



Article 1 Amendments to Regional School Agreement

Boxborough
Special Town Meeting
June 3, 2013



Article 1: Amendments to Regional School Agreement (Ballot Vote)

- **Motion:** I move that the Town accept the amendments to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Agreement as set forth in the warrant with the changes voted and approved by the Regional School Committee at its meeting held on May 31, 2013.

Article 1:

To see if the Town will vote by ballot, consistent with the terms of Section 7 of the existing "Agreement for a Regional School District for the Towns of Acton and Boxborough, Massachusetts," to accept the amendments to said Agreement which have been initiated and approved by a majority of the members of the Regional School Committee, substantially in the form set forth below, with such further amendments as may be required by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, approved by a majority of the members of the Regional School Committee and submitted to the Board of Selectmen of each member town prior to its vote on this article; provided, however, that all such amendments shall take effect only if: (a) said amendments have been approved by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and (b) said amendments have been accepted by a majority of the voters present and voting in the Acton Town Meeting and separately in the Boxborough Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

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DESE Changes

- 1. A subsection E has been added to Section 3, which makes it clear that the District will provide transportation to all eligible resident students in grades pre-K to 12. DESE requires that such a statement be expressly included in order for the District to receive state transportation reimbursements for all grade levels.
- 2. In Section 4, subsection A, the word "community" that appeared in the second sentence has been changed to "town". DESE had a preference for this word change.
- 3. In Section 6, subsection B, a sentence has been added at the end to make it expressly clear that any amendments to the Regional Agreement are subject to the approval of the Commissioner.

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DESE Changes (continued)

- 4. In subsection 4, d of Appendix A, the figure of 1.53% (which was a typographical error) that appeared on lines 11, 15, 17, and 18 has been changed to 1.49%. These figures are part of the “for example” language in this subsection and the changes are thus completely non-substantive in nature. As a result of these corrections, the figure 82.39% that appeared on line 17 has been changed to 82.43%, and the figure 17.61% that appeared on line 18 has been changed to 17.57%. These changes, as well, are entirely non-substantive in nature.
- 5. The date on the cover has been changed from 4/29/13 to 5/31/13.

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Expanded Regionalization

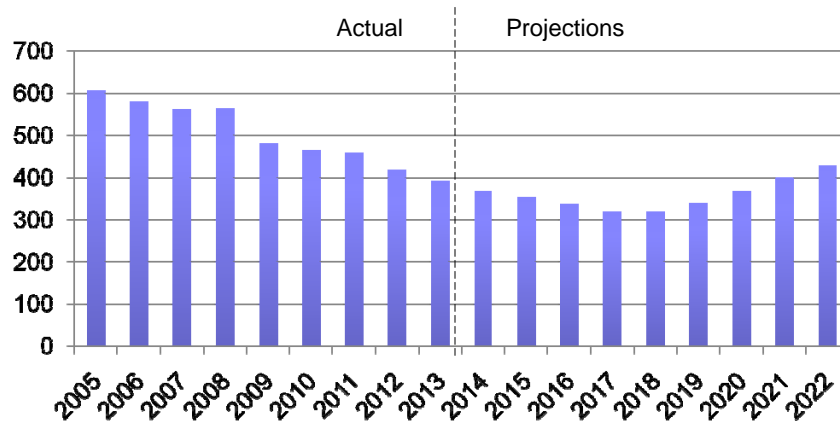
- Why consider expanded regionalization?
- Educational benefits
- Financial benefits
- What will this mean for the culture of Boxborough?
- Will we lose control of education in Boxborough?
- Summary

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Why Consider Expanded Regionalization?

