

**Acton Public, Acton-Boxborough Regional,
Acton-Boxborough Transitional
School Committees**

April 3, 2014

**7:00 p.m. APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC Open Meeting
Followed by APSC/ABRSC Executive Session**

in the R.J. Grey Junior High Library

**JOINT ACTON PUBLIC (APSC) and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL (ABRSC)
and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABTSC)
MEETINGS**

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

April 3, 2014
7:00 p.m. Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Meeting
Followed by Joint ABRSC/APSC Executive Session

AGENDA

JOINT APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC OPEN MEETING

1. **Call to Order APSC, ABRSC and ABTSC (7:00)**
2. **"The Impact of Food Choices on Climate Change and the Environment" – R.J. Grey Junior High School students**
3. **Chairmen's Introduction – Maria Neyland (7:10)**
 1. Thank you to Kim McOsker
4. **Statement of Warrant**
5. **Public Participation**
6. **Leary Field Update – JD Head (oral) (7:15)**
7. **Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Field Trip to Norway – ABTSC VOTE – Steve Mills (7:20)**
8. **Response to Sped PAC concerns from 3/20/14 School Committee meeting- Liza Huber (7:25) (oral)**
9. **FY15 Budget Update – Steve Mills (7:30)**
 1. Acton Town Meeting FY15 Proposed ABRSD Budget Booklet
 - i. Revised page 2 and 3 (FY15 Budget Summary by Character Code and Table 6 Analysis of Assessments)
 2. Letter of Agreement – Middlesex Retirement Board Assessments (*fyi only*)
 3. Revised Superintendent's School Budget Process memo, 3/21/14
10. **ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization Update – Steve Mills (7:40)**

(Please see DRAFT Proposed Intermunicipal Agreement posted at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/> for #1-6 below.)

 1. Recommendation to Approve the Intermunicipal Agreement (the "Agreement") – ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC VOTE – Steve Mills
 2. Recommendation to Authorize the Chairs of the ABRSC/ABRSC/APSC to execute the Agreement on behalf of the School Committees – ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC VOTE – Steve Mills
 3. Recommendation to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU) – ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC VOTE – Steve Mills
 4. Recommendation to Authorize the Chairs of the ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC to execute the MOU on behalf of the School Committees – ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC VOTE – Steve Mills

5. Recommendation to authorize the ABRSD Superintendent to complete the acquisition of the properties and conveyance of the easements in accordance with the Agreement and applicable Town Meeting votes –
ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC VOTE – *Steve Mills*
6. Beneficial Interest Disclosure Statement, Acquisition of Real Property (*MOU exhibit R, to be signed by the Superintendent*)
11. **Long Range Strategic Plan Update** – Steve Mills (7:50)
12. **School Committee Member Reports** (*oral*) (7:55)
 1. Acton Leadership Group (ALG) – *Dennis Bruce*
 2. Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) – *Maria Neyland*
 3. Health Insurance Trust (HIT) – *Mary Brolin*
 4. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Task Force– *Dennis Bruce*
 5. Acton Finance Committee - *Dennis Bruce*
 6. Acton Board of Selectmen - *Paul Murphy*
 7. Boxborough Finance Committee- *Maria Neyland*
 8. Boxborough Board of Selectmen – *Maria Neyland*
13. **Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting Updates** -*Dennis Bruce & Maria Neyland (Addition of School Committee members per PreK-12 Regional Agreement)*
14. **Annual Superintendent’s Evaluation** – *Maria Neyland (oral)*
15. **Demographics Survey Results Presentation** – *Michael Coppolino (8:00)*
16. **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** (8:15)
 1. ABRSD Excess and Deficiency, 3/28/14
 2. Regionalization Update, March 2014
 3. Public Records Request completed, 3/21/14
 4. Roster of Spring Coaches, 3/9/14
 5. Announcements regarding S. Ryan and J. Oviatt-Rothman
 6. Kevin Breel presentation on 3/27/14, co-sponsored by Acton-Boxborough United Way and the Regional Parent Teacher Student Organization
 7. Letter for Beacon and Patch from the School Committees, 3/31/14
17. **ADJOURN ABTSC**
18. **JOINT ABRSC/APSC EXECUTIVE SESSION** (8:20)
“strategy with respect to collective bargaining”
19. **ADJOURN ABRSC and APSC**

NEXT MEETINGS:

- April 7, 7:00 p.m. Acton Town Meeting begins, ABRHS auditorium
 - Pre-Town Meeting APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC joint meetings each night, 6:00 p.m. High School room 102E (*if needed*)
- May 1, 7:30 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- May 12, 7:00 p.m. Boxborough Town Meeting begins, Blanchard School gym
- May 15, 7:30 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting, Junior High Library

Acton Public Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Acton, MA

OVERNIGHT, INTERNATIONAL and/or OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

Submit for Superintendent and School Committee approval

Please file at least four (4) weeks in advance for 1-3 day trips
Please file at least three (3) months in advance trips longer than 3 days and/or trips with per student cost greater than \$500.00

Please TYPE or use COMPUTER FORM

- Name of Teacher(s): Patricia Garrison; Jess Janus
- School: Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
- # of Students going: 8-12 # of Chaperones (gender): 2 women
2 men
Names of Chaperones: Linda Borghesani
Michelle Sedler
unsure of men chaperones
- Date(s) of Trip: 2/13/15 - 2/22/15 School Time Involved: none
- Purpose of Trip/Destination: Cultural/Educational/Athletic
Ski Trip to Norway
- Have you taken this trip before? yes - 4 times
- Any special arrangements required (such as extra insurance, ADA accommodations)? NO
- Cost per Student: (Please describe how the cost is determined.) Approximately \$3,000,
less if more than 8 go.
- Who will pay for the trip? The students/skiers.
- Has any fundraising been done? NO If so, what?

- Are any parents driving? NO

If so, have appropriate insurance forms been filled out?

- Have you followed the procedure outlined in Policy IJOA? Yes

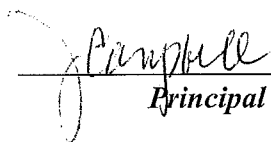
- Other comments:

_____ Approved _____ Not Approved

Department Leader

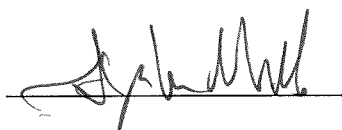
Date

☒ Approved _____ Not Approved


Principal

Date 3/24/14

☒ Approved _____ Not Approved


Superintendent

Date 3/27/14

_____ Approved _____ Not Approved

School Committee

Date

Revised 11/15/06

Norway, 2015
February 13 (night of) – February 22, 2015

Goals:

Learn about the history of Norway, its ski culture, and how skiing ties in with its history.
Learn about the Winter Olympics history (museum in Lillehammer).
Learn about the cultural and military history of Oslo, as capital of Norway.
Learn about famous artists and the Vikings (Viking Museum; Edvard Munch Museum and others)
Ski in Nordseter/Lillehammer, Norway for 5 days.
Visit/ sightsee in Lillehammer, sight of the 1994 Olympics.
Visit/ sightsee/ museum visit in Oslo for 4 days.
Show respect for the Norwegian culture, food, customs.... behave your best and obey the Coach and chaperones about group rules.
Rule sheet will be signed by parents and skiers at a meeting prior to leaving US.

Preparation:

Passports
Ski equipment [skis boots, poles]
Clothing: winter clothing. Nice shirt and pants for eating out. No heels unless you want cold wet feet.
Medical information
Extra money for purchases/ dinners out/ emergencies
 Extra costs: 2 dinners out in Lillehammer.
 1 or 2 dinners out in Oslo.
 Cabs from Lillehammer to Nordseter and back (4 x: about \$30)
 Money for museums (to be determined at a group rate, prior to leaving)
 Any food for snack; clothes; tourist artifacts.

Cost:

Approximately \$3000.
Costs lessen with more skiers traveling. If only 4-5 skiers, then the costs are close to \$3000. If more skiers decide to join, then the costs lessen.

Airline:

Icelandair
Dep. Logan Feb. 13; depart Rejkavik; ; arrive Oslo Feb. 14
Train to Lillehammer
 Stay in Lillehammer(Nordseter) from Feb. 14 – Feb. 19
Feb. 2: train from Lillehammer to Oslo.
 Stay in Oslo from Feb. 19 - Feb. 22.

Icelandair
Sunday, February 22, 2013
Dep. Oslo; depart Rejkavik; arrive Boston by 7 pm.

Costs Covered by the \$3,000

Flight
Trains to Lillehammer from airport; from Lillehammer to Oslo; from Oslo to airport.
Condominiums in Nordseter
 Food in Nordseter for 3 meals a day other than the 2 nights out.
Hotel in Oslo at the Grand Hotel (very historic and next to Parliament)

Extra costs borne by the traveler separately; not covered in \$3,000

Dinners out...at least once in Lillehammer; twice in Oslo. Figure between \$40-60 per dinner per person
Cabs: Figure \$150 total.

Deadlines:

Deposit of \$1,000 due by June 2014; submit remainder prior to October 1.

Total \$3,000. The cost will vary slightly depending upon uncontrolled variables like flight and food costs.

Itinerary:

Lv. Boston Friday night.

