

**Acton Public, Acton-Boxborough Regional,
Acton-Boxborough Transitional
School Committees
May 1, 2014**

**7:00 p.m. Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Meeting
8:00 p.m. ABTSC School Choice Public Hearing
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

May 1, 2014
7:00 p.m. Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Meeting
8:00 p.m. ABTSC School Choice Public Hearing
Followed by ABRSC/APSC Executive Session

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order ABTSC, ABRSC and APSC (7:00)**
2. **JOINT ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC OPEN MEETING**
3. **Chairmen's Introduction – *Maria Neyland***
 - Welcome to new Acton School Committee member, Amy Krishnamurthy
 - Thank you to School Committee student representatives: Coco DeFrancesco, Jennie He, Josh Reinstrom and Raymond Yu
4. **Recommendation to Accept Acton Boxborough Student Activities Fund (ABSAF) Donation – ABTSC VOTE – *Steve Mills***
5. **Approval of Minutes and Statement of Warrants**
 1. **ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Minutes of 4/3/14, 3/20/14, 3/6/14, 2/1/14, 1/15/14 and 1/7/14**
6. **Public Participation**
7. **FY14 Budget Update – *Steve Mills (oral)***
8. **ABTSC PreKindergarten – Grade 12 Regionalization Update – *Steve Mills***
 1. Town of Boxborough Agreement and MOU (*brought to meeting*)
 - i. Recommendation to Approve the Intermunicipal Agreement (the "Agreement") – ABRSC/ABTSC VOTE – *Steve Mills*
 - ii. Recommendation to Authorize the Chair of the ABRSC/ABTSC to execute the Agreement on behalf of the School Committees – ABRSC/ABTSC VOTE – *Steve Mills*
 - iii. Recommendation to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU) – ABRSC/ABTSC VOTE – *Steve Mills*
 - iv. Recommendation to Authorize the Chair of the ABRSC/ABTSC to execute the MOU on behalf of the School Committees – ABRSC/ABTSC VOTE – *Steve Mills*
 - v. Recommendation to authorize the 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 VOTE – *Steve Mills*
 - vi. Beneficial Interest Disclosure Statement, Acquisition of Real Property (*MOU exhibit R, to be signed by the Superintendent*)
 2. Boxborough Transfer Warrant Articles for 5/12/14 Town Meeting

9. **Kindergarten Update** – *Marie Altieri*
10. **Long Range Strategic Plan Update** – *Steve Mills (oral)*
11. **SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound) Goals Update** – *Steve Mills (addendum)*
12. **ABRSD SCHOOL CHOICE PUBLIC HEARING (8:00)**
Participation in School Choice 2014-2015 – **ABTSC VOTE** – *Steve Mills*
Motion: *To approve the Administration's recommendation that the Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools participate in the State's School Choice program in academic year 2014-2015 by only accepting siblings of existing Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Choice students, and siblings of existing Boxborough Public School Choice students.*
13. **Recommendation to Approve FY15 The Education Cooperative (TEC) Bid** – **ABTSC VOTE** – *Steve Mills*
14. **Policy Subcommittee Update (addendum)**
 1. ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Policies – Consent Agenda #5 – **FIRST READING** – *Maria Neyland (incorporating Blanchard policies, see separately posted document)*
 - i. Section H: Negotiations
 - ii. Section I: Instructional Program
 - iii. Section J: Students
15. **School Committee Member Reports (oral)**
 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*
16. **New Staff Fingerprinting Requirement** – *Marie Altieri (oral)*
17. **Recommendation to Approve Anonymous Gift to High School Nordic Ski Team** – **ABTSC VOTE** – *Steve Mills*
18. **Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting Updates** – *Dennis Bruce & Maria Neyland (July 1 addition of School Committee members per K-12 Regional Agreement)*
 1. Acton Town Meeting slides, 4/8/14
 2. Statement read at Acton Town Meeting from the Regional Financial Oversight Committee
19. **Annual Superintendent's Evaluation** – *Maria Neyland (oral)*
20. **School Committee Meetings** – *Maria Neyland (oral)*
 1. Reschedule May 15 APSC meeting to May 22 for APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC?
 2. Summer Workshop in July, Business Meeting in August, 2 x monthly meetings?

3. Election of FY15 ABRSC Officers at July meeting

21. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
 - i. Discipline Report, April 1, 2014
2. R.J. Grey Junior High School
 - i. Discipline Report, April 1, 2014
3. Pupil Services
 - i. Early Childhood Student Population, 4/1/14
 - ii. Monthly Report - English Language Learners Student Population, 4/1/14
 - iii. English Language Learners Student Population, 4/1/14
4. Monthly Enrollment: April 1, 2014
5. FY15 Discovery Museum License
6. Community Correspondence
 - i. "Class Hours at ABRHS"
 - ii. "Support Budget Amendments to Slow Down Common Core" (addendum)
7. Response from Representative Cory Atkins re importance of local financial aid
8. Annual All-Staff Retirement Party invitation: June 12, 3:00 – 5:00 at Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow, rsvp to Beth
9. Dismissal times for last day of school – Wednesday, June 18, 2014 (*brought to meeting*)
10. MA Curriculum Frameworks, Myths and Facts – (*from EDCO**)
11. PARCC** and the Common Core in MA, 3/13/14, *EDCO*
12. Occupational Development Program "Employer Breakfast" invitation
May 21, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in room 124 E at the High School
13. May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month, *Acton Health Department*

22. JOINT ABRSC/APSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

"strategy with respect to collective bargaining"

23. ADJOURN

NEXT MEETINGS:

- May 12, 7:00 p.m. Boxborough Town Meeting begins, Blanchard School gym
- May 15, 7:30 p.m. APSC meeting, Junior High Library – ***MAY move to May 22 as APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC meeting***
- May 19, Boxborough Annual Elections
- June 5, 7:00 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- June 19, 7:00 p.m. APSC meeting, Junior High Library

*EDCO = Education Collaborative

** PARCC = Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

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

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

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Maria Neyland, Paul Murphy, Deanne O'Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
Members Absent: none
Others: Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

JOINT APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC OPEN MEETING

1. The Acton-Boxborough Transitional and Regional School Committees were called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland. The Acton Public School Committee was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Bruce.
2. **"The Impact of Food Choices on Climate Change and the Environment"**
R.J. Grey Junior High School students Anmol Sakarda and Gaurav Asthana did an excellent presentation for the Committee that they have done for several local committees and organizations. They asked for more vegetarian options, including hot entrees, in the lunchroom and urged AB to be an example for other schools.
3. **Chairmen's Introduction**
Maria Neyland and the Committee thanked Kim McOsker for her dedicated service, and presented her with flowers and a chair.
4. **Statement of Warrant**
APS Warrant #201420 dated 4/1/14 in the amount of \$174,771.24 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures. ABRSD Warrant #14-020 dated 4/3/14 in the amount of \$1,780,963.19 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures. Meeting minutes will be done at the next meeting.
5. **Public Participation** - none
6. **Leary Field Track Update**
JD Head reported that the bad winter has had some effect on the project, although the schedule is still on time and graduation will not be impacted. The project is expected to be about \$1000 over budget. Kristina Rychlik thanked all of the track coaches for being so flexible and understanding about explaining the project to their athletes.
7. **Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Field Trip to Norway**
Brigid Bieber moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the field trip to Norway during February 2015 vacation.
8. **Response to Sped PAC concerns from 3/20/14 School Committee meeting**
Liza Huber thanked the School Committee for supporting the special education needs for next year. She emphasized that the ongoing advocacy for the 6-8th grade Coordinator that

was not ultimately funded, should not take away from the importance of and gratitude for the addition of the full time assistant principals. She noted that the assistant principals provide and will continue to provide support for all children, including those with special needs. Liza expects to be back next year to discuss a request for this coordinator again.

Liza and Lynne Newman met with Nancy Sherburne and Bill Guthlein of the Sped PAC to elaborate on their concerns for next year, including the need to keep the bar high enough with special education staff given how much time they have to spend doing observations and evaluations. Liza is confident that the staff consider the work load a shared burden and they will make it work. Liza thanked Bill and Nancy for their years of strong ongoing support and effective advocacy on behalf of the children. Mike Coppolino thanked Bill and Nancy for their extremely dedicated service to the kids stating, "They make us a better district."

9. FY15 Budget Update

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

Dr. Mills stated that one of the biggest difficulties for this budget process has been trying to compare next year's budget to what it might have looked like if we were regionalized fully this year. He stated that this is virtually impossible given the 3 distinctly different budgets this year (Acton Public Schools, Blanchard School and the ABRSD). He noted that since the Budget Books for Town Meeting were printed, the Table of Assessments (Table 6 on page 3) has changed. He noted the many positive achievements recently including Free Cash being replenished more than used since he arrived, the emphasis on understanding OPEB and funding it for the past three years, and the overall tightening of the budgets. Regarding sustainability, Dr. Mills understands the concern, but stated that it will be up to Superintendent-elect Glenn Brand and future School Committees to make the decisions that will determine sustainability. The Selectmen set the tax rate for future years and then those School Committee members can set their priorities and cut expenses or consider an override if needed. He is proud that Standard and Poors has given the District their best AAA bond rating, and that he leaves the District in very good standing.

10. ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization Update

1. **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee VOTE**
The Committee considered the proposed documents posted with the 4/3/14 meeting materials on <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml>

Brigid Bieber moved, Dennis Bruce seconded, and it was *unanimously* **VOTED**:

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.

2. **Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee VOTE**

The Committee considered the proposed documents posted with the 4/3/14 meeting materials on <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml>

Dennis Bruce moved, Mary Brolin seconded, and it was *unanimously VOTED*:

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.

3. **Acton Public School Committee VOTE**

The Committee considered the proposed documents posted with the 4/3/14 meeting materials on <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml>

Michael Coppolino moved, Paul Murphy seconded, and it was *unanimously VOTED*:

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.
4. Beneficial Interest Disclosure Statement, Acquisition of Real Property
This is exhibit R in the Acton MOU and will be signed by the Superintendent.

Brigid Bieber and Maria Neyland thanked everyone who had worked so hard to get our communities to this point. Brigid asked about the contents of the schools and how that would be transferred. Mary Brolin confirmed that anything over \$5000 in value will be listed. Boxborough's Agreement will be considered and voted at the May 1 School Committee meeting. It will be similar to Acton's except for the property transfer.