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Blanchard Enrollment



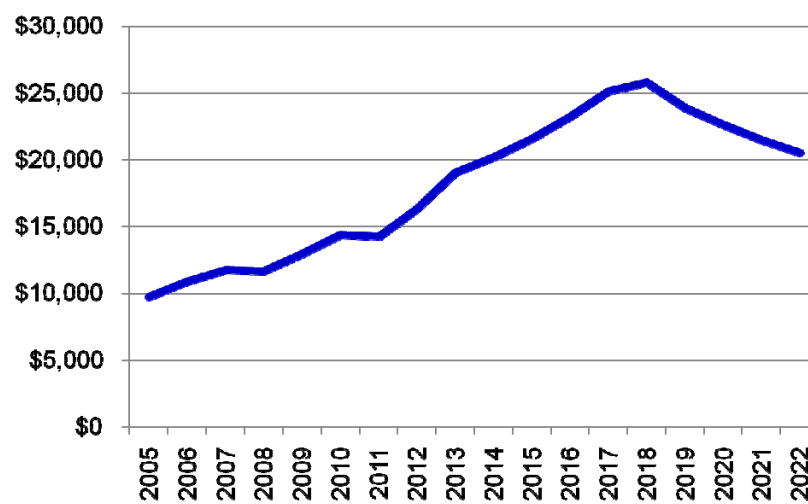
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Increased Unfunded Mandates



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Increasing Per Pupil Costs



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BSC Concerns



**Negative Impact
to educational
program**

**And/or
unsustainable
budgets**



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Short-term Strategies



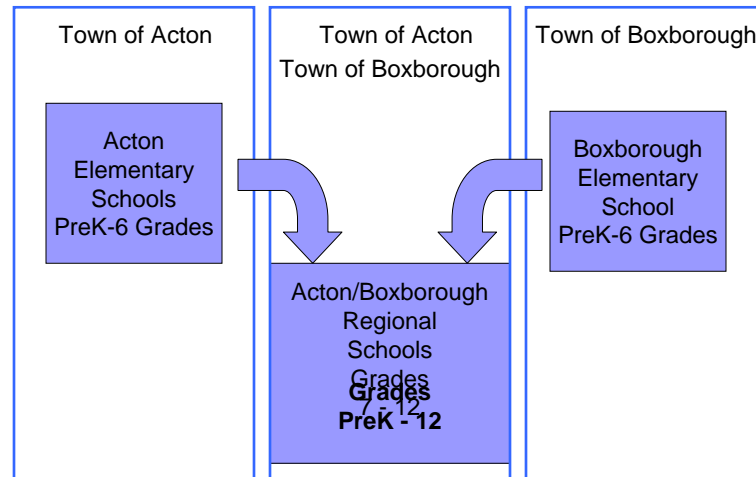
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Long-term Strategies



Educational Benefits

ASB Public Education System



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Educational Services Impact

Specials
(gym, art, music)

Technology Specialist

Certified Librarian

Band and Chorus

Before/After School Help (including MCAS)

