiting more information. For the Brookline caucus, we developed a Unity Slate, including unpledged delegates as well as those already committed to a candidate. Members of the Unity Slate received the overwhelming majority of votes at the Brookline caucus.

At PDM's May 3 meeting of unpledged delegates, each of the four gubernatorial contenders addressed progressive issues and answered our questions, and then the group voted for PDM to endorse Don Berwick. Individual elected delegates were still free to support anyone they chose at the convention. PDM members worked through the summer for the candidates they favored and to build support for particular ballot questions.

After Martha Coakley's September Democratic Primary victory, PDM and many of our members worked for Coakley in the run-up to the general election in November. PDM was also a lead organization in the victorious Raise Up Massachusetts campaign for the earned sick time ballot initiative. PDM members provided leadership

in other statewide campaigns as well, particularly Maura Healey's successful run for Attorney General.

After the dust settled, for the first time in recent history Massachusetts was not facing an imminent electoral contest with statewide significance. On November 23, PDM held a meeting of its Sustaining Members to begin exploring the group's priorities for 2015 and beyond. Sustaining Members pledge to annually take part in at least one PDM initiative, recruit at least one new member and pay dues of at least \$35. Don Berwick, Lew Finfer (of the Raise Up Coalition), Jordan Berg Powers (of Mass Alliance) and Rep. Jay Kaufman (Joint Revenue Committee co-chair) each addressed the November 23 meeting with their suggestions for PDM's focus going forward. We then identified six general areas as possible priorities:

Progressive revenue reform Environment/energy/climate change Health care reform Public education funding and reform Campaign finance reform Criminal justice reform

We are now embarked on research in smaller working groups into how PDM might be most effective in each area. We will report back to our membership next month to determine the issues for PDM's focus. We are planning trainings and issue education and other statewide activities for the spring.

We have improved our website, <a href="http://www.progressivedemsofmass.org">http://www.progressivedemsofmass.org</a>, adding a calendar of events that may interest other progressives; a twitter page; a blog; and links to content that members want to share with others. Please take a look. And do consider joining PDM as a way to make progressive change happen.

We are pleased to have doubled our statewide leadership team, which now includes: Robin Ackerman (Somerville), Cathleen Cavell (Brookline), Mike Combs (Chelmsford), Peter Enrich (Chair, Lexington), Jeanne Krieger (Lexington), John Lippitt (Reading), Harry Margolis (Brookline), Mary Ann Stewart (Lexington) and Corinne Wingard (Agawam). Feel free to contact any of us to discuss Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts.

TMM-1 Cathleen Cavell is a founder and a member of the executive committee of PDM.

## CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE FOR SINGLE PAYER

By Pat Berger, MD, and Abram Chipman, PhD

Accessibility, affordability, equity, and quality are the four central pillars of any well functioning health care system. Sadly, the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—Obamacare"—has not been able to establish these pillars. It does improve some aspects of the medical insurance system in America: it covers more people; pre-existing health conditions can't be used to deny health insurance eligibility; and young people can stay on their parents' health insurance policies up to age 26.

But it has major flaws that can't be fixed incrementally. Thus, up to 30 million Americans will continue to be uninsured even after the ACA is fully enrolled. Many of the Americans who do have insurance find that deductibles, co-pays, and co-insurance make visits to the doctor prohibitively expensive, causing lapses in care, poor health outcomes, and even death. One serious illness or accident can cause loss of job and health insurance. Heath insurance premiums are spiraling up, costs are being shifted from employers to employees, and 50% of bankruptcies are due to high medical bills.

Moreover, about a third of every health care dollar is wasted because of the administrative bureaucracies of the health insurance industry, which rival the Big Dig in their complexities. In Massachusetts, health care costs consume 42% of the state budget, and they are still climbing!

While millions of Americans struggle to pay their medical bills, the private health insurance and pharmaceutical companies make billions of dollars. The quality of care in the US, when compared with other economically developed countries, is ranked near or at the bottom for most categories of care, including life expectancy and infant mortality.

It is clear that we need fundamental reform to achieve a health care system focused on patients and patient care instead of corporate profits (i.e., that recognizes health care as a basic human right). No system is perfect, but Single Payer or improved Medicare For All will provide an equitable, affordable, accessible, quality system if we as Americans insist that we will fight for it and fight to sustain it!