Arrive: Norway Saturday morning.

Train from airport to Lillehammer. Get taxis to Nordseter, about 15 km from Lillehammer.

Nordseter is a quiet ski village surrounded by and intertwined with ski trails from Lillehammer, Susjeon, other towns in the area.

Day 1-5: We ski every day except one, when we take a bus into Lillehammer to sightsee and visit the Olympic Museum.

Train from Lillehammer to Oslo..Day 6. Settle into hotel at end of day and find a restaurant.

Day 7: Museums; sightsee. Munch Museum; Viking Ship Museum; City Hall; Old Fort.

Day 8: A) Take train to Holmenkolen...like taking the T to Boston. Ski the world famous ski trails. This is huge. It is the heart of skiing to Norwegians.

Or

B) Have a guided tour of the old history of the importance of the Oslo waterfront in its historic survival against Sweden and Denmark

Chaperones need to be with each group.

Day 9: Train to Airport and flight home to Boston. Usually arrive 6ish. (pm)

Chaperones:

Leader: Patricia Garrison
Jess Janus

Other parent chaperones CORI checked prior to trip. (2)

Phones:

Will provide phone #'s prior to leaving.

Communication:

Will bring a laptop and try to write news every day or every other day.

Rules:

- 1- Treating everyone respectfully within the group and as a group toward everyone else.
- 2- Learn some Norwegian!!
- 3- Staying with the group at all times unless you talk with Coach first, especially when skiing, stay with the group. When it snows, you have difficulty seeing directions in the treeless environment, so stick together.
- 4-No leaving the condo or hotel without permission.

You must realize, in advance of the trip, that I don't allow groups to leave the hotel to shop alone. We are a group and it is a group trip. It is planned tightly so we can take advantage of what Norway has to offer in those two areas of Lillehammer and Oslo. You may not leave the hotel at all without it being a trip planned or ok'd by me. I try to reserve rooms in the best places, so you must behave accordingly. Be quiet in the hallways and be polite to the staff. This is where we can show Norwegians and other Europeans how polite, nice, intelligent and great American teenagers are!

9.1.2

**Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Proposed FY'15 Budget Summary by Character Code**

	FY14 Total Combined Budgets (AB APS and BPS)	FY15 Recommended Budget as Approved 3-20-14	% Increase FY14 to FY15
Salaries, Teaching - 01	\$32,025,073	\$31,945,613	-0.25%
Salaries, Principals - 02	\$1,750,532	\$2,109,446	20.50%
Salaries, Central Administration - 03	\$1,307,911	\$1,040,045	-20.48%
Salaries, Support Staff - 04	\$8,548,424	\$8,401,365	-1.72%
Salaries, Athletics - 05	\$465,852	\$510,412	9.57%
Salaries, Buildings - 06	\$562,115	\$540,306	-3.88%
Salaries, Custodial - 07	\$1,625,618	\$1,640,433	0.91%
Salaries, Home Instruction - 08	\$17,044	\$17,044	0.00%
Salaries, Miscellaneous Pupil Services - 09	\$1,438,661	\$1,456,651	1.25%
Salaries, Subs Miscellaneous - 11	\$186,229	\$186,093	-0.07%
Salaries, Subs Instructional - 12	\$534,565	\$524,516	-1.88%
Salaries, Overtime - 13	\$244,621	\$242,855	-0.72%
Stipends, Curriculum/Instruction - 14	\$146,673	\$152,275	3.82%
Fringe, Course Reimbursement - 15	\$41,000	\$56,000	36.59%
Fringe, Health Insurance - 16	\$7,050,494	\$7,600,159	7.80%
Fringe, Health Insurance, Retiree - 17	\$1,314,727	\$905,443	-31.13%
Fringe, Life/Disability Insurance - 18	\$30,920	\$31,020	0.32%
Fringe, Unemployment Insurance - 19	\$25,000	\$25,000	0.00%
Fringe, Workers Compensation - 20	\$127,000	\$339,446	167.28%
Fringe, Middlesex County Retirement System - 21	\$1,366,653	\$1,304,911	-4.52%
Fringe, Medicare - 22	\$756,308	\$817,453	8.08%
Contributions, OPEB Trust Fund - 23	\$376,000	\$506,000	34.57%
Instruction Supplies - 24	\$848,243	\$822,909	-2.99%
Instruction Textbooks - 25	\$283,388	\$340,613	20.19%
Instructional, Library - 26	\$57,924	\$58,924	1.73%
Other, Capital Outlay - 27	\$499,711	\$646,166	29.31%
Other, Debt Service - 29	\$2,020,296	\$1,847,734	-8.54%
Other, Property/Casualty - 30	\$35,500	\$98,924	178.66%
Other, Maint Buildings/Grounds - 31	\$525,377	\$540,248	2.83%
Other, Maintenance Equipment - 32	\$219,733	\$211,406	-3.79%
Other, Legal Service - 34	\$105,000	\$128,650	22.52%
Other, Admin Supplies - 35	\$879,111	\$744,274	-15.34%
Other, Athletic Supplies - 36	\$57,868	\$57,868	0.00%
Other, Custodial Supplies - 37	\$144,843	\$145,984	0.79%
Other, Sped Transportation - 38	\$1,454,538	\$1,340,411	-7.85%
Other, Student Transportation - 39	\$1,699,743	\$1,229,421	-27.67%
Other, Travel, Conferences - 40	\$60,359	\$58,046	-3.83%
Other, Sped Tuition - 41	\$4,145,625	\$5,213,514	25.76%
Other, Utilities - 42	\$1,915,781	\$1,730,472	-9.67%
Other, Telephone - 43	\$144,444	\$148,585	2.87%
Other, Sewer - 44	\$287,191	\$287,191	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	\$75,326,095	\$76,003,826	0.90%

SUBTRACT: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADJUSTMENT

(\$1,089,570)

"CONSTRUCTED" FY14 GRAND TOTAL

\$74,236,525

2.38%

Z. (revised)

Approved 3-20-14

Table 6
ACTON-BOXBOROUGH RSD
Analysis of Assessments
Projected State Aid Numbers
School Year 2014-2015

	GROSS BUDGET	ACTON	BOXBOROUGH	
	2014-2015	83.97%	16.03%	K to 12
		82.46%	17.54%	7 to 12
EXPENDITURES INSIDE DEBT LIMIT:				
OPERATING BUDGET	\$73,494,892	\$61,713,661	\$11,781,231	
OPEB TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTION	\$506,000	\$424,888	\$81,112	
LOWER FIELDS CONSTRUCTION DEBT SERVICE	\$45,818	\$40,072	\$5,746	
CAPITAL OUTLAY - BUILDINGS	\$155,200	\$130,321	\$24,879	
TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT	\$74,201,910	\$62,308,943	\$11,892,967	
EXPENDITURES OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT (PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED BY REGION:)				
CONSTRUCTION DEBT SERVICE (FOR JHS & SHS/AUTHORIZED OUTSIDE PROP 2 1/2)	\$395,693	\$346,073	\$49,620	
SH CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION	\$1,406,223	\$1,229,883	\$176,340	
	\$1,801,916	\$1,575,956	\$225,960	
GROSS BUDGET-Subtotal	\$76,003,826	\$63,884,899	\$12,118,927	
EXPENDITURES OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT (PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED BY ACTON OR BOXBOROUGH:)				
BUILDING ADDITION BLANCHARD SCHOOL (Authorized FY06)	\$397,800	\$334,033	\$63,767	
SBAB REIMBURSEMENT BUILDING ADDITION BLANCHARD SCHOOL (Authorized FY06)	(\$284,092)	(\$238,552)	(\$45,540)	
HAGGER WELL (WATER & SEWER) (Authorized FY00)	\$108,948	\$91,484	\$17,464	
TWIN SCHOOLS (Authorized FY03)	\$1,533,700	\$1,287,847	\$245,852	
SBAB REIMBURSEMENT TWIN SCHOOLS (Authorized FY03)	(\$922,673)	(\$774,769)	(\$147,904)	
TOTAL OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT	\$833,683	\$700,043	\$133,639	
SCHOOL RELATED DEBT SERVICE AUTHORIZED BY BOXBOROUGH TOWN MEETING:				
COMBINATION: (REPLACEMENT OF PORTION OF BLANCHARD MEMORIAL ROOF (Authorized FY12)	\$2,325	\$1,952	\$373	
REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS BLANCHARD MEMORIAL ROOF (Authorized FY13)	\$0	\$0	\$0	
SECURITY UPGRADES AT BLANCHARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL (Authorized FY13)	\$0	\$0	\$0	
TOTAL TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH SCHOOL DEBT SERVICE	\$2,325	\$1,952	\$373	
SCHOOL RELATED DEBT SERVICE AUTHORIZED BY ACTON TOWN MEETING:				
SCHOOL REPAIR (Authorized FY05)	\$31,195	\$26,195	\$5,001	
CONANT SCHOOL (Authorized FY10)	\$24,501	\$20,574	\$3,928	
SCHOOL FACILITIES (Authorized FY10)	\$76,755	\$64,451	\$12,304	
DOUGLAS ROOF (Authorized FY09)	\$24,913	\$20,919	\$3,993	
TOTAL TOWN OF ACTON SCHOOL DEBT SERVICE	\$157,364	\$132,139	\$25,225	
CREDIT FOR SCHOOL RELATED DEBT SERVICE TO BE PAID FROM MUNICIPAL BUDGETS	(\$993,372)	(\$768,391)	(\$224,981)	
GROSS BUDGET-TOTAL	\$76,003,826	\$63,950,642	\$12,053,184	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:				
CHAPTER 70 BASE AID	\$14,254,476	\$11,969,483	\$2,284,993	
CHOICE/CHARTER SCHOOL ASSESSMENT	(\$539,532)	(\$453,045)	(\$86,487)	
CHARTER SCHOOL AID	\$67,707	\$56,854	\$10,853	
REGIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (Cherry Sheet)	\$1,296,794	\$1,088,918	\$207,876	
REGIONAL BONUS AID	\$139,000	\$116,718	\$22,282	
TRANSFER FROM PREMIUM ON LOAN-JHS	\$658	\$553	\$105	
TRANSFER FROM OPEB TRUST FUND	\$0	\$0	\$0	
TRANSFER FROM RESERVES (Excess & Deficiency)	\$500,000	\$419,850	\$80,150	
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$15,719,103	\$13,199,331	\$2,519,772	
TOWN ASSESSMENTS	\$60,284,723	\$50,751,311	\$9,533,412	