Reading and Math Support

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School Choice Options



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School Choice Options



Merriam

McCarthy-Towne



Douglas



Conant

Gates

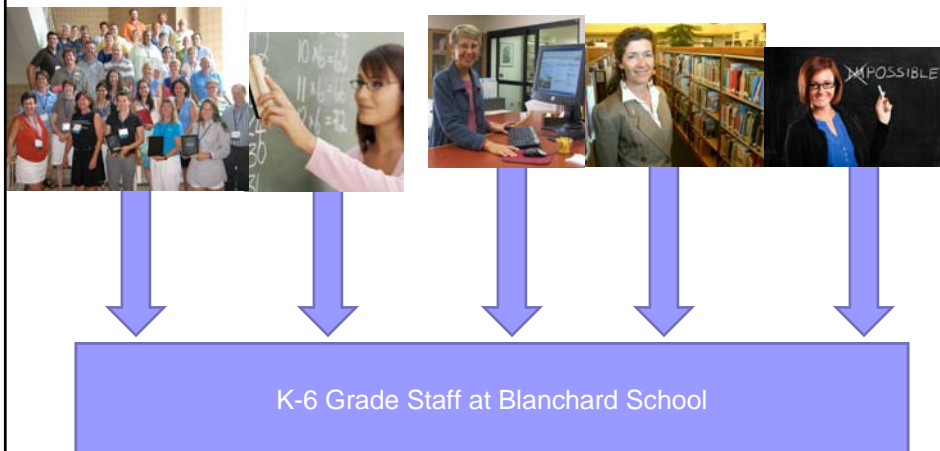


Choice Students



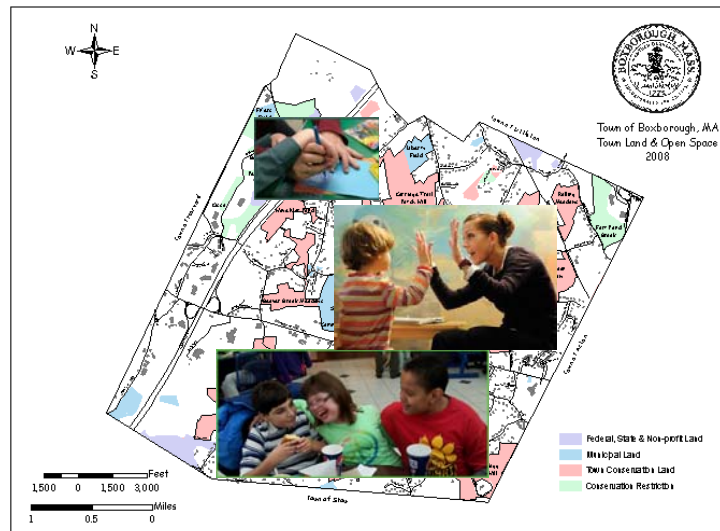
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More System-Wide Resources



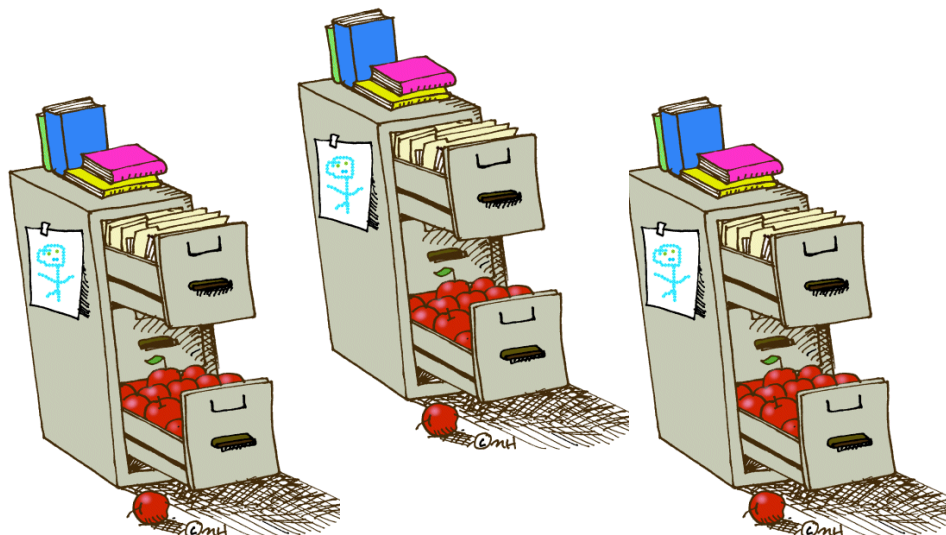
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More In-district SPED Programs