11. Long Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) Update

Kristina Rychlik and JD Head have joined this Committee headed up by Dr. Mills. A capital committee has been added, chaired by JD Head. The goal is to update the Plan before the end of June so the table is set for next year. Next meeting is April 15.

12. School Committee Member Reports

1. Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) – Brigid reported that they went through the budgets, warrants, CPA and Minuteman Tech.
2. Health Insurance Trust (HIT) – Mary Brolin is the new SC representative.
3. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Task Force – Dennis reported that the TF has not met recently but there was a presentation on recent legislation that Steve Noone and Dave Clough attended. They will present at Town Meeting next week. Maria asked about the new report that is coming. This will be for the two years ending 2014, but won't be received until after next year's Town Meeting and the FY16 budget is done. The liability for the District will not be known until this time next year.
4. Acton Finance Committee - Dennis reported that FinCom was meeting to revote the new updated Table 6.
5. Acton Board of Selectmen – Paul reported that the Selectmen approved JD Head as a member of the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee. They voted not to recommend the ABRSD Assessment Article but will recommend the three regionalization transfer articles.

13. Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting

Dennis thanked Paul Murphy for continuing for another term and Amy Krishnamurthy and Maya Minkin for becoming new Acton School Committee members. Amy will be sworn in after Acton Town Meeting next week. Maya's term begins on July 1st.

Maria explained that Boxborough will vote the revolving accounts transfer, but not the land transfers because they feel the IMA allows the Selectmen to do that. Boxborough's Town Meeting begins May 12 and their election is May 19.

14. Annual Superintendent's Evaluation

Maria Neyland spoke with Dr. Mills about his annual evaluation. Due to his retirement, he would be happy with a written statement from the Committees, instead of the formal process. Maria asked if this was acceptable to everyone. She asked that statements be sent to her by April 18th so she and Dennis can write something for the May 1st meeting.

15. Demographics Survey Results Presentation

Caitlin Hogue, a Doctoral Candidate from Boston College presented her team's findings on the Changing Demographics Survey done by our school district in 2009. Generally, participants believed school is not just academics. There should be a focus on extracurricular activities and developing students into critical thinkers instead of just standardized assessments. Social and emotional support for students is also important, as well as supporting creativity and encouraging citizenship. The study found differences in beliefs between newcomers and long-term residents, but a member wondered whether this could be related to parents having older vs. younger children.

Brigid appreciated that someone outside the district did the review. She noted that she would answer the questions very differently now, based on where her kids are now five years older. She echoed the consensus that while it would be great to do another survey, it is very time consuming. It was agreed that a clear goal and time frame would be needed if it is done again. The Committees agreed to add a discussion of whether and when to do a follow up survey to the Summer Workshop agenda.

The ABTSC was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

16. JOINT ABRSC/APSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:45 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously **VOTED** by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session for the sole purpose of adjourning.

At 8:45 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton Public School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES - Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Dennis Bruce declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session for the sole purpose of adjourning.

The ABRSC and APSC were polled to go out of Executive Session at 10:10 p.m. and were adjourned at that time.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda

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

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

March 20, 2014
7:30 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC Executive Session
7:50 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC Open Meeting
8:00 p.m. Joint APSC/ ABRSC/ABTSC meeting
Followed by APSC meeting

<i>Members Present:</i>	Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Maria Neyland, Paul Murphy, Deanne O'Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
<i>Members Absent:</i>	none
<i>Others:</i>	Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, many members of the AEA and staff were in the audience

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland. The Acton Public School Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Bruce.

1. JOINT APSC/ABRSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously **VOTED** by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.
(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)
Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session.

At 7:30 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously **VOTED** by role call: that the **Acton Public School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.
(YES – Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)
Dennis Bruce declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session.

The ABRSC and APSC were polled to go out of Executive Session at 8:22 p.m.

JOINT APSC/ABRSC OPEN MEETING

2. Acton Education Association (AEA) Negotiations Update

ABRSC Chair Maria Neyland read a statement on behalf of the Committee in response to the Acton Education Association (AEA)'s public comments made at the 3/6/14 School Committee meeting regarding the ongoing teacher contract negotiations. She concluded that "School Committee members have a total of 21 children in the Acton Boxborough school system..... We respect our teachers and all that they do for the children in this district.... and have a vested interest in bringing these negotiations to a favorable conclusion, for both sides, as soon as possible." Many emails were sent to the School Committee on the day of the meeting urging that the contract be settled.

JOINT APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC OPEN MEETING

The ABTSC was called to order at 8:26 p.m.

3. Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes will be done at the next meeting.
2. APS warrant #201419 dated 3/18/14 in the amount of \$143,876.25 was signed by the chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.
3. AB warrant #14-019 dated 3/20/14 in the amount of \$1,879,976.54 was signed by the chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.

4. Public Participation

Bill Guthlein, co-chair of the ABSped PAC, felt the Committee should have spent more time considering the grade 6-8 special education coordinator position that was not funded for next year. Before hiring the Assistant Principals, he asked whether the Committee could consider whether one of the Assistant Principal positions could be used for this coordinator position instead for next year. He stated that the current coordinator is taking on the Boxborough work load and he believes this person is being stretched too far. The Committee discussed the responsibilities of the Assistant Principals and confirmed that some of them would be doing evaluations.

Elisa Lauffer, a senior at ABRHS spoke in support of the teachers' union and urged the Committee to agree to a contract. She stated that "appreciation and support for those around you are the themes we have at AB."

5. Policy Subcommittee Update

1. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #4 - **SECOND READING – APS/ABRSC/ABTSC VOTE** - Maria Neyland
(incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD)
 - i. Section G: Personnel (*selected policies*)
 - ii. Section I: Instructional Program (*selected policies*)

ABTSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** to approve the policies in consent agenda #4

ABRSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Brigid Bieber seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** to approve the policies in consent agenda #4

APSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Kim McOske seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** to approve the policies in consent agenda #4

The ABRSC adjourned at 8:38 p.m. and the APSC was suspended at 8:38 p.m.

ABTSC OPEN MEETING

6. Recommendation to Approve ABRHS French Students' Field Trip to France

Brigid Bieber moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the ABRHS French Students' Trip to France

Brigid noted that it is a huge responsibility for adults to take students on these trips and she thanked all those involved.

7. FY15 Budget Update

1. Recommendation to **REVOTE** decrease in FY15 Budget and Assessment
2. Revised Assessment Table 6

Dr. Mills presented a reduction in the FY15 proposed budget of \$177,673 and asked the Committee to revote the numbers they voted on 2/12/14. This is due to a decrease in the Middlesex County Assessment (\$67,042), final FY15 Health Insurance Rates (\$20,600) and revised FY15 debt service due to recent refinancing (\$90,031). This makes the numbers inconsistent with the Acton Town Meeting warrant, but it was agreed that the change was significant and could be explained.

The Committee discussed that next year the FY16 budget will start with a \$384,000 hit because in FY15, there was a cost sharing shift per the Regional Agreement. Mary Brolin advocated for discussing this issue much earlier in the process next year.

ABTSC VOTE:

Brigid Bieber moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: that the total appropriation for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District for the fiscal year of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 be set at \$76,003,826 and that member towns be assessed in accordance with the Education Reform Law and the terms of the Agreement and amendments thereto as follows: Acton \$49,690,145, Boxborough \$10,594,577, remainder to be accounted for by the Anticipated Chapter 70 Aid in the amount of \$13,714,944, Anticipated Charter School Aid in the amount of \$67,707, Anticipated Regional Bonus Aid in the amount of \$139,000, Transportation Aid, Chapter 71, Section 16C in the amount of \$1,296,794, a transfer from E&D Reserves in the amount of \$500,000, and a transfer from the Junior High School Project Premium on Loan in the amount of \$658.

8. ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization Update

1. Update on Intermunicipal Agreements (IMA) and Acton Town Meeting Warrant Articles

After several long meetings about the IMA with Acton, the Board of Selectmen have authorized Janet Adachi to sign the documents. Minor details are being resolved through the attorneys, but Dr. Mills is confident that all will be signed by April 7 when Town Meeting begins.

9. FY15 Kindergarten Update

Marie Altieri reported that 285 students have enrolled with a projection of 317. They are distributed well among the schools.

10. School Committee Member Reports

1. Health Insurance Trust (HIT)
 - iii. Dennis Bruce moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** that Mary Brolin serve on the HIT committee effective immediately and through FY15.
2. Acton Finance Committee

Dennis thanked the members who attended the FinCom meeting on March 11th where they voted 6-3 to recommend the proposed ABRSD FY15 budget.
3. Acton Board of Selectmen

Paul Murphy reported that a vote on the ABRSD budget was deferred until the next BOS meeting on 3/24/14. Dennis will attend to answer questions and other members are urged to join him.

11. Recommendation to Disestablish the Superintendent Search/Preliminary Screening Committee

ABTSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: to disestablish the Superintendent Search/Preliminary Screening Committee

Maria thanked all who were involved and specifically recognized Andrew Shen's contributions.

12. Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting Reminder

13. **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

1. Acton-Boxborough Regional School District was ranked #2 Public District in MA by the *Boston Business Journal* on 3/6/14. Dr. Mills stated that Lexington was #1 and they spend much more per pupil than our District does.
2. Dr. Mills has reconvened the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee (LRSP). The original plan goes through FY16. Four new people are needed including an Acton member of the School Committee, an ABRHS teacher and a Blanchard teacher. JD Head will chair a new space subcommittee that will be part of the LRSP committee.

The ABTSC adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The APSC reconvened at 9:18 p.m.

APSC OPEN MEETING

14. **FY14 APS 2nd Quarter Report**

Don Aicardi reported a \$2,033 projected year end fund balance, stating that this is the tightest projection he has come up with at APS. That is a concern and will affect year end spending.

Dennis Bruce thanked Kim McOsker for serving on the Acton Public School Committee. He emphasized the amount of time that Committee members have to give. Dennis thanked Kim, her spouse and her kids for their dedication to our schools and community. Kim thanked everyone and emphasized that it is very valuable and important work.

The Acton Public School Committee adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda

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

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

March 6, 2014
7:15 p.m. Joint ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC Executive Session
7:30 p.m. Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC meeting

<i>Members Present:</i>	Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Maria Neyland, Paul Murphy, Deanne O'Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
<i>Members Absent:</i>	Dennis Bruce
<i>Others:</i>	Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, many members of the AEA and staff were in the audience

The Acton-Boxborough Regional and Transitional School Committees were called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland. The Acton Public School Committee was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Kristina Rychlik.