Calculation of Final Assessments Per Appendix A to Revised Regional Agreement - FY15

Description	Total	ACTON	BOXBOROUGH	Steps
Project Total Benefit Amount	\$1,873,119			1
Base Budgets	\$62,885,811	\$51,788,675	\$11,097,136	2
Benefit Percentage Shares		80%	20%	3
Share of Benefits	\$1,873,119	\$1,498,495	\$374,624	4a
Reduce Base Budgets By Benefit Shares	\$61,012,692	\$50,290,180	\$10,722,512	4b
Recalculated Assessment Percentages Based On Benefit Shares Applied To Base Budget	100.00%	82.43%	17.57%	4c
Input Table 6 Result From FY15 Actual Budget	\$60,284,723	\$50,751,311	\$9,533,412	4d
Assessment Percentages With Actual Budget		84.19%	15.81%	4d
Shift In Percentage Shares		1.76%	-1.76%	4d
Final Assessment	\$60,284,723	\$49,690,145	\$10,594,577	4d
Actual Assessment Percentages With Actual Budget		82.43%	17.57%	
	FY15 Shift:	(\$1,061,165)		

3. (revised)



9.2

TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts, 01720
Telephone (978) 929-6611
Sledoux@acton-ma.gov
Fax (978) 929-6350

Steven L. Ledoux
Town Manager

March 24, 2014

Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent of Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
District Central Office
16 Charter Road
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

RE: Letter of Agreement – Middlesex Retirement Board Assessments

Dear Dr. Mills:

This Letter of Agreement memorializes the agreement between the Town of Acton (the "Town") and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (the "District") concerning assessments to the Town and District from the Middlesex Retirement Board ("MRB") for Fiscal Year 2015 ("FY'15").

For FY'15, MRB has not yet issued its final assessments to the Town and the District (each an "MRB Assessment"); however, the parties anticipate that the Town's MRB Assessment will decrease and the District's MRB Assessment will increase for FY'15 as a result of the transfer of non-retired Acton Public Schools employees to the District effective July 1, 2014. In its budget issued to the member towns for FY'15, the District has budgeted \$111,875 to cover the expected increase in the MRB Assessment attributable to the transfer of non-retired Acton public school employees to the District. In the event the District's MRB Assessment attributable to said transfer exceeds \$111,875, then subject to appropriation the Town agrees to pay to the District the amount by which the District's MRB Assessment for FY'15 exceeds \$111,875, but in no event more than \$510,579. The District shall appropriate and transfer all such funds (the District's budgeted amount and the additional amount paid by the Town to the District) to the Middlesex Retirement System to cover the increase in the District's MRB Assessment for FY'15 resulting from the transfer of non-retired Acton public school employees to the District. The Town understands that MRB offers a 2% discount for prompt payment. The Town recommends that the District and the Town cooperate to ensure that the parties take full advantage of that discount. In the event that the increase in the District's MRB Assessment exceeds \$622,454, the District agrees to revise its FY'15 budget to cover any such excess through internal transfers or through a request to the member towns to vote an appropriation to cover such increase.

Similarly, for FY'15, MRB's Assessment for the Town of Boxborough will decrease and the District's MRB Assessment will increase for FY'15 as a result of the transfer of non-retired Boxborough Public Schools employees to the District effective July 1, 2014. Accordingly, the

District intends to enter into a similar letter agreement with the Town of Boxborough providing that the District will pay \$19,519 to cover the expected increase in the MRB Assessment attributable to the transfer of non-retired Boxborough public school employees to the District. Subject to appropriation the Town of Boxborough would agree to pay to the District \$67,042 towards the additional cost of the FY'15 MRB Assessment for non-retired Boxborough public school employees.

This Letter of Agreement applies to the transitional FY'15 MRB Assessment only. In future fiscal years, the Town will not make any payments concerning the District's MRB Assessment except as such assessment is included within the regional school budget and assessed to the Town in accordance with the Amended Regional School Agreement.

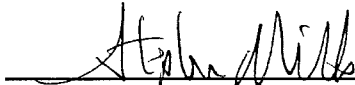
If this Letter of Agreement accurately reflects the parties' agreement, please countersign this letter below.

Sincerely yours,



Steven L. Ledoux, Town Manager

For the District:



Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent

Date: 3/24/14

Office of the Superintendent
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
(978) 264-4700 x 3206
<http://ab.mec.edu>

TO: Acton and Boxborough Community Members
FROM: Steve Mills, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: 3/21/14
RE: Questions and Answers Regarding Next Year's School Budget and Process

Q1: Did regionalization really save \$1 million?

Answer: Yes. Regionalization allowed us to reduce the budgets \$1 million lower than they would have been without regionalization. This included \$416,000 in staff savings, \$550,000 in increased regional transportation, and \$139,000 in regional bonus aid.

Q2: Why is the budget going up 2.4% or \$1.7 million?

Answer: This is due to three budget drivers, none of which have anything to do with regionalization: special education out of district tuition, OPEB and health insurance. The budget increase would be much larger were it not for savings from regionalization and declining student enrollment in both towns.

Q3: Is this the amount taxes will increase?

Answer: No. In fact, the Boards, through the Acton Leadership Group (ALG), have agreed to provide 1% of tax relief (\$692,000) below the limits of Proposition 2 ½.

Q4: Is Acton's assessment going up because of last June's school regionalization vote?

Answer: No. The assessment formula has been part of regionalization between Acton and Boxborough since 1955. Acton's assessment is going up now partly because a higher proportion of students are coming from Acton, but the formula involves many other complicated factors. Based on current projections, the increases in the Acton and Boxborough assessments will be much closer in the next couple of years.

Q5: How much has the budget increased over the past 5 years that you have been superintendent?

Answer: The budget has increased a total of 9.5% over the past 5 years, an average of 1.9% during each of the last five years. Standard and Poor recently increased the ABRSD bond rating to a perfect AAA.

Q6: How many positions are you adding or reducing from this year's budget?

Answer: There is a reduction of 13 positions and an addition of 5 positions for a net decrease of 8 full time positions for next year.

Q7: How many positions would you have had next year if we did not regionalize?

Answer: We would expect to have requested 5 more full time positions next year, compared to this year, if regionalization had not been approved.

Q8: Have the two districts replenished town reserves during the past 3 years?

Answer: Yes. In fiscal 2011 \$1.15 million was replenished, in fiscal 2012 \$629,000 and in fiscal 2013 \$427,000 for a total of \$2.6 million. In fiscal 2009, the town of Acton had \$2.4 million in Free Cash and in fiscal 2014 the town had \$7.4 million (per the Department of Revenue website). Free Cash has tripled during my superintendency.

Q9: Has the town of Acton chosen to not utilize the full tax levy allowed in Proposition 2 ½?

Answer: Yes. From fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2014, Acton did not utilize \$2 million of potential tax levy as allowed under Proposition 2 ½ (per the Department of Revenue website).

Q10: Has the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District contributed to the OPEB trust from within its own budgets?

Answer: Yes. In fiscal 2013 \$236,000 was contributed, in fiscal 2014 \$376,000 was contributed and in fiscal 2015 \$506,000 is proposed for a total of \$1.1 million that otherwise could have been used for direct educational expenses. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) funds retirees' health insurance.

Q11: Do we spend more on our school budgets than other communities?

Answer: No. The current Acton-Boxborough School District's annual per pupil spending is \$675 less than the state average per the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Q12: What happens next in the budget process?

Answer: Acton and Boxborough registered voters will attend their annual Town Meetings and be asked to vote on their school budget assessment for next year, as well as other business items. The School Budget Assessment vote is Article #21 on the Acton Town Meeting warrant, which is the "agenda" for the Meeting. The warrant can be found at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=300>

Please note that approval of Articles 22, 23 and 24 is part of regionalization because they authorize the transfer of Acton's school properties, revolving fund balances and school gifts and grants to the Region.