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Smoother Transitions



Professional Learning Benefit

One course
Multiple courses,
multiple years



More colleagues



Financial Benefits

Town Of Boxborough

Special Town Meeting

Article 1 - Amendments to Regional School Agreement

Finance Committee

Presentation

June 3, 2013

FinCom Members

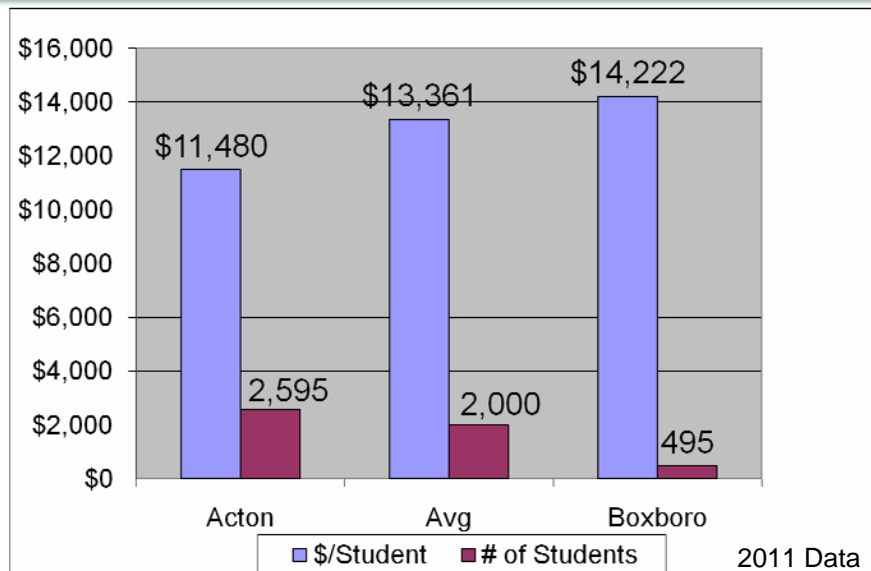
- **Karim Raad –Chair**
- **Jim Ham – Vice Chair**
- **Dilip Subramanyam – Secretary**
- **Neal Hesler**
- **Susan Bak**
- **Jeff Scott**
- **Steve Ballard**

FinCom Role

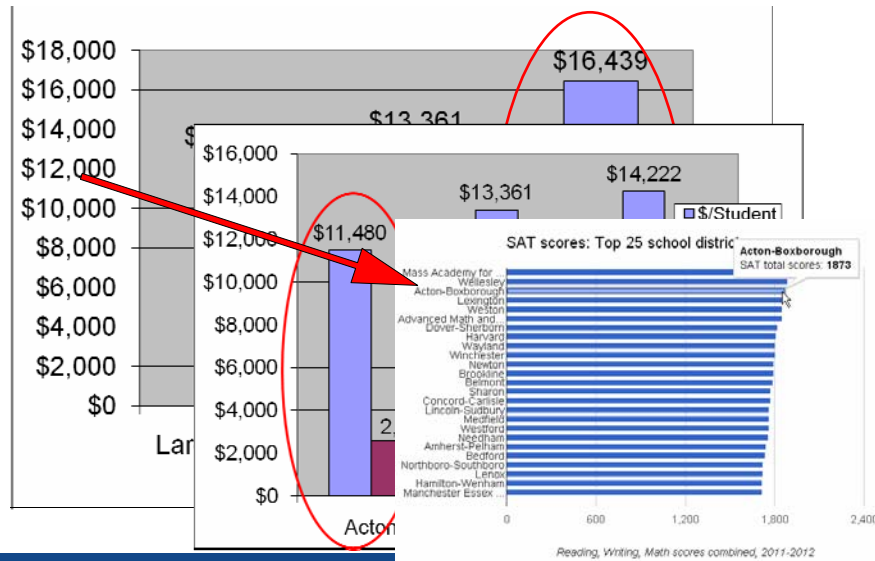
- FinCom Representative on Subcommittee (Jim Ham)
- FinCom Financial Review of Regionalization
- FinCom Review of Financial Impact on the Town of Boxborough