1. JOINT ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:17 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. (YES – Bieber, Brolin, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik) Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session.

At 7:18 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. (YES – Bieber, Brolin, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik) Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session.

At 7:19 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton Public School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. (YES - Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, O'Sullivan, Rychlik) Kristina Rychlik declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session.

The School Committees returned to Open Session at 7:34 p.m. Approximately 100 AEA and staff members were in the library waiting for the open meeting to begin.

2. Chairmen's Introduction

1. Danny's Place Youth Services Update

Maria Neyland and Kristina Rychlik met with the McCarthys to get a better understanding of how the decision was made for Danny's Place to leave the school campus. Maria read a statement of support for future Danny's Place plans and apologized for the surprise expressed by Cindy McCarthy at the 1/7/14 meeting. The School Committee will assign a liaison to Danny's Place Youth Services. The McCarthys were

thanked for their significant efforts over the last 10 years on behalf of our communities' young people.

2. Paul Murphy circulated a draft letter that the School Committees could send to the elected officials regarding FY15 state funding. This was in response to an email from Representative Jennifer Benson. Comments should be sent to Paul.

3. Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes for the following were approved by the three School Committees: 2/12/14 and 1/25/14 (ABTSC), 2/6/14 (APS/ABRSC/ABTSC). Minutes for 2/1/14, 1/15/14 and 1/7/14 will be at the next meeting.
2. APS warrant #201417 dated 2/18/14 in the amount of \$125,507.72 and #201418 dated 3/4/14 in the amount of \$291,283.29 and AB warrant #14-017 dated 2/20/14 in the amount of \$1,753,053.91 and #14-018 dated 3/6/14 in the amount of \$2,244,822.49 were signed by the Chairs and circulated to the Committee for signatures.

4. Public Participation

Marc Lewis, President of the AEA and RJGJHS teacher, read a 955 word statement encouraging the School Committee "to complete our negotiations with a fair and just contract."

Karen Shiebler, a teacher at Merriam, spoke about the importance of collective collaboration and planning time to work with colleagues, particularly on Thursday afternoons, as key to success. Sara Wilcox, a teacher at Conant, spoke about how being a strong teacher means staying up to date with all of the many changes and that takes time outside of the classroom. Samarth Gupta, a senior at ABRHS, stated that the reason our school is so successful is not because of the students, but our very special teachers.

Maria and Dr. Mills thanked the staff for attending the meeting and urged them to stay for the budget discussion.

5. Recommendation to Approve Refunding of Junior High and High School Construction Debt

1. Memo re "AAA" credit rating, bid results and request for approval
2. Memo requesting agenda item on 3/6/14 and process description
3. Standard & Poor's Rating Results, ABRSD, 2/26/14

Don Aicardi and Tess Summers have been working on this refinancing for months. Initially, \$900,000 of savings was projected but then the market turned. In January 2014, the bond market improved and \$700,000 of savings was expected. In reality, \$1,321,225 of savings over the life of the bonds has been generated by this refinancing (from FY15 – FY25). This money will go into an escrow account next week, also all costs incurred will be reimbursed. Kim thanked Tess for her efforts to make this possible. Receiving a AAA bond rating upgrade, the best, was very valuable.

ABRSC VOTE:

Michael Copplino moved, Brigid Bieber seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the motion as written in 6.4 of the packet.

ABTSC VOTE:

Michael Copplino moved, Brigid Bieber seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the motion as written in 6.4 of the packet.

6. Update on Athletic Revolving Accounts

Dr. Mills reported that there are “no emergencies” regarding these revolving accounts, but there are things to discuss. He complimented Steve Desy on how hard he works to keep the budget in line. Funding for athletics come from a gifts special revenue account, an ABSAF special revenue account, the athletics revolving fund (includes gate receipts and user fees) and the ABRSD appropriated budget (\$536,000 in FY14). Future options include: reduce program spending, increase operating budget support, and increase athletic fees.

A member asked if the family cap should be considered a lifetime family cap instead of annual. Dr. Mills said waivers are given on the honor system now, but perhaps it should be similar to how the free/reduced lunch program operates. The Committee wanted to know how our fees compare to other communities’. It was suggested that a percentage be used, as opposed to an actual amount for comparisons. Maria stated that a few years ago there was a lot of discussion about corporate sponsorship involving banners and publicity. Maria thought this money would go directly to appropriated budget, not the athletic budget. Dr. Mills said that funding is not reflected in the presentation and he’s been somewhat disappointed with how slow this effort has been so far. He said this money is currently in the Community Education account.

Maria wants to talk about this for next year. She thought this funding would directly offset some of the athletic budget, and prefers to see it go there instead of Community Education. Mike confirmed that when the lower fields are on the positive side, in the near future, they will generate profit that will go toward maintenance of the properties. Dr. Mills stated that he convenes a meeting once a year to talk about the revenue generated in the previous year, and that he is recommitting it to capital items. He noted that athletic fees were last raised five years ago.

7. FY14 ABRSD 2nd Quarter Report

Don Aicardi reported that he has never seen a budget this tight based on the second quarter report for FY14 that projects a year end fund balance of \$11,466. A shortfall is anticipated for athletics. Everything else is consistent with the first quarter report. Maria noted that year end spending and turning money back to the towns will not be a very long discussion this year.

8. FY15 Budget Update

Maria reviewed the memo from the School Committee chairs to the Acton Finance Committee dated 3/6/14. This was based on School Committee’s presentation to Acton Finance Committee on 2/25/14. She committed to communicating earlier and more clearly next year, especially to the town boards, Finance Committees and Selectmen of both towns. She said it is important to start explaining the needs in the fall. Mike Coppolino asked that Dr. Mills explain the before/after school accounts for the public. Dr. Mills said that these enterprise accounts exist and the law is clear that the funds can only be applied to items being used for those programs.

Heading into the Town Meetings, the need to address any and all questions as they come up, and as clearly as possible, was emphasized. Regionalization has made things more complicated than usual. Kristina Rychlik said the Outreach Committee plans numerous communications prior to Town Meeting. She will connect with Dr. Mills.

A possible School Committee meeting will be posted for the Acton Finance Committee meeting on 3/11/14 in case there is a quorum of members who attend.

9. ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization Update

Dr. Mills said a lot of work is being done on the Intermunicipal Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with legal counsel involved. Three warrant articles will be ready for Acton Town Meeting. The Boxborough documents will be ready for their May meeting as well.

10. Policy Subcommittee Update

1. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #4 - **FIRST READING**
– Maria Neyland (incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD)
 - i. Section G: Personnel (selected policies)
 - ii. Section I: Instructional Program (selected policies)

11. School Committee Member Reports

1. Acton Leadership Group (ALG)
Kim McOsker reported on the meeting held earlier that night. All are in agreement about what to present at Town Meeting and what will be in the warrant. Sustainability in future years is a concern, particularly the use of reserves.

Maria expressed concern that amounts are being “put out there” for OPEB that School Committee has not discussed. Don said that Dennis (absent from the meeting) has stated that he cannot commit to any OPEB numbers without running it by the School Committee first. Maria wants to be very clear for the future that the School Committee needs to discuss any numbers before committing to any other group. Mary Brolin elaborated that the School Committee should say they are educating children first, then paying OPEB on top of it. Brigid agreed that some ALG references caught her eye. She stressed that School Committee needs to keep in the forefront that ALG and BLF are not decision-making bodies.

Paul asked how the OPEB liability is arrived at. Don said that Segal will do an assessment of the region so we will have new numbers maybe in February or March. Mike asked if the situation arose, could the money in the trust be used for health insurance for OPEB retirees in the future. A future School Committee could decide.

2. Health Insurance Trust (HIT)
Kim reported that HIT met last week. The rate of increase is 9.5% which is a little higher than expected. The retiree rate is increasing to 5%. Next meeting is May 1st and Kim will have been replaced on the School Committee. A new rep will be chosen at the next Committee meeting.

3. Boxborough Board of Selectmen
Maria Neyland reported that the new Minuteman Tech Agreement was discussed.

12. Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Choral Field Trip to Spain/France

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the ABRHS Choral field trip to Spain and France.

13. Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting

The LWV Candidates’ Night is on March 17th. Boxborough elections are May 12th.

14. Follow up from Previous Meeting re School Mandates

Liza Huber addressed concerns from Allen Nitschelm. She stated that it is not the schools’ intention to become a social services agency, although they have often become one by default.

Mike Coppolino will follow up on the Boston College professors’ Demographic Survey presentation for a possible presentation at the next meeting.

The ABRSC, ABTSC and APSC were adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH TRANSITIONAL (ABTSC), ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL
(ABRSC) and ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEES (APSC)
Draft Minutes**

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

Saturday, February 1, 2014
8:30 a.m. ABTSC FY15 Budget Meeting
Followed by Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Executive Session

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Maria Neyland, Deanne O'Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
Members Absent: none
Others: Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

ABRSD FY'15 Budget Presentations

The ABTSC was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chairperson, Maria Neyland.

1. Welcome & Superintendent's Introduction

Maria Neyland described the structure for the day. Steve Mills stated that every penny that is spent in our schools is public money and to be discussed. Money should be transparent. Assistant Principals, his largest line item, are as much about direct service as teachers. The DESE slide 19 shows a list of all good new initiatives, but they should be next to each other, equally needed but spaced out, not prioritized all on top of each other. The proposed FY15 Budget abides by the Acton Finance Committee "Point of View" document and meets the Regionalization savings commitment to cut \$1 million. There are no requests for additional staff, just a realignment of existing resources.

2. Current Priorities within the Long Range Strategic Plan

Panel Presenters: Andrew Shen, JoAnn Campbell, Curt Bates, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber

The new presentation format mirrors this year's budget process because it is a new unified shared belief about what is most important for our new PreK-12 District as a whole.

1. Clarifying the Budget Planning Process
2. Guiding Principles
3. Challenge #1: Fully Integrating into PreK-12 District
4. Challenge #2: Increase in Resource-Intensive Populations of Students
5. Challenge #3: Expanded and Additional Mandates

Maria Neyland noted how much education has changed, even since her children (now seniors at ABRHS) started school. She thanked the panel for their excellent presentation.