Acton's meeting begins on Monday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Boxborough's meeting begins on Monday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Blanchard School gymnasium.

For more information, see the School Committee website at <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml>

RECORD OF VOTE OF THE ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 3, 2014

At a duly called public meeting of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District School Committee on April 3, 2014, the Committee voted as follows:

1. To approve that certain intermunicipal Agreement (the "Agreement") between the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (the "District") and the Town of Acton (the "Town"), with its Exhibits, in the form presented to the Committee at its April 3, 2014 meeting.
2. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Committee.
3. To approve that certain Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") between the District and the Town in the form presented to the Committee at its April 3, 2014 meeting.
4. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the MOU on behalf of the Committee.
5. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to take all actions on behalf of the Committee that are reasonably necessary, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools, to complete the acquisition of various properties and the conveyance of various easements in accordance with the Agreement, including without limitation executing all deeds, easements, a bill of sale, assignments of contracts, closing forms, closing documents, and settlement statements.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**RECORD OF VOTE OF THE ACTON-BOXBOROUGH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

April 3, 2014

At a duly called public meeting of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Transitional School Committee on April 3, 2014, the Committee voted as follows:

1. To approve that certain intermunicipal Agreement (the "Agreement") between the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (the "District") and the Town of Acton (the "Town"), with its Exhibits, in the form presented to the Committee at its April 3, 2014 meeting.
2. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Committee.
3. To approve that certain Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") between the District and the Town in the form presented to the Committee at its April 3, 2014 meeting.
4. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the MOU on behalf of the Committee.
5. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to take all actions on behalf of the Committee that are reasonably necessary, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools, to complete the acquisition of various properties and the conveyance of various easements in accordance with the Agreement, including without limitation executing all deeds, easements, a bill of sale, assignments of contracts, closing forms, closing documents, and settlement statements.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

RECORD OF VOTE OF THE ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE**April 3, 2014**

At a duly called public meeting of the Acton Public School Committee on April 3, 2014, the Committee voted as follows:

1. To approve that certain intermunicipal Agreement (the "Agreement") between the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (the "District") and the Town of Acton (the "Town"), with its Exhibits, in the form presented to the Committee at its April 3, 2014 meeting.
2. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Committee.
3. To approve that certain Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") between the District and the Town in the form presented to the Committee at its April 3, 2014 meeting.
4. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the MOU on behalf of the Committee.
5. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to take all actions on behalf of the Committee that are reasonably necessary, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools, to complete the acquisition of various properties and the conveyance of various easements in accordance with the Agreement, including without limitation executing all deeds, easements, a bill of sale, assignments of contracts, closing forms, closing documents, and settlement statements.

ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

BENEFICIAL INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

For acquisition of Real Property by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, the undersigned does hereby state, for the purposes of disclosure pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 7C, Section 38, of a transaction relating to real property as follows:

- (1) REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: 80 Taylor Road, 75 Spruce Street, 21 Elm Street, 433 Massachusetts Avenue, 15 Charter Road and 199 Arlington Street, Acton, Massachusetts
- (2) TYPE OF TRANSACTION: Purchase
- (3) SELLER: Town of Acton
- (4) BUYER: Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
- (5) Names and addresses of all persons who have or will have a direct or indirect beneficial interest in the real property described above:

NAME

RESIDENCE

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

16 Charter Road
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

- (6) None of the above mentioned persons is an employee of the Division of Capital Asset Management or an official elected to public office in the Commonwealth except as listed below.
- (7) This section must be signed by the individual(s) or organization(s) entering into this real property transaction with the public agency named above. If this form is signed on behalf of a corporation or other legal entity, it must be signed by a duly authorized officer of that corporation or legal entity. The undersigned acknowledges that any changes or additions to items 3 and or 4 of this form during the term of any lease or rental will require filing a new disclosure with the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance within thirty (30) days following the change or addition.

The undersigned swears under the pains and penalties of perjury that this form is complete and accurate in all respects.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: Dr. Stephen Mills

Title: Superintendent

Date: _____

**Parental educational beliefs and values in a demographically shifting community:
Descriptive Analyses of the 2009 Changing Demographics Survey**

Executive Summary

Rebecca Lowenhaupt, PhD
Lauren Saenz, PhD
Caitlin Hogue, Doctoral Candidate
Lynch School of Education
Boston College¹

Context

- Survey was conducted in 2009 and administered to parents and guardians in Acton and Boxborough. The survey was anonymous, but collected some demographic information.
- The survey was administered to “help guide our schools as we explore the differing goals and perspectives found within our schools and community. By completing the survey, we hope you can help us better understand your views in shaping educational goals and policies” (introduction of survey).

Participants

- 1,308 parents and guardians responded to survey. Of these participants, 184 did not answer any of the survey items and were removed from the analysis, resulting in a total of 1,124 participants.
- Participants were roughly evenly spread over the length of time they resided in Acton or Boxborough; 21.1% were newcomers (lived in the towns 1-5 years).
- Participants self-identified their race/ethnicity; 79.1% self-identified as White, while 16.8% self-identified as Asian. The remaining participants self-identified as Multi-Race, Hispanic or Latino, Black or African-American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and no answer.

Findings

- In general, participants believe that school is more than purely academics. Participants felt that there should be a focus on extracurriculars, performing and fine arts, and developing students into critical thinkers instead of just focusing on standardized assessments.

¹ Findings reported here do not represent an institutional perspective and are based on independent analyses conducted by the researcher using information provided by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee.

- In general, participants also felt that it was important for schools to provide social and emotional support for students, support creativity, and encourage citizenship.
- 18.9% of participants felt “focusing curriculum on high academic success through increased homework” in middle school was educationally harmful.
- Approximately 9% of respondents felt that “focusing curriculum on high academic success as measured by standardized assessments, maintaining high test scores and course grades for the district in all measured areas” in both middle school and high school is educationally harmful.
- Differences in beliefs exist between newcomers and long-term residents (lived in either town more than 5 years).
 - Newcomers tend to feel more strongly that standardized assessment scores are more important than long-term residents.
 - Long-term residents tend to feel more strongly that the district is too focused on grades and academic performance than newcomers.
 - Newcomers feel more strongly than long-term residents that the district needs to better explain its educational approach to new community members.

Recommendations

- Provide more information (or more detailed information) about the district and its educational approach to newcomers to the district.
- Engage in public dialogue around topics that parents and guardians felt were educationally harmful.
- Administer another survey to parents and guardians, updated to focus on current policy pressures and demographic contexts.

Parental educational beliefs and values in a demographically shifting community: Changing Demographics Survey

DR. REBECCA LOWENHAUPT

DR. LAUREN SAENZ

CAITLIN HOGUE

A solid green horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

Context

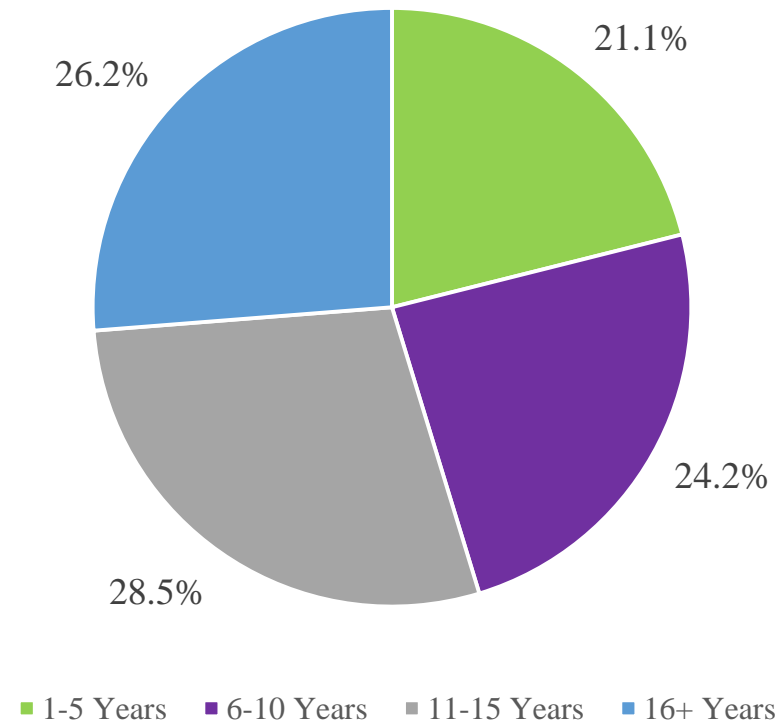
- Survey of parents/guardians in Acton and Boxborough in 2009
- Purpose was to understand the beliefs and views of parents in community in regard to education, educational policies, and educational goals
- Data was collected anonymously
- Data was provided to Boston College to analyze and provide recommendations

Analysis

- 1,308 parents/guardians responded to survey; 184 did not answer survey items and were removed
- Total of 1,124 responses to survey
- Responses to demographic items were condensed to provide one response per respondent (some items allowed multiple responses)