We represent the taxpayers of Boxborough in the ongoing operations of the town

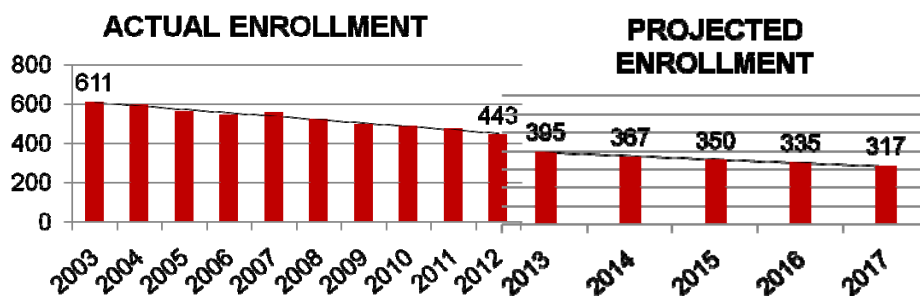
Current Cost per Student



MA Cost per Student



Blanchard Enrollment



• Blanchard Capacity ~ 675

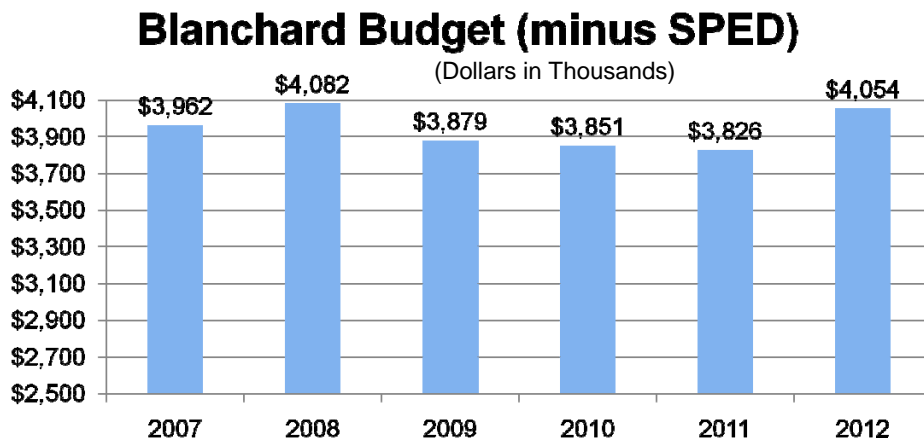
• Peak Enrollment:
 • 1999-2000
 • 655 Students

• Kindergarten Enrollment:

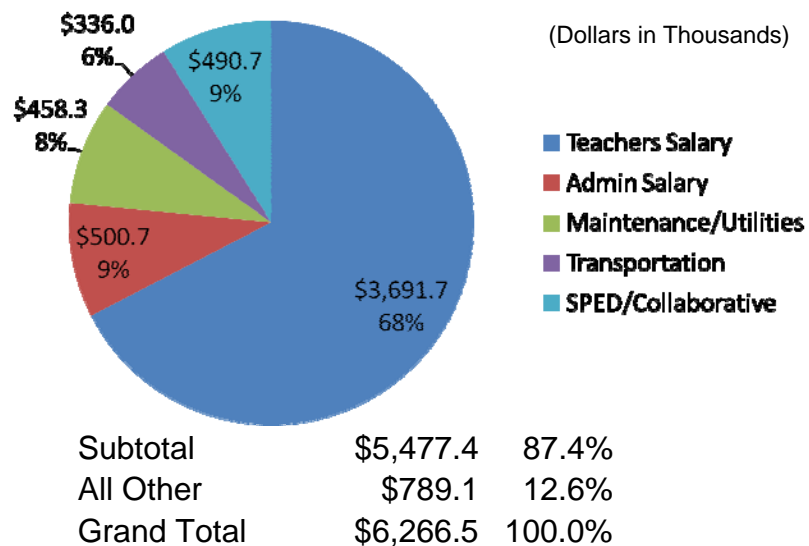
- 2012-2013: 44 Boxboro Students
- 2013-2014: 33 Boxboro Students

• Above "K" Enrollment Projects
 to Blanchard Enrollment under
 300 Boxboro Students Post 2017

Blanchard Budget (minus SPED)



Total Blanchard Budget



Summary & Conclusions

- Based on enrollment in Kindergarten over last 2 years (44 & 33), enrollment at Blanchard will continue to decline over the next 5-6 yrs to under 300 students
- As enrollment continues to drop at Blanchard, expect cost per student to increase - minimal budget increases at Blanchard over last 5-7 yrs;
- Budgets at rock bottom; little room for further substantive cost reductions
- Conclusion
 - Expect budgets to start to increase at a much higher rate
 - Alternative is to enroll substantial number of choice students
 - This is only a temporary solution to address budget pressure

Financial Benefits

- Identified \$1 Million in Initial Savings
 - *Acton (80%)/ Buxborough (20%) will positively impact regional assessment*
- Additional Potential Efficiencies (\$1,092K) from Blanchard
 - *Requires Blanchard per pupil spending to converge with Acton's average*
- Additional Benefits & Efficiencies Will Occur Once All 3 Districts are Merged into One

Financial Benefits

- Additional transportation aid = +\$535K
- Reduced increase in Ch. 70 aid = -\$156K
- Personnel cost savings = +\$466K
- Regional aid (declines over time) = +\$139K
- Contract savings = + \$21K
- NET TOTAL BENEFITS = +\$1 Million
- Average over 5 years = +\$943K
- ADD'L POTENTIAL BENEFITS = +\$300K to \$1M