Under a single payer system, publicly raised, equitable taxes would fund a semi-autonomous agency (in Massachusetts to be called the Health Care Trust) that would eliminate for-profit insurance companies, with their financial burdens, arbitrary refusal of claims and "cherry picking" of subscribers. This would greatly reduce administrative waste. Pharmaceutical companies would be required to negotiate the prices of their drugs with the Health Care Trust. Every resident would be guaranteed coverage for necessary medical care from birth to death. Despite some increase in taxes, families and individuals would save money because they wouldn't

have to pay for escalating premiums, co-insurance and other hidden costs. Businesses would no longer need to provide insurance for their employees, nor would states, cities, and municipalities.

All of these advances would save money, making more funding available for other important purposes. And built into the system would be public accountability, progressive taxation, quality control and the training of more health care providers.

It is likely that the U.S. will have to establish Single Payer starting with several states before expanding to the entire nation, as happened in Canada. California's legislature was the first to pass a bill of this kind, but then Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed it.

In Vermont the legislature passed and Governor Shumlin signed Act 48, which started VT on a path to implement a single payer system by 2017, when the ACA permits states to establish their own versions of heath care reform. The governor was expected to announce a funding plan for the system a year ago. But in December he suddenly announced that it was not the right ime to initiate this reform, because the financing plan he had chosen would put too much of a burden on VT taxpayers. No one knows why he made this decision, but it appears that his politics favored big businesses and the wealthiest Vermonters. He also neglected to project and publicly note the offsets to such costs from administrative savings and lowered costs of prescription drugs. Some of his appointments to lead the effort were compromised by including people with a track record of loyalty to corporate insurance. Yet, as Healthcare-NOW! has stated, "[T]he Governor's report is not an indictment of single payer. Far from it, it shows that even in the worst-case scenario, ignoring the most obvious benefits of universal care, it is better than the status quo." The legislature now has the opportunity to develop its own Single Payer plan, and the grassroots groups that have been working for it will pressure their legislators to move it forward.

Back on the home front, Massachusetts supporters of Single Payer know it's a campaign for the long haul. A Single Payer bill has been filed on Beacon Hill every year since 1995, but it has never moved out of committee to be voted on. It seems we've been waiting for a large enough popular groundswell to get the plan moving. This year's strategy is to file two related, and phased, bills. "An Act to Guarantee Health Care as a human right and stimulate Economic Development through an improved 'Medicare for All' Single Payer System" is lead-sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Thomas Sanicandro, and "An Act to Ensure Effective Health Care Cost Control" is cosponsored by Sen. Dan Wolf and Rep. Jim Benson.

The good news is that in November, Massachusetts voters elected legislators more supportive of Single Payer than those in the previous session. The candidacy of Don Berwick for Governor may have helped elect a more liberal legislative body in this regard, and it certainly brought Single Payer more directly into the public eye. With this new energy there is a distinct possibility that the bills mentioned will gain greater traction.

To do your part in steering Single Payer Health Care into existence here, join the Massachusetts Campaign for Single Payer Health Care (<a href="www.masscare.org">www.masscare.org</a>). This organization provides information on upcoming events,

handouts, articles, our two Single Payer bills, and PowerPoint presentations. Mass-Care needs volunteers for writing, speaking, community outreach office help, fundraising, media work, and publicity. Financial help is much needed, since we are up against well funded special interest groups that have stood in the way of meaningful health care reform for many decades. Mass-Care is located at 9 Hamilton Place, Boston MA 02108.

**Pat Berger** is a retired physician and a co-chair of Mass-Care, and **Abram ("Chip") Chipman** is a retired psychologist and a PAX board member.

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## Why Brookline Needs an Override

By Susan Wolf Ditkoff & Rebecca Stone

On Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, Brookline voters will be asked to vote on a Proposition 2½ override to fund the unprecedented 35%+ growth of our elementary school student population, and the expansion and renovation of Devotion School.

Passed by voters in 1980, Proposition 2½ says that cities and towns cannot raise property taxes on existing property (residential or commercial) by more than 2.5% each year unless the community approves an override.