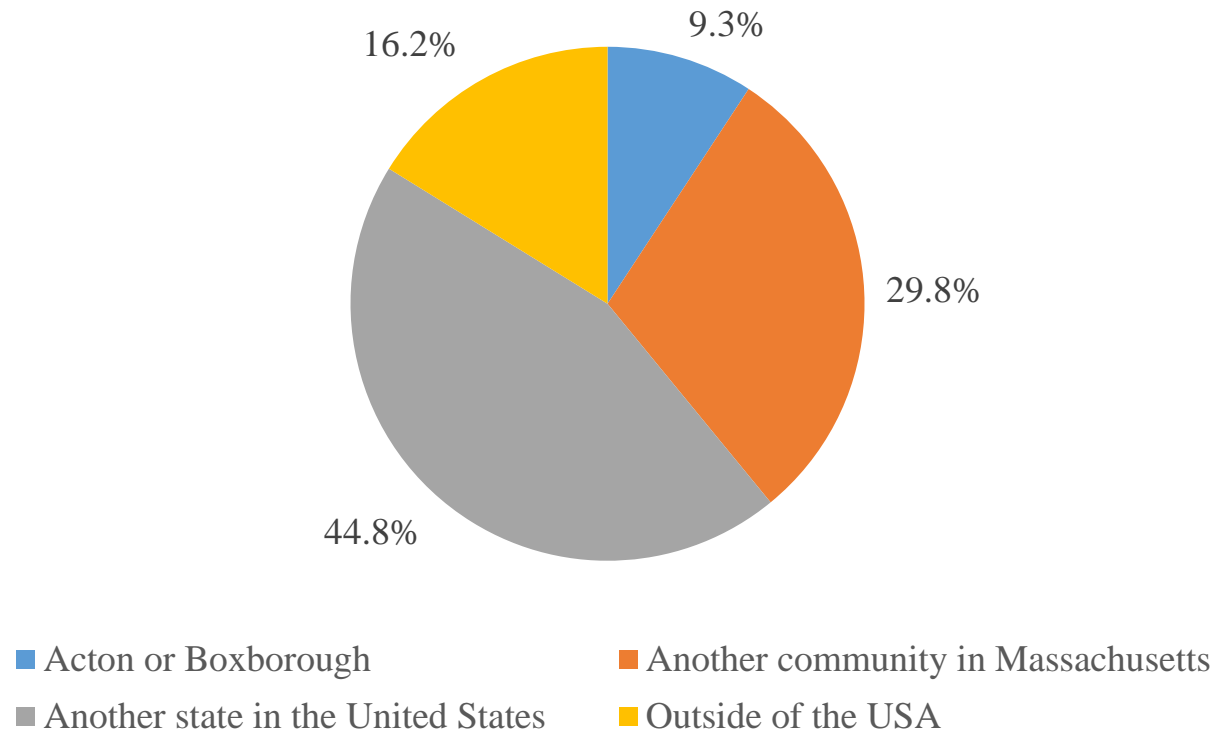
Demographics of Respondents

How long have you lived in Acton or Boxborough?



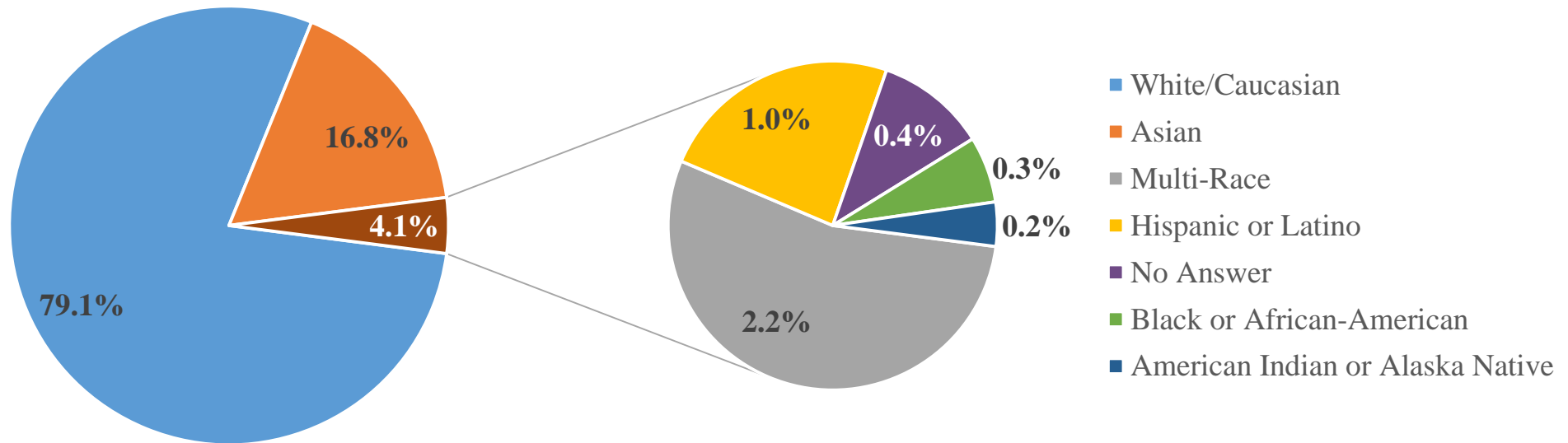
Demographics of Respondents

Where did you reside and attend school in your school-age years?



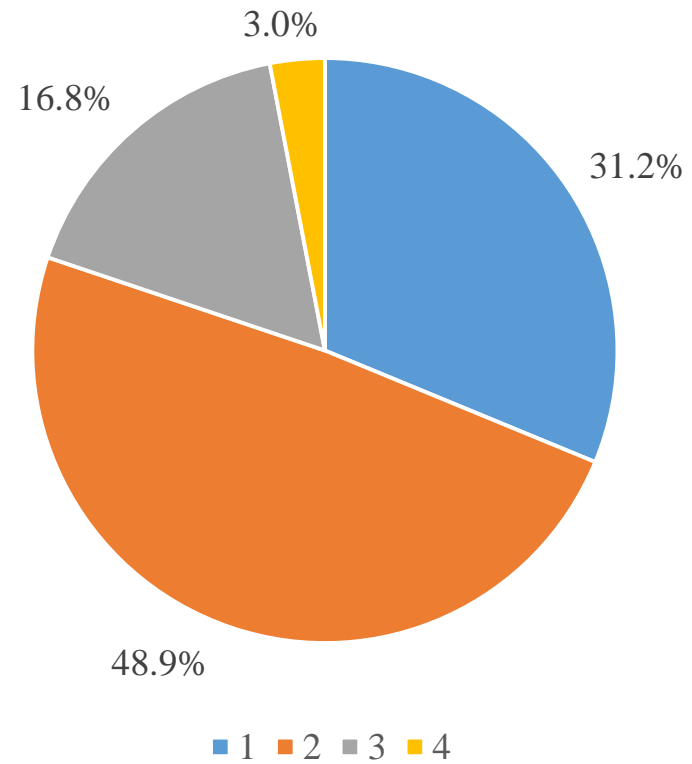
Demographics of Respondents

How would you identify yourself racially and/or ethnically?



Demographics of Respondents

How many school-aged children do you have?



Goals and Visions

- 24 items
- Respondents could select Strongly Agree, Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, or No Opinion
- 6 point likert scale constructed with first 6 answer choices
- Mean values for each item reported; No Opinion reported separately

Goals and Visions: Selected Items

Item	Mean	% No Opinion
It's important for the school to go beyond academics when educating our students, to include an emphasis on becoming active citizens and critical thinkers.	5.21	2.10%
I believe there are other educational goals equal to (or greater than) preparing students to get into top tier colleges.	4.99	2.70%
The high school should do its best to increase its offerings of standard and college preparatory courses.	4.9	15.10%
Extracurricular programs can play as important a role as academics in positively shaping a student's potential.	4.88	1.70%
Performing and fine arts can play as important a role as academics in positively shaping a student's potential.	4.83	1.90%

Educational Values and Interests

- 12 items for elementary
- 11 items for junior high
- 17 items for high school
- Respondents provided with a statement, followed by the prompt: “I consider this feature to be:”
- Respondents could select: Of greatest importance, Important, Useful but not essential, Neither useful nor negative, Not useful, Not important, Educationally harmful, or No Opinion
- Results reported for percentages of respondents selecting Of greatest importance or important and Educationally harmful

Educational Values and Interests: Junior High selected items

Item	% Greatest Importance/ Important	% Educationally Harmful
Junior High School		
Balanced curriculum including high academic standards, performing arts, technology, athletics, and extra-curricular programs.	91.7%	0.0%
Focusing curriculum on high academic success through increased critical and abstract thinking skills, and organization.	86.9%	0.2%
Providing social/emotional support.	85.8%	0.0%
Support for self-expression and creativity.	81.5%	0.0%
Teaching and encouraging civic mindedness and citizenship (community service programs, and after school clubs).	80.6%	0.2%

Educational Values and Interests: Areas of Disagreement

Item	% Educationally Harmful
Focusing curriculum on high academic success through increased homework. (Junior High)	18.9%
Opportunities for mixed ability groupings for reading, language arts, and math. (Elementary School)	8.8%
Focusing curriculum on high academic success as measured by standardized assessments, maintaining high test scores and course grades for the district in all measured areas. (High School)	8.8%
Focusing curriculum on high academic success as measured by standardized assessments, maintaining high test scores and course grades for the district in all measured areas. (Junior High)	8.7%
Performance on standardized tests (such as MCAS). (Elementary School)	5.5%