Annual Cost Savings FY15 Through FY22

(\$000's)	Projected								
Without Regionalization:	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	Total
BPS	\$5,452	\$5,616	\$5,818	\$5,960	\$6,052	\$6,244	\$6,442	\$6,646	
Boxborough Share of Region	\$5,645	\$5,519	\$5,490	\$5,466	\$5,470	\$5,439	\$5,403	\$5,360	
Boxborough Total	\$11,097	\$11,135	\$11,308	\$11,427	\$11,522	\$11,683	\$11,845	\$12,006	
With Regionalization:									
Boxboro Net Cost w/ Full Regionalization	\$10,910	\$11,018	\$11,215	\$11,263	\$11,148	\$10,419	\$10,233	\$10,559	
Boxborough Savings	\$187	\$117	\$93	\$164	\$374	\$1,264	\$1,612	\$1,447	\$5,258

THANK YOU!!

**What will this mean for the
Culture of Boxborough?**

What does Boxborough value?

- **Giving our kids an exceptional education in a safe, familiar, nurturing environment**
- **Biggest threat is declining enrollment**
 - Blanchard will soon be half empty
 - No more cuts without sacrificing quality
 - Unfunded mandates that did not exist when we last had enrollment this small
- **We can't go back and we can't stand still**
- **We must cut programs or add revenue**

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How do we keep our values?

- **Choice option is uncertain, inadequate**
 - Dependent on applicants from other towns
 - Less revenue than expanded & consolidated region
- **Our 58 year collaboration with Acton has been a model of success**
 - ABRHS consistently among the best in the state
 - Boxborough elementary students already play sports with and socialize with Acton students
 - They will be joining them in 7th grade
 - It makes more sense to expand an already successful collaboration than to begin an unknown, untried one

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Will we lose control of education in Boxborough?

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Proposed Agreement Highlights

- **There Will ALWAYS be at Least One School in Boxborough**
- **Elementary School Buildings Ownership**
 - “Sale” to Region with “Sale Back” Provision: Blanchard will always serve Boxborough’s students
 - Region Will Service All Debts
- **Hometown Choice Guarantee**
 - Permanent preference
 - Only exception is if School Committee determines that Educational Standards require an override, for example to avoid overcrowded classes
 - This was added in response to overwhelming demand of Parents

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Proposed Agreement Highlights

- **All School Expenditures are Divided between Two Towns by 3-Year Enrollment Average**
 - Every student's education costs the same
 - Boxborough retains its 5% discount on existing construction
 - Neither town gets a discount on future construction
- **Direct Benefit from Region Expansion is about \$1M**
 - Both towns benefit every year
 - Savings split 80/20 first 5 years, by enrollment after 7
 - Additional savings are possible at Blanchard Elementary by bringing costs in line with the larger district
- **Expanded School Committee (retains weighted votes)**
 - Acton 7 and Boxborough 4 [current 6 and 3]

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Boxborough Gets a Bigger Voice

- **Current RSC = 3 from Boxborough & 6 from Acton**
 - Boxborough members *must* persuade 50% of the Acton members to get something passed
 - Translates to a **60%** vote requirement
- **Proposed RSC = 4 from Boxborough & 7 from Acton**
 - Boxborough members need only persuade 43% of the Acton members to get something passed
 - Translates to a 53% vote requirement
- **Boxborough has greater control because it gets :**
 - **MORE** representation
 - **MORE** chance to be heard
 - **MORE** likelihood of passage

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Acton and Boxborough Share Common Values on Education

- Acton and Boxborough students are equally well prepared when they get to the region
- Decisions of current RSC are usually by consensus
- Boxborough has always approved the RSC assessment because we have always had a say in it and it has always reflected our values
- Under the Proposal, Boxborough will have even more of a say and it will continue to reflect our values

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School Committees in Transition