The Committee discussed the challenges in meeting the time requirements for all the new teacher evaluations and agreed that it must be a struggle for staff. Curt Bates said that he is responsible for 29 staff members and is spending 186 days a year doing evaluations. Curt's Assistant Principal assists with some of the evaluations. Steve Mills encourages his elementary principals to access the expertise of some of the directors (such as the curriculum director) to help with the evaluations. It is best to have multiple evaluators, like the model at the Junior High. Department leaders are also full time teachers at the Junior High. This works because department leaders and assistant principals are all in the building. The question was asked if it is an inherent conflict with RDLs (Regional Department Leaders) and BDLs (Building Department Leaders) evaluating peers.

JoAnn Campbell said that our EDCO colleagues are all dealing with sharp increases in mental health issues. This is one of the main themes this year at ABRHS, although they are not addressing the “why” of it, at this time, due to how complicated that topic is. Liza Huber would like to move toward a K-12 Task Force, expanding the current one led by Julie Towell. The majority of people in this existing group are in regular education. Mary Brolin commented that it is really important for us to recognize these mental health issues, especially the invisible ones. In some ways, the school district is a social service agency now. There are mandates requiring the schools to address these issues. The Committee discussed the changing needs of the ELL (English Language Learner) students.

Dennis Bruce asked what the minimum number of hours would be for one teacher evaluation with the new rules. Curtis Bates stated that a major difficulty is that most of the time the work must be done during the school day. Marie Altieri estimated that it takes 15 hours per teacher for a one year plan and 8 hours per teacher for a 2 year plan. Paul Murphy observed that things usually don’t happen at the minimum. The reality is that things usually take longer.

Maria said that the Committee “can’t thank the staff enough for highlighting these important issues.”

3. Special Education Overview and Trends

Liza Huber recognized Joe Gibowicz, Julie Towell, Suzanne Szwarczewicz, Matt Kidder and Todd Chicko who were in the audience. She thanked the special education parents for their support. Liza addressed circuit breaker funding, out of district costs, the CASE assessment formula and the offsets of grants, circuit breaker and Medicaid.

Liza confirmed that there is no special funding for students on a 504 plan or who are homeless. We do have a number of homeless students now. As suggested by the FUTURES review, Liza and her staff are working on Medicaid as a possible source of funds but it will not contribute anything for next year. FUTURES thought \$200,000 might be received. The Committee discussed slide 42, Out of District Regionalized Expense Projections (including CASE). CASE is grappling with a real time model of assessing the school districts involved right now. This is a big change that would create a large increase in cost. The other element of the formula is that we were always able to count on an assessed amount but the new proposal would result in a fluctuating tuition amount. Dr. Mills explained that CASE is proposing a very high tuition increase for our district, but he hopes it will come down. The \$5.2 million figure is not final.

The Committee talked about bringing Out of District students back into our district with regionalization. Liza and her staff are identifying students that may be able to return to the district, and are hoping to find 5 – 7 students each year. The amount of potential savings from this is unknown at this time.

Dennis stated that a question for all presenters to keep in mind is how regionalizing is affecting each issue for next year.

Given the uncertainty of the numbers, Maria asked Liza if she could provide numbers for a final budget vote by the meeting next Thursday. Mike Coppelino understands the CASE increase, but finds it concerning that from FY13 to FY15, the private day tuition doubles. He asked for an explanation of that for Thursday if possible.

4. Specific Personnel Requests for 2014 – 2015

Presenters: JoAnn Campbell, Andrew Shen, Curt Bates, Damian Sugrue, Liza Huber, Ed Kaufman
Advocating for the full time elementary schools’ Assistant Principals, High School Principal JoAnn Campbell stated that what happens at the elementary level has a direct impact on the students that she and Andrew Shen work with at the Junior High and High School. Curtis Bates spoke strongly in support as well based on how Blanchard uses their full time Assistant Principal.

5. Enrollment and Staffing for 2014 – 2015 (and beyond)

Marie Altieri stated that \$416,000 of savings has been realized from regionalization and any new staff has been offset by reductions in staff beyond the staff savings from regionalization. The total change is a reduction of 4 FTE. See slide 71 “Realignment of Staff”.

6. Discussion and Dialogue

It was noted that the increase of the current half time elementary school assistant principals to full time is not a new request. It was high on the list last year but did not make the cut. A member commented that regarding the principals, “there is not enough bandwidth for one person to do it all” given all of the added mandates and initiatives. The request was made to be clear that Acton elementary schools currently have half time assistant principals and the request is to increase that, not add full time positions. It was asked if the need for speech/language support has declined and therefore is the justification for moving the .4 direct service to more administrative services. Liza said the need has not declined.

Nancy Sherburne advocated for the addition of two elementary special education teachers (which were below the funding line). Paul Murphy asked for the cost impacts of these.

LUNCH BREAK

7. Financial Landscape and Implementation of Proposals

Don Aicardi presented a proposed FY15 ABRSD budget of \$77,068,000.

It was asked how the OPEB contribution amount is decided. Don responded that it is up to the School Committee and that this amount affects the District’s bond rating.

The Committee reviewed slide 10 “Another FY14 to FY15 Comparison” and discussed the difference between the two totals which would be the change that Acton is paying from this year to next due to regionalization. It was confirmed that there is a savings of a million dollars from transportation and personnel reductions and another million dollars as a shift from Boxborough to Acton. It was agreed that comparing the current year’s budgets of the three districts with next year’s proposed budget for the new PreK-12 region was very complicated. Many people asked questions about how the comparisons were made, including Steve Noone from the Acton Finance Committee. The Committee agreed to continue the discussion at their next meeting on 2/6/14.

8. Preliminary Capital Plan for PreK-12 Region

JD Head began by stating that one of his goals is to achieve carbon neutrality. He talked about how the Lower Fields and Track projects both came up mid year and were significant activities. JD and his staff look forward to working with the staff at Blanchard and getting to know their building. While Blanchard has cheap electricity due to Littleton Light and Power, their natural gas consumption seems high for a building that size. The Committee discussed the Blanchard window replacement project listed. Maria explained that they got to their capital plan using a grant and a consultant.

The Committee appreciated the list of projects in the plan. Knowing the High School roof needs to be replaced in 2024 is important. It helps to know the useful life of investments when making budget plans. Mike Coppolino asked whether the energy manager’s salary, despite her excellent work, would continue to be justified. JD replied that the energy savings is double the value of her salary and the District is seeing the returns now and the department is proud of it.

Mary Brolin thanked JD, and asked for the 10 year plan to be laid out year by year so they could plan better fiscally. If that were the case, money could be set aside to save for these important items.

Mary Ann Ashton suggested that the Committee consider looking forward for the existing buildings. The last time a study was done for Acton buildings was in 1999.

9. Closing Comments and Reflections

Dr. Mills stated that it is his job to advocate for what is a reasonable budget. He is responsible for what is listed above and below "the line". The actual proposed budget increase is 3.8% and it includes a 10% increase in health insurance and a significant contribution to OPEB. Maria stated that today's presentation was about the needs of the district, and next Thursday's meeting will be about the cost assessment. Steve Mills will be reconvening the Long Range Strategic Planning committee soon.

10. School Committee Deliberation and Open Discussion

Paul expressed concern about the number of things that were being removed from the Blanchard School and moved to the new regional district. He asked, "where is the benefit from regionalization?" He also questioned whether our below average per pupil spending is something that we should be proud or ashamed of.

Brigid stated that she is very supportive of the budget and new format. She appreciated the many examples of why things are important to students. Nancy Sherburne made some great points about items below the line, but there is just not enough money to cover all the needs. Brigid agrees with the request to fund full time Assistant Principals because it has been validated. There is a real need there, with not enough staff to do what needs to be done.

Mike said that at this stage, he is not clear or comfortable on the fiscal status or viability of the budget going forward. He urged the Committee to defer voting at this time.

Kim agreed about deferring the vote on the proposed budget due to the large amount of new information and because more information on special education expenses and assessments will come out on Thursday.

Maria emphasized that this would be a preliminary budget vote, with a final vote at Thursday's meeting.

Dennis asked a number of specific questions about budget items. These included how many custodians are there per school and how their responsibilities are structured at Blanchard which is more of a community center for the town. It is hoped that this will lead to a reduction in overtime for custodians. Dennis asked about the increase in textbook amounts and the athletics revolving accounts. Steve Desy and JoAnn Campbell will present the athletic budget at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

The Committee was asked if there was consensus to wait on a preliminary vote.

Several members argued that a preliminary vote would be valuable because it would tell the Administration that the Committee supports their requested needs. The number could be lower in the final vote. Other members felt the numbers were still too uncertain.

Acton Finance Committee member Bob Evans asked the Committee to consider that while per pupil costs are below state average, compare that to being one of the highest tax rates in the state. Acton's residential tax rate can only support so much.

Dennis Bruce talked about the School Committee's credibility during all of the regionalization presentations and the importance of living up to your word that the benefits of regionalizing would be well thought out and communicated, including the financial savings and bottom line. He advocated for not voting yet, but for taking a step back to be sure all of the numbers are correct.

Maria Neyland stated that the Committees have lived up to the regionalization presentations including the promised million dollars of revenue savings for next year.

A preliminary **ABTSC VOTE** on the proposed FY'15 Budget was not taken due to uncertainty over some of the financial numbers. Maria Neyland asked the Committee to be prepared to vote at their next meeting on 2/6/14.

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:50 p.m. the ABRSC and APSC were called to order by Maria Neyland and Dennis Bruce, respective chairs.

At 2:50 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session solely to adjourn.

At 2:50 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee** go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session solely to adjourn.

At 2:51 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton Public School Committee** go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES – Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Dennis Bruce declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session solely to adjourn.

The ABTSC was polled to go out of Executive Session at 2:52 p.m. when it was realized that they were not part of the strategy discussion (prior to any discussion taking place). The ABTSC was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

At 4:00 p.m. the ABRSC and APSC were polled to go out of Executive Session and were adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda

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

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

January 15, 2014
7:30 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC
Followed by Joint Executive Session

<i>Members Present:</i>	Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Maria Neyland, Deanne O'Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
<i>Members Absent:</i>	none
<i>Others:</i>	Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

The Acton-Boxborough Regional and Acton-Boxborough Transitional and Acton Public School Committees were called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Maria Neyland and Dennis Bruce, respective Chairs.

1. Statement of Warrant (none) and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 1/7/14 meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. Public Participation - none

3. Danny's Place Update

Cindy McCarthy spoke about the 10 year history of Danny's Place and their move from a drop-in center to a new programming approach based on the 4-H Club model. The organization's name will be changed to Danny's Place Youth Services (DPYS). April 25th is the closing date in the current location due to the lease not being renewed. Some questions will be addressed at the next meeting when Liza Huber returns. Committee members thanked the McCarthys for creating such a wonderful resource for our young people and offered their support for the new direction that DPYS is taking.