Additional Analysis

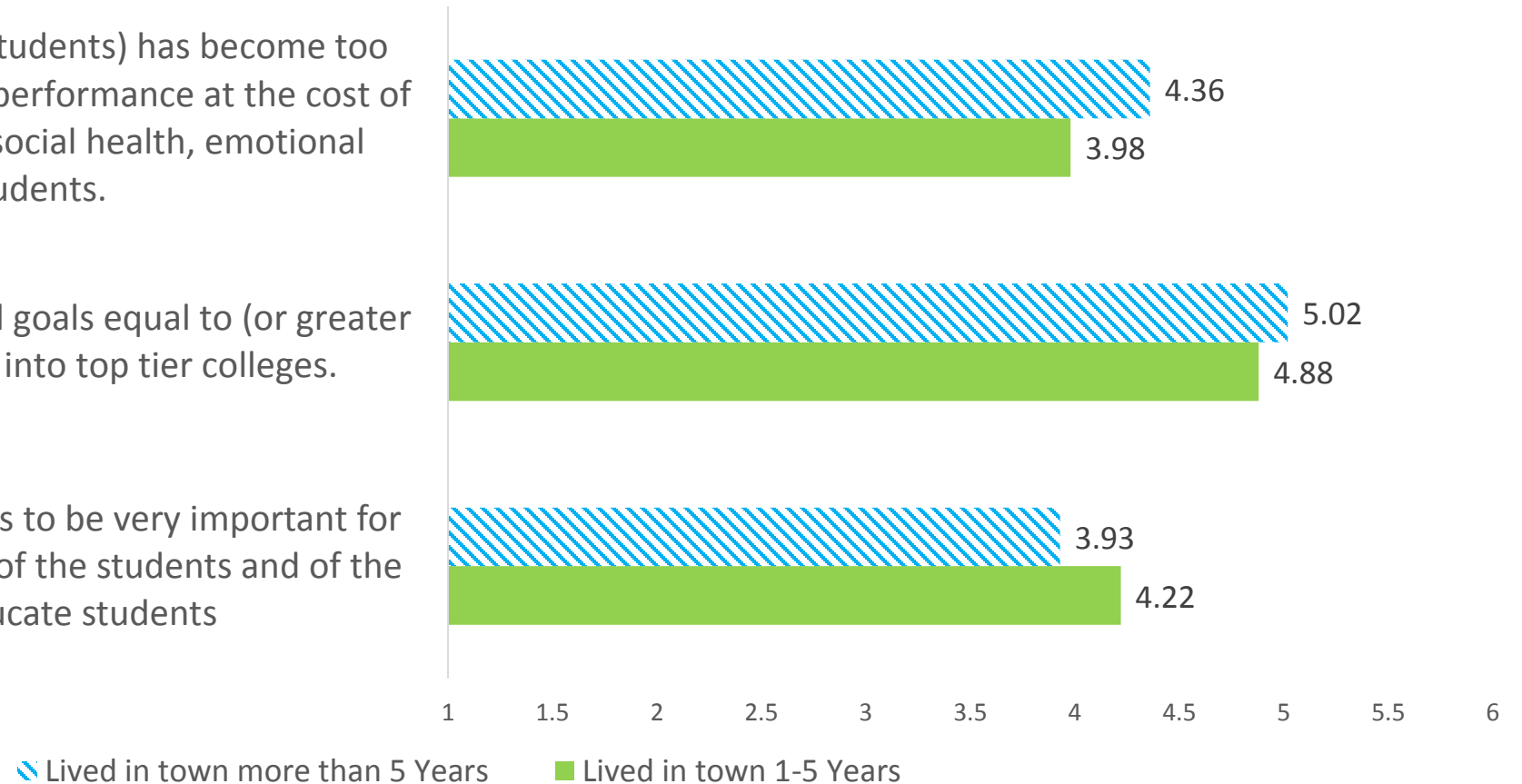
- Items were identified based on feedback from community members from all 4 sections (Goals and Visions and Educational Values and Interests for all three school levels)
- Results are reported by length of time in town (either Acton or Boxborough)
 - New to Town (less than 5 years)
 - Lived in Town 5 or more years
- Given focus of study, length of residency seems salient when looking at shifts over time

Goals and Vision: by residency length

Our community (parents, teachers, students) has become too concerned with grades and academic performance at the cost of creating a balanced development (social health, emotional wellness) of our students.

I believe there are other educational goals equal to (or greater than) preparing students to get into top tier colleges.

I consider standardized test scores to be very important for measuring the academic success of the students and of the school's efforts to educate students

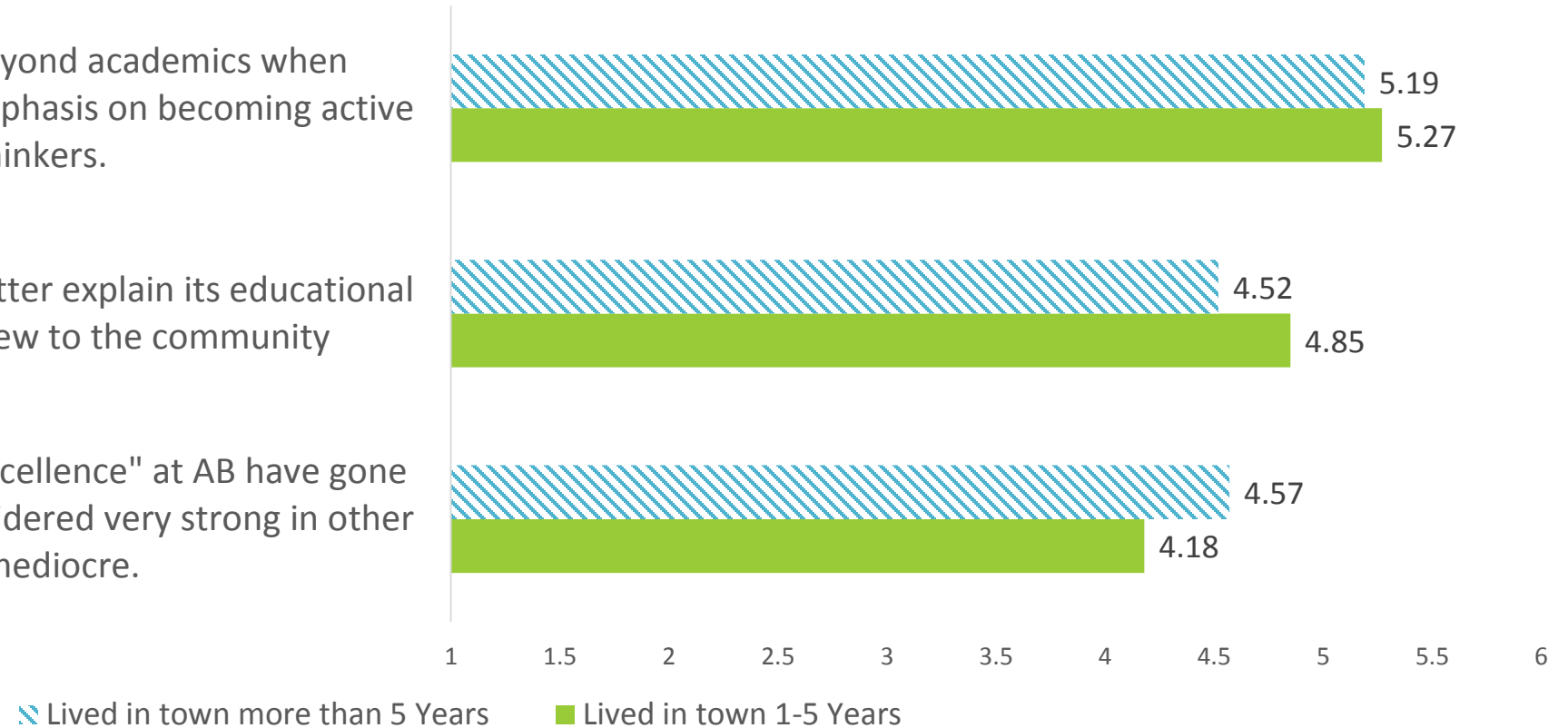


Goals and Vision: by residency length

It's important for the school to go beyond academics when educating our students, to include an emphasis on becoming active citizens and critical thinkers.