- **Expanded Region Operational July 2014**
 - Transitional Period Ends on June 30th, 2014
- **Current Regional SC Functions as Transitional Committee**
 - Develop FY2015 Budget
 - Oversee FY 2014 Transportation
 - Negotiate Employment Contracts
 - Reconcile/Establish School Policies
- **Existing Three SCs Govern Operational Matters as Usual until June 2014**

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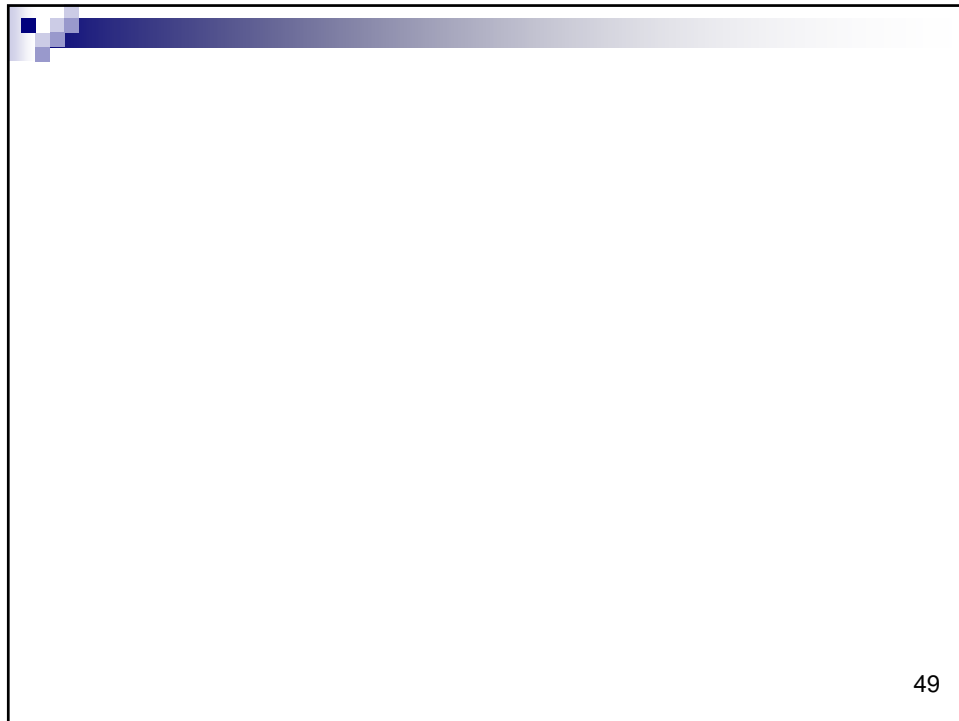
Summary

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Expanded Region vs. Alternative Plan

Regionalization	Alternative Plan
Blanchard under purview of Regional SC with minority Boxborough representation	Blanchard under purview of local SC
Open seats at Blanchard could be filled with Acton students	Open seats at Blanchard likely filled with Choice students
5 years out – Boxborough saving \$1.9 million	5 years out – Boxborough deficit of \$1.5 million
Model assumes level educational & extracurricular programs	Educational and extracurricular programs at risk due to deficit

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Secret Ballot Vote Procedure

1. Please be seated.
2. Come up to voting station row by row.
3. Show hand-stamp to checker.
4. Get "Yes/No" ballot.
5. Tear apart the ballot and place vote in the ballot box. Discard unvoted part.

A diagram illustrating the ballot tearing process. It shows three overlapping rectangular pieces of paper. The leftmost piece is labeled 'YES'. The middle piece is also labeled 'YES' and has a dashed line indicating a tear. The rightmost piece is labeled 'NO' and also has a dashed line indicating a tear. The number 50 is visible in the bottom right corner of the 'NO' piece.

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Article 2 Amendments to Regional School Agreement

Boxborough
Special Town Meeting
June 3, 2013



Article 2: Office of Local School Committee (Majority vote required)

- **Motion:** I move that the Town vote, consistent with G.L. c.41, §2, to confirm that in the event that the amendment to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Agreement appearing on the warrants at the June 3, 2013 Acton and Boxborough Special Town Meetings be approved, on July 1, 2014, the date that the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Committee assumes the duty and responsibility in both towns for oversight and operation of preschool through grade 12, the office of Boxborough School Committee shall terminate.

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