4. ABTSC Superintendent Search Update (Marie Altieri left the room)

1. Search Committee Recommendation to **VOTE** finalists

ABTSC VOTE:

Brigid Bieber read the memo from the Search Subcommittee dated 1/14/14 proposing Marie Altieri, Glenn Brand and Brett Kustigian as finalists.

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the three finalist candidates put forward by the Subcommittee.

2. The draft schedule for the Saturday, 1/25/14 ABT School Committee meeting for the finalist interviews was acceptable to the Committee.

3. Screening Committee interview questions

The School Committee reviewed the proposed questions for the finalists.

Additional questions may be sent to Maria and she will compile them for the 25th.

The Committee agreed that the same questions would be asked of all three finalists, but follow up questions would be permitted. Brigid stated that there will be public forums and feedback from the public and the administration would be requested.

4. Site Visits and Community Forums

The Committee discussed whether or not site visits to the finalists' schools were necessary given the tight schedule. Kristina spoke to Sharon Smith McManus and Heather Harer, who did them for the previous search, and they said they were not very valuable because they tended to only reveal positive information. Mike Coppolino stated that if members have time to do visits, he feels they are an important part of due diligence. The Committee agreed that visits would be done.

Community forums are scheduled between January 16th and 23rd. As soon as dates are confirmed with the finalists, this will be publicized. Maria encouraged the public to come, ask questions and give feedback to the Committee before Saturday's meeting. Feedback forms will be distributed at all forums and then made available to all School Committee members.

Brigid explained that FMS will make reference calls and do background checks on the finalists and give a report to the Chairs. Maria will send the site visit schedule out as soon as it is done.

5. ABTSC FY15 Budget

Don Aicardi presented the new K-12 ABRSD budget book format. There are many differences from previous years due to the combining of the three budgets (APS, Blanchard, ABRSD) and some items do not make for easy comparisons. Important information is also still pending. The Governor's proposed FY15 budget is not expected until January 22nd.

The Committee asked about the very large increase in CASE tuition for next year. Some may be due to circuit breaker, and/or the Blanchard numbers being added. Dr. Mills will ask the other CASE districts what they are seeing. Liza Huber is reviewing this. Brigid reported that there are a lot of "moving pieces" in CASE right now, including a change of methodology, and they are trying to put cost numbers around each program. Depending on the nature of the program, there are different costs associated with it. Brigid, the Committee rep on the CASE Board, has a lot of questions around this as well. The old system was based on the previous year's students so districts could prepare for a large increase, but now that is changing. The state is requiring some of these changes for all collaboratives.

If anyone has financial questions before Budget Saturday (2/1/14), send them to Don.

6. ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization

1. Transitional Administrative Team Weekly Meetings Update

Dr. Mills reported that the meetings are going well. See memo in packet. He thanked Marie Altieri for an excellent Kindergarten Registration Night noting the emphasis that we are all one region now with six schools to choose from.

2. Intermunicipal Agreements

Progress is being made. The school's legal counsel has received a proposed document for discussion from Acton's counsel.

7. APS/ABRSC/ABTSC Policy Update

1. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #3 – **SECOND READING – VOTE** - *Maria Neyland* (incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD, see separately posted document)
 - i. Section D: Fiscal Management (*selected policies*)
 - ii. Section E: Support Services (*selected policies*)

Maria read the list of policies to see if anyone wanted to hold any of them.

ABTSC VOTE

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously
VOTED: to approve the policy consent agenda #3 as proposed.

ABRSC VOTE

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously
VOTED: to approve the policy consent agenda #3 as proposed.

APSC VOTE

Paul Murphy moved, Kim McOsker seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the policy consent agenda #3 as proposed.

8. School Committee Member Reports

1. Health Insurance Trust (HIT)– Kim McOsker reported that the HIT met on 12/19/13. They will make a determination on the rates soon.
2. Acton Finance Committee - Dennis Bruce reported that Don Aicardi attended last night's meeting to begin the FY15 ABRSD budget discussion. Dr. Mills will attend the next FinCom meeting.

9. Demographics Report Prioritization Request

Mike Coppolino asked Committee members to respond to Beth by Friday with their priorities list so he can send them to the BC professors who are doing the pro-bono analysis. (Due to the large number of items in the survey, they asked for the Committees' top priorities.) Mary Brolin said that some of the items were two sides to the same coin. She suggested that they might do a factor analysis so it could be cross tabbed to make it clearer. Mary will email this to Mike so he can forward it to the professors.

10. Acton and Boxborough Local Elections

Dennis and Maria reviewed the details and dates. An additional School Committee member from both Acton and Boxborough will join the Committee starting on July 1st.

11. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Committee agreed to schedule an additional meeting on Tuesday, January 28th at 7:30 p.m. in case it was needed. The superintendent search would be the only agenda item.

The ABTSC was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

12. Joint Executive Session

At 8:57 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session solely to adjourn.

At 8:57 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton Public School Committee** go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES – Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Dennis Bruce declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session solely to adjourn.

The ABRSC and APSC were polled to go out of executive session and adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Saturday, January 25, 9:00 a.m. ABTSC meeting, Public Interviews of Superintendent Finalists and **VOTE**, Junior High Library
- Saturday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC meeting, ABRSD PreK- 12 FY'15 BUDGET MEETING, Junior High Library

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents used: see agenda



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

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

Tuesday, January 7, 2014
7:30 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC

<i>Members Present:</i>	Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Maria Neyland, Deanne O'Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
<i>Members Absent:</i>	Dennis Bruce
<i>Others:</i>	Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

The Acton-Boxborough Regional and Transitional School Committees were called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland. The Acton Public School Committee was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Kristina Rychlik at 7:31 p.m.

1. Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 12/12/13 were approved by the ABRSC, the ABTSC and the APSC as written.

AB Warrant #14-013 dated 12/26/13 in the amount of \$2,043,073.59 was signed by the chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures. APS warrant #201413 dated 12/24/13 in the amount of \$163,451.08 and warrant #201414 dated 1/7/14 in the amount of \$69,650.44 was signed by the vice-chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.

2. Public Participation - none

3. Blanchard School Principal Announcement

Dr. Mills announced that Dana F. Labb has been appointed as the new Principal of the Blanchard Memorial School. Mr. Labb plans to attend the Budget Saturday meeting.

4. ABTSC Superintendent Search Update

Brigid Bieber reported that the search is on schedule. She encouraged everyone to try to attend the public forums for the finalists. It is hoped that finalists will be announced at the School Committee meeting on 1/15/14. The Committee should plan on a meeting on Saturday, January 25 for the public interviews. Brigid thanked Andrew Shen for his efforts as facilitator.

5. ABTSC FY15 Budget— Don Aicardi

Dr. Mills stated how exciting it is to be presenting one K-12 budget for the first time. The Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) projected this first year's budget as part of the proposal. Our budget is \$800,000 less than what we thought it would be. As a result, Dr. Mills recommends that no new positions be added but he does recommend realigning some positions within the three budgets. He also insists on as much transparency as possible especially this year with the combination of the budgets. He is recommending a 3.8% increase for FY15.

Don Aicardi explained that he had to artificially recreate the FY14 budget as one (from the three) in order to create the new budget for next year. This was very complicated and comparisons should be made carefully. Although the FY14 "Final" to FY15 Preliminary budget percentage increase is 2.31%, the FY14 base should be lowered by \$1,089,570 to account for a change in the regional transportation. This changes the percentage increase to a more accurate 3.81% increase.

Dr. Mills resumed speaking at slide 24 to address the proposed realignment of additional staff for FY15 totalling \$567,000. His primary focus is increasing the half-time assistant principals in the Acton elementary schools to full time. The Blanchard school currently has a full-time assistant principal. Dr. Mills also advocated for adding a third special education coordinator for grades 6-8. He explained the positions that would be reduced to make this realignment possible.

Don Aicardi explained that JD Head is creating new Capital outlays accounts for buildings and replacement equipment. This is very important for planning purposes. Don is still waiting for the Health Insurance Trust to make final recommendations. Don expressed concern about the pace and amount of how much E&D is being used, although this is still a preliminary number. He said that significant money is being put in the OPEB Trust account and coming out of E&D. The SPED tuition increase of 28.89% is a concern. The School Committee will be asked to take a preliminary budget vote at the end of the Budget Saturday Meeting on February 1st.

Mike asked about slide 12 – ABRSD FY15 Operating Budget. The new Regional Agreement outlined the FY14 to FY15 variance shown. The pre-shift figure is the sharing of the savings from regionalization (preshift meaning it is allocated per the 3 year rolling average as is currently done). This is the population shift going from Acton to Boxborough. Mary Brolin explained that this is what the RSDSC built in, an adjustment to share the savings. This happens every year for five years but the proportion changes every year, over the years it's 80-20%.

Maria confirmed that the Budget Books will be available for the next meeting. She asked for details on the athletic budget because it has gone down substantially for the past 4 years. Don is planning to put the athletics special revenue account in the back of the budget book, but the details won't be ready for the next School Committee meeting. Maria asked for information to explain the shift including how many kids are participating and the total income from the athletic programs over the past few years. Dr. Mills will have Steve Desy and JoAnn Campbell present at a future meeting and include financial history for the past three years.

Citing the \$73,000 in Blanchard efficiencies, Maria reminded the Committee that the Regionalization Financial Oversight Subcommittee will be tracking some of these amounts. Don will provide this list on Friday. Maria wants to be sure this is tracked for the next five years per the Agreement.

6. MCAS Schedule modification at the High School

JoAnn Campbell and Steve Martin explained the need for High School students to come late five days in the spring when MCAS testing is being done. This will have a positive impact on learning in the schools. Up to 50% of our High School classes are cancelled during MCAS testing time right now. A second reason for the change is that the number of students on IEPs who receive accommodations has increased from 57 to 87 from last year to this year. We have less and less space available for these required testing spaces. The proposal is a much more efficient way to do MCAS for everyone.

Mary Brolin asked how this would affect the number of hours of teaching. Deborah Bookis replied that it does impact the hours but we still make the 990 hours required. Brigid supports the proposal but she does not support that MCAS is taking more attention and focus. Kids are out of the classroom even more now. Liza explained the increase in accommodations is due to many reasons. More students are in district now that were previously educated out of district. There is much more assistive technology and a wider variety of disabilities. The mental health issues of many of our students are increasing and create the need for special accommodations. Liza said that there has been a significant increase in that student population at the High School.