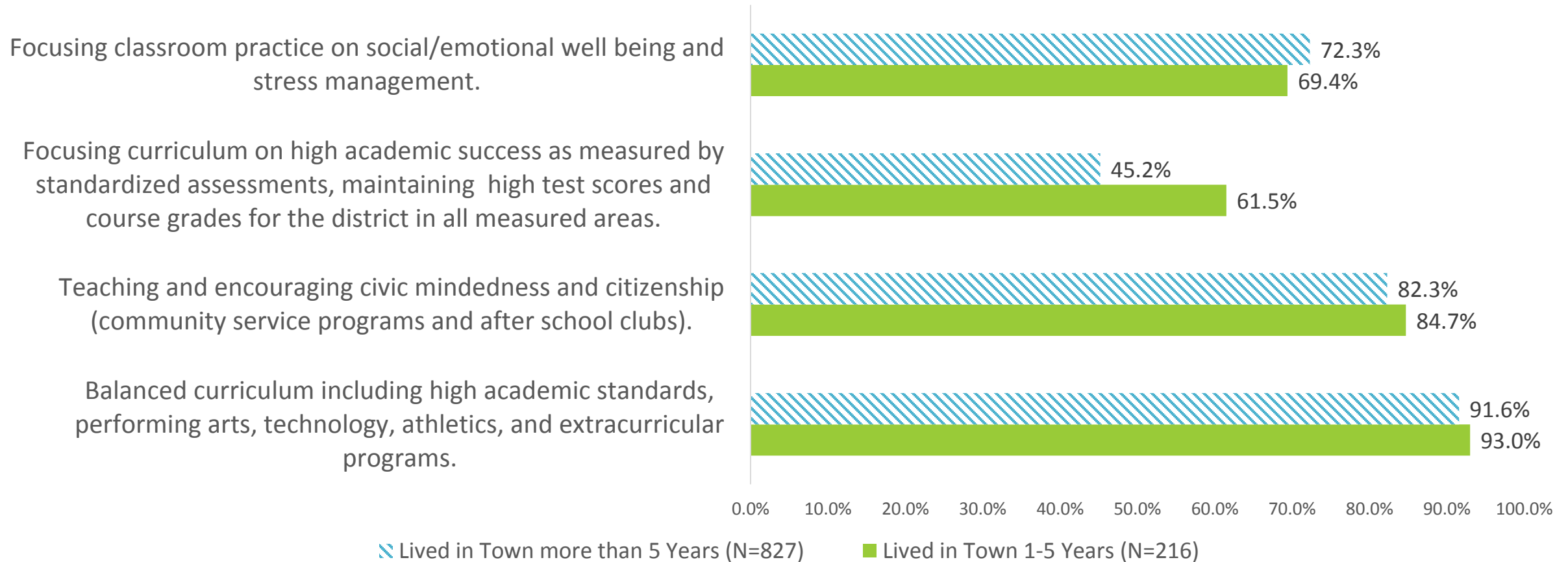
It is important for the school to better explain its educational approach to those who are new to the community

I am concerned that the standards of "excellence" at AB have gone so high that students who would be considered very strong in other districts are viewed as mediocre.



Educational Values and Interests: High School

Percent Selecting “Of Greatest Importance” or “Important”



Findings

- Respondents overall feel that school should emphasize a more rounded curriculum than just academics
 - This is more strongly felt by longer-term residents than newcomers
- Newcomers tend to respond that standardized assessments and curriculum focused on these assessments are more important to them than longer-term residents
- Overall, respondents seem to feel that a focus on social/emotional wellbeing and extracurriculars is important

Recommendations

- Provide more information (or more detailed information) about the district and its educational approach to newcomers
- Engage in public dialogue around topics that parents and guardians felt were educationally harmful
- Administer another survey focused on current policy pressures and demographic contexts

16.1



Donald Aicardi <daicardi@abschools.org>

Excess and Deficiency Notification for Acton Boxborough

1 message

recapdata@dor.state.ma.us <recapdata@dor.state.ma.us>

Fri, Mar 28, 2014 at 8:45 AM

To: daicardi@mail.ab.mec.edu, rbergeron@boxboroughschool.org, selectmen@town.boxborough.ma.us, bos@acton-ma.gov, dkelly@mail.ab.mec.edu, smills@mail.ab.mec.edu, tsummers@mail.ab.mec.edu, cbates@boxboroughschool.org

Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services

Amy Pitter, Commissioner

Robert G. Nunes, Deputy Commissioner & Director of Municipal Affairs

Friday, March 28, 2014

Acton Boxborough

Re: **EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY - Acton Boxborough**

Based upon the unaudited balance sheet submitted, I hereby certify that the amount of excess and deficiency or "E & D" as of July 1, 2013 for Acton Boxborough is:

General Fund \$ 1,510,041

This certification is in accordance with the provisions of G. L. Chapter 71, §16B½, as amended. The unencumbered funds certified above in excess of five percent of the operating budget and budgeted capital costs for the succeeding fiscal year, must be applied to reduce the current fiscal year's assessment. For your district, this excess amount equals \$ 0.

This certification letter will also be e-mailed to the school superintendent, the board of selectmen in each member town and the city council in each member city immediately upon approval, provided an e-mail address is reported in DLS' Local Officials Directory. Please forward to other officials that you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Gerard D. Perry
Director of Accounts

cc: daicardi@mail.ab.mec.edu;rbergeron@boxboroughschool.org;selectmen@town.boxborough.ma.us;bos@acton-ma.gov;dkelly@mail.ab.mec.edu;smills@mail.ab.mec.edu;tsummers@mail.ab.mec.edu;cbates@boxboroughschool.org

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and

SUBMITTED BY	D. Aicardi/D. Kelly	DISTRICT	Acton Boxboro
PHONE	978-264-4700 x3205	DATE RECEIVED	02/14/14
FIELD REP	Amy Handfield	DATE SUBMISSION COMPLETE	03/27/14

EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY CALCULATION

BEGIN:

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE/EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY	<u>1,510,041</u>
---	------------------

LESS:

OTHER RECEIVABLE, OVERDRAWN ACCOUNTS, DEFICITS

_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-
_____	-

OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:

_____	-
_____	-
_____	-

TOTAL CERTIFIED UNENCUMBERED EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY	<u>1,510,041</u>
--	------------------

UNENCUMBERED E & D IN EXCESS OF 5% CALCULATION

OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET	<u>41,571,901</u>
------------------------------	-------------------

5% OF BUDGET	<u>2,078,595</u>
--------------	------------------

TOTAL IN EXCESS	<u>-</u>
-----------------	----------

REVIEWED BY: Amy Handfield

DATE: 03/27/2014

PLEASE SEE CERTIFICATION LETTER
FOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS APPROVAL

**Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee (ABRSC) and Acton
Boxborough Transitional School Committee (ABTSC)
Regionalization Update
March 2014**

The 2013-14 school year continues as what the School Committees in both Acton and Boxborough are calling a "transitional year," a year in which all the planning related to expanding our school district to include both Acton and Boxborough from Pre-K through grade 12 is underway. Here, we continue updates of the issues being addressed that relate to this transition. If you have any comments or concerns regarding this update, please contact Kristina Rychlik at krychlik@abschools.org.

ABRSD FY'15 Budget Update

The School Committee has unanimously voted to support a school budget that will go to Town Meeting in both towns this spring. The proposed budget is increasing 2.38% over last year. It prioritizes items that are very important to successfully running our schools and providing direct service to students. These new items include moving our half-time Assistant Principals to full time, and a part time increase in psychological and special education staffing. Several positions have been cut to allow for these priorities and to reduce the cost to taxpayers.

More details on the school budget and related issues, including a Q&A from Dr. Stephen Mills, can be found at <http://ab.mec.edu>

Check the upper left corner of the site under 'FY '15 Budget Information for updates.

Meanwhile, please **SAVE THE DATE(S)** for the Acton or Boxborough Town Meeting, depending on where you live, as the school assessment needs to pass a vote at those meetings in order to be implemented.

***Acton Town Meeting begins Monday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the ABRHS
Auditorium, and may continue for one or more consecutive evenings.***

***Warrant articles #21-24 are school-related and key to the
district's operations for next school year.***

***BABYSITTING IS BEING PLANNED
DETAILS TO FOLLOW***

***Boxborough Town Meeting begins May 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Blanchard Gym
and may continue on Tuesday and then Thursday if needed.***

***Only registered voters are permitted to vote.
However, anyone may attend and observe the meetings.***

Kindergarten Registration

The Kindergarten Registration process is ongoing, with this being the first year of registration for our newly expanded region. At this time, a number of Acton families have requested to send their child(ren) to Blanchard, and similarly, a number of Boxborough families have chosen elementary schools in Acton. The lottery will be held in mid-April.

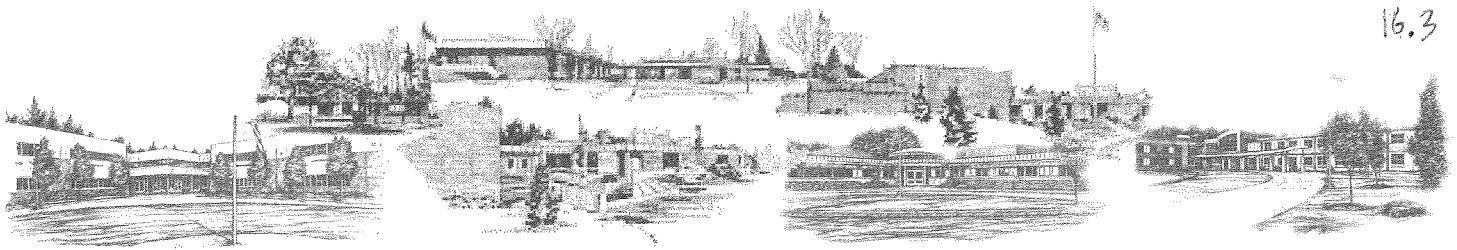
Negotiations Update

At the March 6th School Committee meeting, members of the Acton Education Association (AEA) spoke on behalf of the teachers union regarding ongoing negotiations. The School Committee chose not to respond at that meeting, because up until that time, both parties had agreed to hold all details of the negotiations in confidence. During the March 20th School Committee meeting, the School Committee responded to the situation, the AEA's concerns, and voiced its own concerns. Their statement is posted at <http://ab.mec.edu/about/packets13-14/03-20-14-SC-AEA-negotiations.pdf>.