There are two kinds of override: an "operating override" is a permanent increase in taxes to fund ongoing operations of the Town and/or public schools—in this case, primarily teachers and student supports. A "debt exclusion" is a temporary increase in taxes to allow the Town to borrow money to finance large building projects such as the renovation or construction of a public school—in this case, the Devotion expansion and renovation. The questions before Brookline voters this May will include *both* an operating override *and* a debt exclusion.

Overrides in Brookline are rare: we passed an operating override for the Town and Schools in 1994, two debt exclusions (to build the new Lincoln School and renovate Brookline High School in the 1990s), and an operating override to meet a budget deficit in the Town and Schools as well as to fund a longer school day and introduce a K–6 World Languages program in 2008.

Override Study Committees (OSCs) in 2008 and 2014 have confirmed that we've needed so few overrides because Brookline is well managed and prudent in fiscal planning, and both the Town and Schools successfully pursue efficiencies in administration and services. In fact, the 2014 OSC concluded that there is "no fat or waste" in the Town and Schools budgets.

This year's override is caused primarily by the explosion in student enrollment. In FY2006 our schools had about 6000 students. Today we have about 7600, and we will likely reach 8000 in a few short years. In addition,

since the last override, education requirements established by the state have multiplied, most without commensurate state aid, putting additional burdens on local revenues.

#### The Override Study Committee

Convened by the Selectmen in fall 2013, the 17-member OSC met roughly 200 times and published a 100+ page quantitative analysis in its 2014 report. It concluded that the extraordinary enrollment growth over the last decade is driving a new and significant structural deficit in the Schools operating budget and physical plant.

#### Enrollment & the Operating Budget:

Because of Proposition 2½, the Schools budget has not been able to keep pace with enrollment growth. Balanced budgets have been achieved in recent years only by increasing average class size, trimming existing programs and services, postponing enrollment-driven increases in critical student supports such as math and literacy specialists, nurses and guidance counselors, and raising fees for school lunch, athletics, and the use of school buildings in non-school hours.

The schools have delayed or forgone investments in teaching and learning that keep Brookline current with best practices; this has been felt especially in how far behind Brookline has fallen in acquiring updated educational technology and updating curricular supplies in areas such as science.

#### Enrollment & School Buildings (Capital):

Enrollment growth has placed unprecedented pressure on the Schools' physical plant as larger classes fill all grades in the elementary schools. In a few years these larger classes will arrive at the high school, where current projections predict at least 2500 students by 2022 (compared with today's 1800). Lack of physical capacity has resulted in a growing need for rental spaces, capital construction, and more flexibility in assigning students to elementary schools—all of which the Town and Schools have already been aggressively pursuing over the past seven years.

For example, the School Committee has expanded attendance buffer zones, allowed the Superintendent to exceed target class sizes in some grades (raising average class size by 1.5 students), prepared to use Old Lincoln School for middle-grade students, delayed certain kindergarten placement decisions, divided classrooms in half or scheduled two classes in one room, creatively repurposed spaces such as closets for classroom use, rented space at nearby private facilities for early education (BEEP) and Extended Day programs, and changed policy to allow relocation of K-8 classes into a different building.

These measures, plus significant projects to expand Runkle, Heath, and Lawrence in the last few years, have allowed the Schools to optimize their use of existing space and create additional space—nearly 50 classrooms—within their current physical plant limitations. But these efforts have brought all but two elementary buildings past their built capacity, meaning that specialists and other staff actually work with students in converted closets, stairwell landings, and hallways because other space is not available.

#### What do the Schools Need?

In response to the myriad operating and capital pressures, the Town over the past several years has provided additional funds to the Schools as enrollment has grown (above the traditional Town/School Partnership allocation). However, as the 2014 Override Study Committee report noted, the "enrollment adjustments" provided by the Town have reflected only a fraction of the costs of enrollment growth.

The administration estimates that, over the next three years, the Schools need approximately \$12 million more than what Proposition  $2\frac{1}{2}$  would allow to accomplish the goals set out in our Strategic Plan and given current and anticipated enrollment levels.

While the Override Study Committee agreed on the facts, it was divided on how to solve the Schools' structural deficit. Half the committee felt that the Schools should contain cost growth and expansion by reducing services, for example, curtailing programs for non-resident students, further increasing class size, and

investing less in supports for struggling students. The other half argued that an override should cover the structural deficit to allow the Schools to continue providing (and/or bring up to date) the strong educational opportunities for all students that are the hallmarks of Brookline's commitment to public education.