ABRSC VOTE

Mary Brolin moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the revised FY14 school calendar to accommodate the MCAS testing schedule at the High School.

7. APS/ABRSC/ABTSC Policy Update

1. Elementary Class Size, File: IIBA – SECOND READING – VOTE

Kristina and Paul submitted comments since the last meeting. Maria asked if there were other comments. Brigid thanked everyone for their feedback and stated that she feels more work is need on this policy. Although the Superintendent proposed a recommendation at the last meeting Brigid would like to consider it at the Summer Workshop. She said that the budget discussion should be separate from the policy discussion.

Kristina has reviewed all of the Boxborough material and stated that not all districts have class size policies. Deanne advocated for spending more time on it over the summer. Kim stated that if that is the sense of the Committee, that more study is needed, it does not make sense to vote a number now (for class size guidelines) because it does make a statement. Mike does not see the issue about waiting because we have a policy in place until July 1. He also pointed out that this has always been a guideline, not a hard and fast policy. Maria feels the policy is a statement, not just a guideline.

ABTSC VOTE:

Mike Coppolino moved and Brigid Bieber seconded the

MOTION: to accept the class size policy as proposed by the policy subcommittee.

The Committee **VOTED** and the motion failed.

(Coppolino, Murphy and McOsker voted YES, 3 Acton members x 2 = 6 votes)
(Rychlik, Neyland, Brolin and O'Sullivan voted NO, 2 Acton members x 2 = 4 plus 2 Boxborough members = 6 votes) Brigid Bieber abstained.

It will be confirmed whether or not the current Elementary Class Size policy stays in effect after July 1 for the new expanded Region if a new policy is not voted.

2. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #3 – FIRST READING – Maria Neyland (incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD)

i. Section D: Fiscal Management (*selected policies*)

ii. Section E: Support Services (*selected policies*)

8. Acton and Boxborough Local Elections

Kim McOsker will not be seeking another term. Paul Murphy will run again. Acton and Boxborough will both have an additional School Committee member that starts July 1 as outlined in the new Regional Agreement in Section 1. B.

9. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Mike reported on the Demographic survey. He met with the BC professors and asked School Committee members to prioritize their top 4 or 5 items from the list so they could focus on them.

The ABRSC and ABTSC and APSC were adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Petr
List of Documents Used: see agenda



**TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH
SPECIAL/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 12, 2014
LIST OF ARTICLES**

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

1. LEASE OF U.C.C. FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR COMMUNITY CENTER
2. FUND FIRST TWO YEARS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT - MASSACHUSETTS COALITION OF POLICE, LOCAL 200, POLICE
3. TRANSFER FROM INSURANCE PROCEEDS
4. AMEND FY 2014 PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

1. CHOOSE TOWN OFFICERS
2. RECEIVE REPORTS
3. SET SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS
4. AMEND FY 2015 PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN
5. TOWN OPERATING BUDGET
6. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT OF THE MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
7. WITHDRAWAL FROM MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
8. ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT - CH. 44B §§3 - 7
9. BYLAW TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
10. AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF REAL PROPERTY - 70-72 STOW ROAD
11. TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND**
12. TRANSFER TO OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST FUND**
13. GASB 45 ACTUARIAL CONSULTANT**
- 14. TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION OF BLANCHARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL REVOLVING FUND BALANCES**
- 15. TRANSFER OF BLANCHARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL GIFTS AND GRANTS TO THE ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
- 16. TRANSFER UNEXPENDED BALANCES IN PRIOR YEAR ARTICLES**
17. RESCIND UNUSED BORROWING AUTHORITY**
18. DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS RE-AUTHORIZATION**
19. ESTABLISH REVOLVING FUND FOR GENERAL RECREATION PROGRAMS**

**ARTICLE 14 TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION OF BLANCHARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL
REVOLVING FUND BALANCES****

(Majority vote required)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer in consultation with the Town Administrator to appropriate and transfer the balances in all revolving funds and the lunch fund currently maintained by the Blanchard Memorial School existing on or after July 1, 2014, to the Acton Boxborough Regional School District to be held (together with any interest thereon) by the District as a separate account and expended by the District at the Blanchard Memorial School for the same purposes as the prior revolving fund or lunch fund, as applicable, all in accordance with the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town and the District, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary

These funds include: Student Activities, School Choice, School Lunch, Extended Day Program, Full Day Kindergarten Program, Blanchard Early Childhood Program and School Meals Tax.

The Boxborough School Committee will provide a recommendation at Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen recommends unanimously (5-0).

The Board of Selectmen recommends the transfer of any unexpended balances in Blanchard's revolving and lunch funds to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District. These funds will continue to be used for the benefit of the Blanchard Memorial School students on or after July 1, 2014.

The Finance Committee recommends unanimously (5-0).

**ARTICLE 15 TRANSFER OF BLANCHARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL GIFTS AND GRANTS TO
THE ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT****

(Majority vote required)

To see if the Town will, subject to all applicable terms and conditions of each grant and gift, and to any necessary judicial or other governmental approvals, vote to appropriate and authorize the Town Treasurer, in consultation with the Town Administrator, to transfer on or after July 1, 2014, to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District ("District") the balance (if any) at the end of fiscal year 2014 of each gift and grant fund listed on the corresponding Exhibit to the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town and the District, each such amount to be held (together with any interest thereon) by the District pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53A, as a separate account and expended by the District for the same purpose as the purpose of the prior gift or grant to the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Summary

The gifts include the Blanchard Educational Gift Fund and the Patricia A. Hall Scholarship.

The grants include SPED 94-192 (FY 14); Title IIA Teacher Quality (FY 14); Title I Program (FY 14); SPED Early Childhood (FY 14); RTTT Grant (FY 14); SPED Program Improvement (FY 14); SPED ECP Program Improvement (FY14); LELD Grant; Mass Cultural Council Grant (Stars Program) and Education Circuit Breaker.

Additionally there may be a sum of money in the Blanchard School's Insurance Proceeds account.

The Boxborough School Committee will provide a recommendation at Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen recommends unanimously (5-0).

As with Article 14, this transfer is required as a result of the expansion of the Region and will provide for the transfer of gifts and grants to be used as the same purpose of the prior gift or grant to the Town.

The Finance Committee recommends unanimously (5-0).

ARTICLE 16 TRANSFER UNEXPENDED BALANCES IN PRIOR YEAR ARTICLES**

(Majority vote required)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the unexpended balances at June 30, 2014 in the following prior year articles for projects not yet completed by June 30, 2014 to the Acton Boxborough Regional School District to be expended by the District at the Blanchard Memorial School for the same purposes as authorized by Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

ATM 2011, Article 21, Blanchard Memorial School - Fire Safety Engineering Consultant

ATM 2012, Article 24, Capital Improvements – Repair and Replace Blanchard Memorial School's Exterior Mortar and Masonry

ATM 2012, Article 26, Capital Improvements - Replace Current Gym & Library Lighting at Blanchard Memorial School

The Boxborough School Committee will provide a recommendation at Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen recommends unanimously (5-0).

This article provides for the transfer of balances for work still to be completed under the prior year Town Meeting authorizations noted above.

The Finance Committee recommends unanimously (5-0).

Personnel Office
Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools

TO: Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee
DATE: April 19, 2014
FROM: Marie Altieri
SUBJECT: Kindergarten Enrollments for 2014-2015

The lottery was held on April 9th. We have 296 kindergarteners who will be placed in sixteen classrooms with an average class size of 18.5. Conant and Blanchard will have two kindergarten classrooms, and the other four schools will have three. Seventeen families did not receive their first choice schools. Nine of those families are on the waitlist for Douglas, six are on the waitlist for Conant and two are on the waitlist for Blanchard. The projection for this class was 317 students, so we are below the projection right now, but we would expect to enroll 10 – 15 more students between now and September. The attached chart shows you the breakdown of students by school.

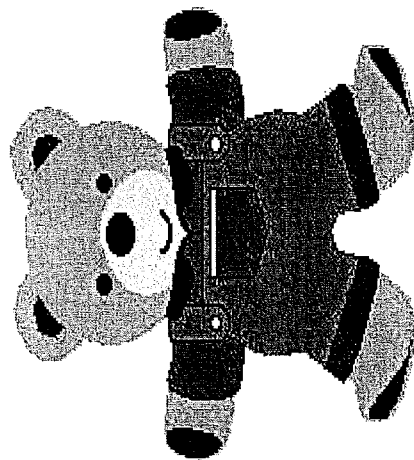
We are pleased that we have been able to offer more sections of All Day Kindergarten (ADK). Blanchard, Douglas and McCarthy-Towne are all able to offer two ADK classrooms. The Blanchard kindergartens actually have a combination of half day and full day students in each Kindergarten classroom. Only seven Blanchard students will be in half day, and they can move to full day during the year if they would like to. We are now accommodating a total of 161 ADK students. Unfortunately, there are still 41 on waitlists, mostly due to space constraints. The schools with ADK waitlists are Merriam (16), Gates (16), Conant (8), and Douglas (1). The deadline for families to pay the ADK deposit is May 15, so we may have some movement at that time.