Other News

Danny's Place Update

Danny's Place Youth Center is scheduled to close on April 17th. The organization will continue as Danny's Place Youth Services, and be located at 537 Massachusetts Avenue in West Acton. They will no longer offer drop in services but rather will operate a partnership model of youth programming in a variety of areas. More information can be found at dannys-place.org. The School Committee thanks Jeff and Cindy McCarthy, Youth Director Jonathan Kerr, the Danny's Place Board of Directors and their countless volunteers for all they have done for the youth of Acton and Boxborough. We wish them the best, and plan to be supportive partners in future endeavors.



ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ❖ ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720-2995 Phone: 978-264-4700 x3206 Fax: 978-264-3340 Email: smills@abschools.org

Stephen E. Mills, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 21, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Allen Nitschelm
9 Marian Road
Acton, MA 01720
allen@thehomesteader.com

Dear Allen,

In further response to your public records request, attached are the Executive Session Minutes from the Superintendent Search/Preliminary Screening Committee meetings that you have requested, in redacted form. I note that the Open Session Minutes you requested were previously provided to you.

Please be advised that the School District has waived, without precedent, its right to charge fees and copying costs associated with your public records request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen E. Mills, Superintendent

Enclosures

CC: Maria Neyland, Chair, Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee
Brigid Bieber, Chair, Superintendent Search/Preliminary Screening Committee

Roster of Spring Coaches 2013

Patrick Grucela	Varsity Baseball	Head Coach
Tony Ammendolia	Junior Varsity Baseball	Coach
Steve Signer	Freshman Baseball	Coach
Bill Maver	Junior High School Baseball	Head Coach
Patrick Ammendolia	Varsity Boys Lacrosse	Head Coach
Peter Dunbar	Junior Varsity Boys Lacrosse	Coach
Paul LeSage	Freshman Boys Lacrosse	Coach
Scott Biron	Varsity Girls Lacrosse	Head Coach
Mae Shoemaker	Junior Varsity Girls Lacrosse	Coach
Melinda McClure	Freshman Girls Lacrosse	Coach
Mary Matthews	Varsity Girls Softball	Head Coach
Laura Schmidt	Junior Varsity Softball	Coach
Laura Sikalis	.5 Junior High School Softball	Co-Coach
Ken Frank	.5 Junior High School Softball	Co-Coach
Kevin Curley	Boys Varsity Tennis	Head Coach
Mary Wynne-Burns	Junior Varsity Boys Tennis	Coach
Mike Gardner	Girls Varsity Tennis	Head Coach
Jill Flavin	Junior Varsity Girls Tennis	Coach
Brian Crossman	Varsity Boys Track	Head Coach
Stephen Hitzrot	Asst. Coach	Coach
Tom Sandock	.5 Asst. Coach	Coach
Ken Feit	Varsity Girls Track	Head Coach
Alexander Wade	Asst. Coach	Coach
Lisa Owens	.5 Asst. Coach	Coach
Mary Price Maddox	Junior High School Track	HeadCoach
Bruce Oetinger	Asst. Junior High School Track	Coach
Elizabeth Muff	Asst. Junior High School Track	Coach
Eileen Flannery	Asst. Junior High School Track	Coach

March 9, 2014

Office of the Superintendent
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
978-264-4700, x3206

**Statement regarding the Appointment
of**

Jean Oviatt-Rothman

**to the position of
STEM Science Curriculum Specialist/Coach**

March 20, 2014

Superintendent of Schools Stephen E. Mills is pleased to announce the appointment of Jean Oviatt-Rothman as the new STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Science Curriculum Specialist/Coach for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District.

Jean graduated from Bates College with Academic Honors and received her MAT from Tufts University. She has also completed the Fulcrum Institute, funded by TERC, the National Science Foundation and Tufts University. Jean was a 3rd and 4th grade teacher at the McCarthy-Towne School from 2003 – 2011 and prior to that she taught 4th grade mathematics and science. Jean has been the Elementary Mathematics Curriculum Specialist/Coach for the Acton Public Schools since August 2011.

Jean will begin her official duties effective September 2, 2014.

Office of the Superintendent
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
978-264-4700, x3206

Statement regarding the Appointment
of
Sharon Ryan
to the position of
Elementary Literacy and Social Studies Curriculum Specialist/Coach

March 20, 2014

Superintendent of Schools Stephen E. Mills is pleased to announce the appointment of Sharon Ryan as the new Elementary Literacy and Social Studies Curriculum Specialist/Coach for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District.

Sharon received her B.S. from Merrimack College and her Master's in Education and Reading Specialist Certification from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Sharon has been the K-6 Reading Specialist at the McCarthy-Towne School since 2005. Prior to that, she was a 1st and 2nd grade teacher in Chelmsford for a total of 8 years. Sharon is currently on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Reading Association and the Merrimack Valley Regional Reading Council (MVRRC). She was the President and Founding Member of the MVRRC, a local affiliate of the IRA and MRA, from 2011 – 2013.

Sharon will begin her official duties effective September 2, 2014.

16.6

Home	About Us	How We Help
News & Events	Volunteer	Donate

How We Help

- How We Help
- Grants
- Community Programs
- Youth in Philanthropy
- Human Service Directory
- Mass 2-1-1

Kevin Breel 2014

Confessions of a Depressed Comic

Now scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014! We hope you will be able to reschedule and join us.

Comedian and Mental Health Activist, **Kevin Breel**,

will share his personal story as he combines comedy with an honest and hopeful conversation about mental health issues.

7:00pm at the AB Regional High School Auditorium.

Co-sponsored with the ABRHS PTSO. There is no charge for this community-wide event. We strongly encourage our community's teens and their parents to attend. In high school, Kevin Breel looked nothing like a depressed teen. He was a team captain, popular, funny, confident and led his high school basketball team to a championship season. But a few hours after winning the game, Breel contemplated suicide. Twenty-year-old Kevin suffers from clinical depression, an illness that knows no boundaries. Kevin uses his passion for stand-up comedy to talk about his personal battle with depression.




Get Help

We have compiled a list of resources for help with teen depression and suicide issues.

Please click to connect to our [Get Help](#) page.


Acton-Boxborough Regional PTSO and
Acton-Boxborough United Way present ...

Thursday, February 6, 2014 • 7pm
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Auditorium



Confessions
of a Depressed
Comic




KEVIN
BREEL



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TEDx M THE HUFFINGTON POST UPWORTHY

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March 31, 2014

To the Citizens of Acton:

It is with great urgency that we ask you to come to Acton Town Meeting on April 7th, continuing on April 8th and 9th as needed, to support the Acton Boxborough Regional School District (ABRSD) Assessment, Warrant Article 21, and three school-related Warrant Articles numbered 22-24, which serve to implement the transfer of the school buildings and other assets from the town to the District as planned for by the new Regional Agreement.

Of note, this is not a typical year. It is the first time our town is voting on just one school district assessment, and one that covers educational services from Pre-K through Grade 12. It is the result of the first budget for our newly expanded region, effective July 1, 2014. We have put forth a budget that addresses the District's top priorities yet compromises between what our students need and what we believe our two towns are able and willing to pay. The ABRSD budget, approved by the School Committee on March 20th, represents a 2.38% overall budget increase and results in a 4.47% increase in the Acton assessment, largely due to the fact that the ratio of Acton students to Boxborough students is increasing year to year, as has been the case for several years.

This budget was developed in accordance with the Acton Finance Committee's "Point of View" document, and contains significant required increases in SPED costs, OPEB contributions, and health insurance costs. Sustainability has been and will continue to be a key consideration throughout our budget planning process. In fact, while we anticipate that the major budget drivers of this year's budget will not increase at the same rate moving forward, we have also decreased personnel, district-wide, by eight full-time positions.

Developing a budget for three previously separate school districts proved to be challenging, and the resulting timeframe to vet the budget across the town's various boards and committees was compressed. We have since vowed to improve these budget communications across town next year. Acton has a long history of supporting our schools, and your support at Town Meeting will help to ensure the continued tradition of excellence that we enjoy.

Respectfully yours,

The Acton Boxborough Regional and Transitional School Committees

Dennis Bruce, Chair, APS

Maria Neyland, Chair, ABRSC & ABTSC

Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Kristina Rychlik, Deanne O'Sullivan, Michael Coppolino, Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin

**Town of Acton
Acton Public School Committee,
Acton-Boxborough Regional School
Committee, and Acton-Boxborough
Transitional School Committee**

Date: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

April 7th, 8th, 9th, 2014

Place: Acton-Boxborough

Regional High School

36 Charter Road

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Room 102E

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MEETING AGENDA

**Pre-Annual Town Meeting to discuss Town Meeting
Articles, followed by the Annual Town Meeting in
the Auditorium at 7:00 PM**