#### What are the Selectmen Considering?

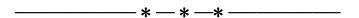
The Selectmen asked for public comment on three different plans for an override. All three fall in the range of \$8-9 million to cover enrollment-driven operating expenses in the schools. All three would also forestall about \$650,000 in cuts to valuable services on the Town side that would be imposed if an override fails. As of press time the Selectmen have not yet decided whether to "bundle" the operating override into one question or to offer a "pyramid" option that separates \$500K for Schools technology upgrades.

The three plans also include two options for a critically important debt exclusion to finance part of the Devotion School renovation project. (The rest can be financed with carefully saved funds in the Town's Capital Improvements Program). The higher of the two options adds CIP funds in case the Devotion construction costs increase and for other immediate capital needs of the Schools.

While the Devotion renovation and expansion will bring long-awaited improvements to an aging and physically overburdened school, it will not solve all the capital expansion needs created by enrollment growth. In future years voters will likely be asked to consider one or more additional debt exclusions for expansion of the high school and other elementary school expansions, possibly including a ninth elementary school.

The Selectmen are scheduled to vote on the content of the ballot question on January 27 (probably before you read this). We hope PAX members will be actively engaged in the important effort to educate the broader community about these issues before the vote on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Susan Wolf Ditkoff is chair and TMM-3 Rebecca Stone is a former chair of the School Committee.



## **Brookline PAX Board** — Co-chairs Frank Farlow and Martin Rosenthal, Treasurer Gary Jones

Members:	Susan Ellis	Gilbert Hoy	Joshua Rubenstein
Catherine Anderson	Andrew Fischer	Julia Johnson	William Slotnick
John Bassett	Phyllis Giller	David Klafter	Frank Smizik
Craig Bolon	Jane Gilman	Bobbie Knable	Arthur Sneider
Edith Brickman	Rachel Goodman	Virginia LaPlante	Diana Spiegel
Nelson Brill	John Harris	Mark Levy	Stanley Spiegel
John Businger	Paul Harris	Rita McNally	Dwaign Tyndal
Abram Chipman	Regina Healy	Carol Oldham	Kea van der Ziel
Susan Chipman	Nancy Heller	John Reinstein	Donald Weitzman
Susan Cohen	Chobee Hoy	Evelyn Roll	Sarah Wunsch

For more information about PAX, visit <a href="https://www.BrooklinePAX.org">www.BrooklinePAX.org</a> and join us on February 22 for our 53rd Annual Meeting and Awards!		
Join Brookline PAX or renew your membership today!		
Send this coupon with a dues check payable to <b>Brookline PAX</b> to: Brookline PAX, P.O. Box 470525, Brookline MA 02447-0525  Regular: single \$30, couple \$50		
Name(s)		
Address		
E-mail	Phone ()	

#### **BROOKLINE PAX ACTIVELY SUPPORTS**

- **Excellent Public Education** PAX is committed to the public schools. The organization and the political candidates it supports have a proven record in support of public education, from early childhood through graduate school.
- **Excellent Public Services** PAX supports sustained state and local investment in quality municipal services such as police & fire protection, public health, libraries, schools, parks, recreation, and public works, as well as state services such as social programs, transportation and environmental protection. PAX and its endorsed candidates pursue policies of support for basic human needs, including healthcare for all, affordable housing, and services for both children and senior citizens.
- Respect for Public Employees and Organized Labor PAX stands up for fair labor practices and for policies that show respect for the dedicated people whose competence and commitment make Brookline and this Commonwealth work.
- **Respect for the Environment** PAX is committed to keeping Brookline and this Commonwealth livable and environmentally responsible by supporting recycling; energy conservation; the maintenance and enhancement of parks, playgrounds, and green space; and sound environmental regulation.
- **Diversity, Social Justice, and Peace** PAX works to preserve and increase ethnic and economic diversity and social and economic justice for all, through affordable housing, universal health care, and fundamental civil rights and liberties. We respect the human rights of all people, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or location; and we support multilateral solutions to international affairs. We oppose the unilateral use of military force except when applied defensively under international law and clear and convincing evidence exists of a serious and imminent threat of aggression, and then only force no more than commensurate with the magnitude of the threat.

Brookline PAX POB 470525 Brookline MA 02447-0525 www.brooklinepax.org