Eight Acton families selected Boxborough as their first choice, and three Boxborough families selected an Acton school as their first choice. Since Boxborough was over-subscribed, two of the Acton families did not get Blanchard, but they are on the Blanchard waitlist. As of right now, there will be six Acton families attending Blanchard.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Marie Altieri
Director of Personnel and Administrative Services

All Students



First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice	Fifth Choice	Sixth Choice
Choice --> 279	11	1	3	0	2
Percent --> 94.26%	3.72%	0.34%	1.01%	0.00%	0.68%

School Choices for All of Incoming Class of 2027

	Blanchard All Day	Blanchard 1/2	Conant All Day	Conant 1/2	Douglas All Day	Douglas 1/2	Gates All Day	Gates 1/2	Towne All Day	Towne 1/2	Merriam All Day	Merriam 1/2	Total
Place At	30	7	19	18	38	18	19	37	37	19	19	35	296
Total Placed	37		37		56	56	56		56			54	
Wait All Day	0		8		1		16		0		16		41
Wait for Sch & Program	1	1	5	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	All Day 11 Wait -->
Wait All Programs	2			6		9	0	0			0		Half Day 6 Wait -->
													Total of Both 17

Goal #1: To complete the regionalization process by integrating all aspects of the Blanchard School into the new PreK – 12 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District.
Relevance to LRSP: District Mission
Statement of Purpose: The expanded District's goal is to prepare all students to attain their full potential as life long learners, critical thinkers and productive citizens of our diverse community and global society.
Strategies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Personnel</u>: to integrate all functions of the Blanchard School's personnel department including professional and paraprofessional staff, payroll, benefits, and all other aspects of Human Resources into the District's department. 2. <u>Finance</u>: To integrate all aspects of the Blanchard School's financial operations into the District's finance office including but not limited to purchasing, accounts receivable, debt service, etc. 3. <u>Pupil Services</u>: to fully integrate all aspects of Pupil Services of the Blanchard School including special education, nursing, counseling, english language learners services into and within the District's Pupil Services offices. 4. <u>Educational Technology</u>: to integrate all aspects of the Blanchard Schools' educational technology, curriculum, hardware and software into the District Ed Tech office. 5. <u>Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning</u>: to support all aspects of the Blanchard School's curriculum, instruction and assessment and integrate professional learning offerings into the District office of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning. 6. <u>Facilities</u>: to integrate all aspects of the Blanchard School physical plant including building, grounds, maintenance, custodial services and energy management to the District's facilities and transportation office.
Measurable Outcomes:
1. to complete the integration of the six strategy areas during the school year
Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed):
December 2013, February 2014, April 2014, and June 2014
Lead Parties:
Superintendents Stephen Mills and Curtis Bates and their Central Office staffs
Progress Reports
To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June
February Update -
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Personnel</u>: Through weekly meetings of the Regionalization transition team, we have completed a review of all positions in all three districts and planned for reductions and realignments to best support the newly expanded PreK-12 Region. Employees have been notified of changes. Salary mapping has taken place for all Boxborough Public School employees to support the FY '15 AB budget. Presentations have been made to Blanchard faculty to keep the informed of the process and outcomes of these transitions.

2. **Finance**: Efforts began over the summer of 2013 to build a brand new, unified Chart of Accounts for the new expanded Regional School District. Those efforts are largely done, and testing is continuing by MUNIS, the Region's software vendor throughout the month of February, 2014. The first unified budget, including accounts for the Blanchard School in Boxborough, was published in January, 2014 and is under deliberation by the Transitional School Committee at the moment. Once the accounts have been tested, additional training will be performed at the Blanchard School for staff throughout the spring.
3. **Pupil Services**: Given that the two Pupil Services Coordinators are already stretched, pre-regionalization, a change in infrastructure is required based on numbers, responsibilities, and breadth of accountability. Restructuring is recommended for a K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 coordinator and further envisions that the supervision and evaluation of speech and language specialists completion of assessments, and social pragmatic and bullying prevention mandates for Autism Spectrum Disorders will be done by a .4 FTE speech/language chairperson.

In addition to emergency response, the two Pupil Services Coordinators have responsibilities that include, but are not limited to, special education/504 eligibility, mental health coordination, program design and case management, outside agency coordination, parent support and outreach, supervision and evaluation, compliance with state and federal mandates. These responsibilities are not negotiable since they are critical to the development and guarantee that students will have equal opportunity to learn and achieve. These duties are critical not only to day-to-day operations but also to long range planning; remove one responsibility and the stability of program and design are jeopardized.

As a unified school district, the Pupil Services department is addressing the complexities of comprehensive student health, specifically, physiological and emotional factors that affect learning. In this regard, additional school psychologists are required system-wide to collaborate with regular and special education staff on academic, social and behavioral goals; provide direct service and on-going case management for at-risk students; provide daily monitoring of student safety plans; coordinate urgent care for students in crisis; address cases of school avoidance, anxiety and depression; offer parent support and intervention; offer therapeutic design, goal setting, and program implementation.

4. **Educational Technology**: The EDTech Operations team is currently supporting all of the Blanchard school's network, hardware, and software support. The staff has migrated to ABschools. Blanchard Technology Integration will remain primarily at Blanchard while spending some time working with staff in similar positions at the Region. The next step is to merge our two active directories to begin merging technical services.
5. **Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning**: Through meetings with Dr. Bates, reading specialists and teachers we have begun to ensure that any changes made are done with input from the teachers impacted and with regard to the implementation time line of new standards (i.e., science). District Determined Measures are being decided at district-wide grade level meetings including administrative representation from all 6 elementary schools. Professional learning offerings have been extended to all staff at Blanchard and the summer professional learning calendar will be distributed to all schools upon completion. Blanchard staff now have access to the district

Teaching and learning site through ABSchools. One of the Blanchard Reading Specialist positions will be realigned to the new district resulting in one Literacy and Social Studies Curriculum Specialist/Coach

6. **Facilities:** Light assistance is currently being provided. Staff has become familiar with the Blanchard building and operating costs are understood and have been built into the budget. Blanchard's capital plan has been assessed.

May Update -

1. **Personnel:** After the successful vote at Acton Town Meeting and anticipated success at Boxborough Town Meeting, the District is positioned to move forward hiring full time assistant principals at all of the elementary schools, some increased counseling services K-12 and some special education support at the Merriam School. Due to a retirement and the regionalization process, Deb Bookis is interviewing to fill curriculum specialist positions in English Language Arts, Math and Science. All APS and BPS positions will have been reviewed and transitioned to ABRSD prior to June 30th.
2. **Finance:** Acton Town Meeting approved the first expanded PreK-grade 12 school budget of \$76 million. We are in the final stages of completing the Intermunicipal Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with both towns.
3. **Pupil Services:** In addition to the February update, Liza Huber is preparing for her staff to have a fully integrated PreK-grade 12 Pupil Services team. The Pupil Services office is integrating all aspects of the Blanchard School into the District's operation.
4. **Educational Technology:** Through our current site-to-site VPN connection, EDTech has initiated a domain trust so that the "ab-hayward" and "blanchard.int" domains trust and validate one another. As a result, EDTech is ready to move forward with the completion of the "Active Directory Merger" project which will allow for more efficient management of Blanchard IT assets, including user accounts and computer group policies.

In an effort to secure a more robust video/data network, EDTech is seeking to establish a fiber connection between the Blanchard school and RJ Grey. The fiber connection will transmit and receive IP video traffic and school-related data services. The connection will also provide for live broadcasts of public meetings from the Blanchard facility and the ability to transmit TV programming into the building, as well. Currently, Comcast's Division of Government and Regulatory Affairs is exploring the opportunity to complete this project via their iNet service with both towns (service offered by Comcast to publicly funded institutional subscribers that provides high-speed voice, video, and data-services between key public facilities). Although we would like to see this completed by July 1st, if this connection is not established we are prepared to renew the needed services (monthly Internet service, annual support/maintenance of firewall/spam filters) to make sure that all of the crucial technology resources are available to the Blanchard school throughout the summer and into the school year.

5. **Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning:** see goal 2 update.
6. **Facilities:** JD Head and his staff are planning transportation routes now that kindergarten registration is complete. Approximately a dozen families will send their children to school in the other town.

Goal #2: Create or identify district-determined measures for all educators and administrators Pre-K to grade 12. Keep district and community apprised of new PARCC assessments.

Relevance to LRSP: Goal #2

Statement of Purpose: The Districts are committed to preparing students by providing them with the knowledge, and intellectual and reflective skills they will need to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Strategies:

1. Participate in MA DESE webinars and information sessions to build own knowledge of DDMs and State's expectations.
2. Meet with all district leadership teams to share connection between DDMs and the educator evaluation process.
3. Work with Principals and Department Leaders to build assessment literacy and keep them apprised of the State's expectations.
4. Contract with consultants to build understanding and use of formative assessment.
5. Convene DDM Task Force to determine district protocols, plan for professional learning, explore technology needs, and write contract language.
6. Use district-wide grade level meetings to identify APS and Blanchard educator DDMs.
7. Communicate PARCC pilot expectations and information to the School Committees, district leadership, educators, and parents.

Measurable Outcomes:

1. DDMs articulated for all educators and administrators.
2. District DDM Plan submitted to DESE in June.
3. Professional Learning opportunities scheduled and completed.
4. DDM Task Force objectives completed.
5. Documentation for PARCC pilot.

Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed):

June 2014

Lead Parties:

Superintendent, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

Progress Report

To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June

February Update –

1. Participate in MA DESE webinars and information sessions to build own knowledge of DDMs and State's expectations.
 - Webinars 1-6 completed. Brought school leadership group to DESE information session.
2. Meet with all district leadership teams to share connection between DDMs and the educator

evaluation process.

- Fall meetings with leadership groups completed.
3. Work with Principals and Department Leaders to build assessment literacy and keep them apprised of the State's expectations.
 - Ongoing work with Principals and Department Leaders.
 4. Contract with consultants to build understanding and use of formative assessment.
 - Contracted with Teachers21 Consultant to work with high school departments. Investigating consultant help for junior high per JH administration feedback.
 5. Convene DDM Task Force to determine district protocols, plan for professional learning, explore technology needs, and write contract language.
 - On hold as contract language just released January 30th. MASS and MASC do not support contract language. Awaiting further information from DESE.
 - Investigated Possibility of EDWIN Analytics as possibility for technology storage. DESE has not made it available. Working with EdTech department to explore other storage systems.
 - Planning PL with EdTech for teachers to have direct access to class MCAS SGP data. HS consultant focusing on formative common assessment.
 6. Use district-wide grade level meetings to identify APS and Blanchard educator DDMs.
 - Five of seven meetings completed and DDMs determined. Final two meetings take place in February.
 7. Communicate PARCC pilot expectations and information to the School Committees, district leadership, educators, and parents.
 - School committee update. Website posting. Letter template for principals. PPT for Principals. Registration for PARCC training and phone conferences completed.

May Update –

1. All meetings with Principals and Department Leaders to build assessment literacy and keep them apprised of the State's expectations will be completed in May.
2. Teachers21 Consultant worked with high school departments focused on formative assessment and pre-assessment.
3. The DDM Task Force's investigation of using EDWIN Analytics for technology storage continues. They are currently working with the EdTech department to explore other storage systems with a focus on our Google platform. Planning Professional Learning with EdTech for teachers to have direct access to class MCAS Student Growth Percentile data. Waiting for teacher access to EDWIN.
4. All grade level meetings are completed and DDMs for each grade level have been decided.

Goal #3: Fully implement new Massachusetts Educator Evaluation System and report outcomes to state.
Relevance to LRSP: Goal #3
Statement of Purpose: Fully implement new Massachusetts Educator Evaluation System. Phase in 50% of staff in September 2013 and 50% in September 2014. Report outcomes to DESE through annual EPIMS (Educator Personnel Info Management System) report in June 2014.
Strategies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use pilot feedback to inform updates of forms, procedures and contract language for full implementation. 2. Finalize contract language and secure ratification votes from School Committee and AEA. Submit approved contract language to DESE in September, 2013. 3. Use “train the trainer” model to train evaluators about each aspect of the evaluation system so that they can train teachers and lead their departments/schools through the process. 4. Calibrate ratings for Exemplary, Proficient, Needs Improvement and unsatisfactory with all evaluators for consistency throughout the district. 5. Fully implement Teachpoint with AB’s tailored forms. Train all staff. Use reports to report outcomes to DESE in June EPIMS report.
Measurable Outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successfully train evaluators and teachers so that educators are able to set goals and evaluators are completing a minimum of seven observations, follow up conversations and written summary for all teachers. 2. Obtain positive ratification votes from School Committee and AEA and submit final contract language to DESE in September. 3. Evaluators will complete summative evaluations by June 1, 2014. 4. Evaluators and teachers will provide feedback that will inform plans for full implementation. 5. All staff will be trained and using Teachpoint by October 15 for self-reflection, goal submittals and observation feedback. 6. Successfully submit EPIMS report in June, 2014 which includes ratings for at least 50% of professional staff.
Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed): By June 2014
Lead Parties: Superintendent, Director of Personnel, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Principals and all Department Leaders
Progress Report To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June
February Update - Full implementation of the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation System has taken place for all evaluators and 50% of teachers. Training and plans are in place to move to 100% implementation on September 1, 2014. The contract language was ratified by the AEA and the School Committee and submitted to DESE the first week of September.
May Update – 50% of teachers have been evaluated this year including 7 observations, 2 goals and regular meetings with evaluators. Summative meetings and reports will be completed by June 1 st . Fully 100% of educators will be on evaluation plans starting September 2014.

Goal #4 Create a new two tier K – 12 Regional Transportation system for the 2014 / 2015 academic year fully integrating all (regular education) student transportation needs for students of Acton and Boxborough.

Relevance to LRSP: Goal #1

Statement of Purpose: The purpose is to provide safe, reliable, and timely transportation to our regular education students both to and from school and their respective activity programs when applicable. Additionally, it is our goal to transition from a three-tiered system to a two-tiered system where as all six primary schools are transported concurrently.

Strategies:

1. Bring all regular student transportation operations into our existing APS / ABRSD operation.
2. Assign an appropriate number of buses to individual primary schools while grouping the McCarthy Towne and Merriam schools as well as the Gates and Douglas schools.
3. Combine all existing student transportation related financial resources that currently are allocated for student transportation in the BPS / APS / and ABRSD district budgets to fund the new K – 12 ABRSD transportation system.
4. Identify appropriate strategies to retain existing drivers and hire the necessary additional qualified individuals to fulfill the needs of the system.

Measurable Outcomes:

1. Build a system utilizing budget within 5% of the existing APS / BPS / ABRSD respective transportation budgets.
2. Build a system that can be successfully implemented by start of the 2014 / 2015 academic year.

Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed):

Submitted for review December 2013, February 2014, April 2014, and June 2014.

Lead Parties: Director of Facilities and Transportation

Progress Report

To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June

February Update – As of this date our transportation department has exhaustively analyzed the possibility of implementing a single tiered elementary transportation network for all 6 schools running concurrently. As a result of going through this process we have determined that there are too many unknown issues to implement this system to begin the school year September 2014. Our plan for 2014 / 2015 School year will be to run Gates, Douglas, and Blanchard on the “early schedule” and Conant, McCarthy Towne, and Merriam on the “late schedule.” We will continue to explore the idea of a single tier system for the following school year.

May Update – No change since February.

Personnel Office
Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools

TO: Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee
DATE: April 19, 2014
FROM: Dr. Mills and Marie Altieri
SUBJECT: Choice Recommendation

As we move to the newly expanded Region, we will be merging Boxborough's Elementary School Choice program with the Acton-Boxborough Regional Jr. and Sr. High School Choice Program. The two revolving accounts will also be merged into a single account. The Region has only been accepting siblings of current school choice students for the last few years. Due to space constraints and class size issues, we are recommending that we continue to accept siblings of choice students K-12 for the 2014-2015 school year. There are a total of 3 siblings of students that are currently Blanchard choice students.

This vote must be taken annually at a public hearing and DESE must be notified by June 1 of each year. The attached chart shows you the history of school choice and the current balances of the revolving accounts. We expect to be able to increase charges to the revolving account in next year's budget due to recent growth in revenue.

Recommended Motion:

To approve the administration's recommendation that the Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools participate in the state's School Choice program in academic year 2014-2015 by only accepting siblings of existing Acton-Boxborough Regional School Choice Students and siblings of existing Boxborough Public School Choice Students.

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District										
School Choice Projections										
FY08-FY13										
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15		
# of Students										
Total ABRHS Choice	70	66	45	26	22	28	31	36		
Total JH Choice			2	8	11	9	16	12		
Total Choice 7-12	70	66	47	34	33	37	47	48		
AB FTE Supported by Choice	7.2	7.2	7.0	3.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8		
Elementary Choice (Blanchard)										
# of Students							28	23		
Total K-12 Choice Student Projection								71		

Donald Aicardi
Director of Finance
Acton Public Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools
978-264-4700 X 3205

DATE: April 28, 2014
TO: Stephen Mills
FROM: Donald Aicardi *DA*
RE: FY'15 TEC Bid Recommendation

On January 17, 2014, classroom and office supply estimates for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District were sent to The Education Cooperative (TEC) in Dedham. TEC compiles estimates from all member districts and does the bidding. On March 27, 2014, awards were made to the following companies:

ACCO Brands Corporation
Art Supplies Wholesale
Blanco, G.A. & Sons, Inc.
Blick Art Materials
CAM Office Services
Cascade School Supplies
W. B. Mason
National Art & School Supply
Office Depot
Pyramid Paper Company DBA Pyramid School Product
Sheffield Pottery, Inc.
Standard Stationery Supply Co.
Tree House

The administration recommends that we accept these vendors for the TEC bid.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

36 Charter Road


Acton, MA 01720

To: Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent
Cc: Steve Desy, ABRSD Athletic Director
Pat Garrison, Coach of the ABRHS Nordic Ski Team
From: Dr. JoAnn Campbell, Principal
Date: 4/15/14
Re: Donation

We have received an anonymous donation to the ABRHS Nordic Ski Team in the amount of \$5,000. The donor has requested that these funds be allocated to increase the annual budget for the ABRHS Nordic Ski Team in the amount of \$1,000 per year for each of the next 5 years.


We would appreciate it if you and the Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee would approve this generous gift, which will be used to support the team.

Thank you.



Article 21:

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Assessment




Motion

Mr. Bruce moves that the Town raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, \$ 49,690,145, to defray the necessary expenses of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, or take any other action relative thereto


[Majority Vote]

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



A-B Assessment Presentation Agenda



FY 2014 District Update

FY 2015 Budget

FY 2015 Budget Analysis

FY 2015 Assessment

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



New Superintendent Glenn Brand



- 20 years in Education
Experience in Canada & Massachusetts
- Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance - Sharon Public Schools
- Principal, Assistant Principal & Teacher



Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



Thank You Dr. Mills







- 36 Years in Education
- Acton-Boxborough
2009 – 2014
- “High quality instruction for every student in every classroom every day”*
- Thank you and good luck!

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014


Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Rankings



- U.S. News and World Reports - #10th Best STEM High School in the US (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- The Boston Business Journal #2 Best School District in Massachusetts
- Boston Magazine
 - 1st in AP Scores
 - 2nd in SAT Scores
- Academic Decathlon State Champions - 21 out of the last 22 years



Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



ABRSD Highlights





- ABRSD was one of only 14 districts in the U.S. named a Green Ribbon School District for outstanding conservation and sustainability efforts
- Healthier U.S. Challenge Award
- 12 Students National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- HS Trivia Team Competing in HS Quiz Show
- Student written play “Paper Stars” state finalist at MA Theatre Guild State Festival
- ABRHS Band awarded best international band at Ireland’s St. Patrick Day festival and parade.

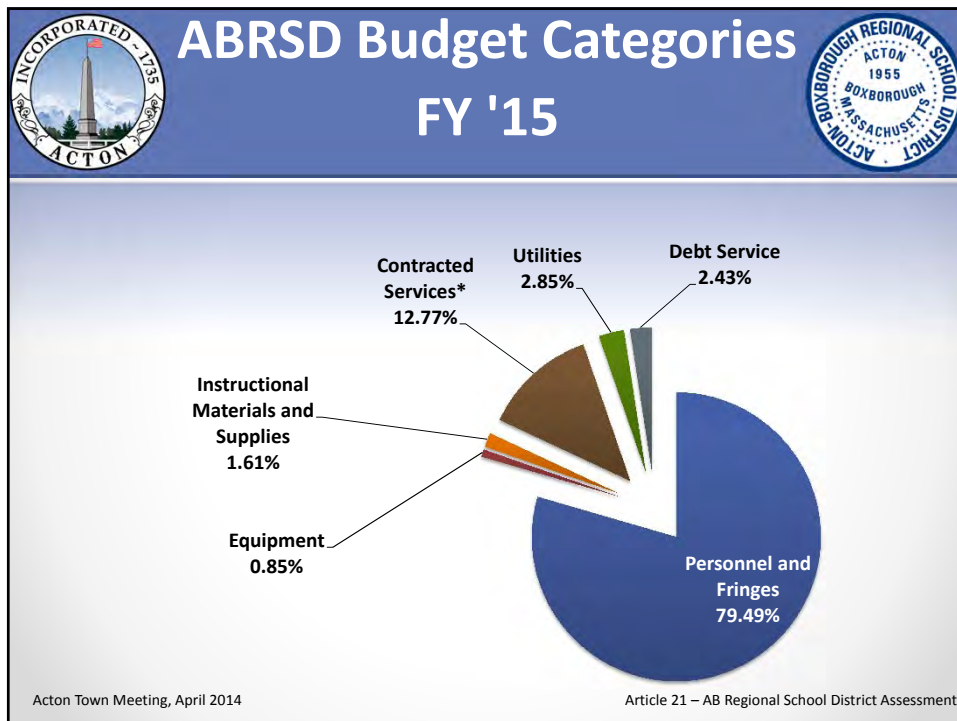


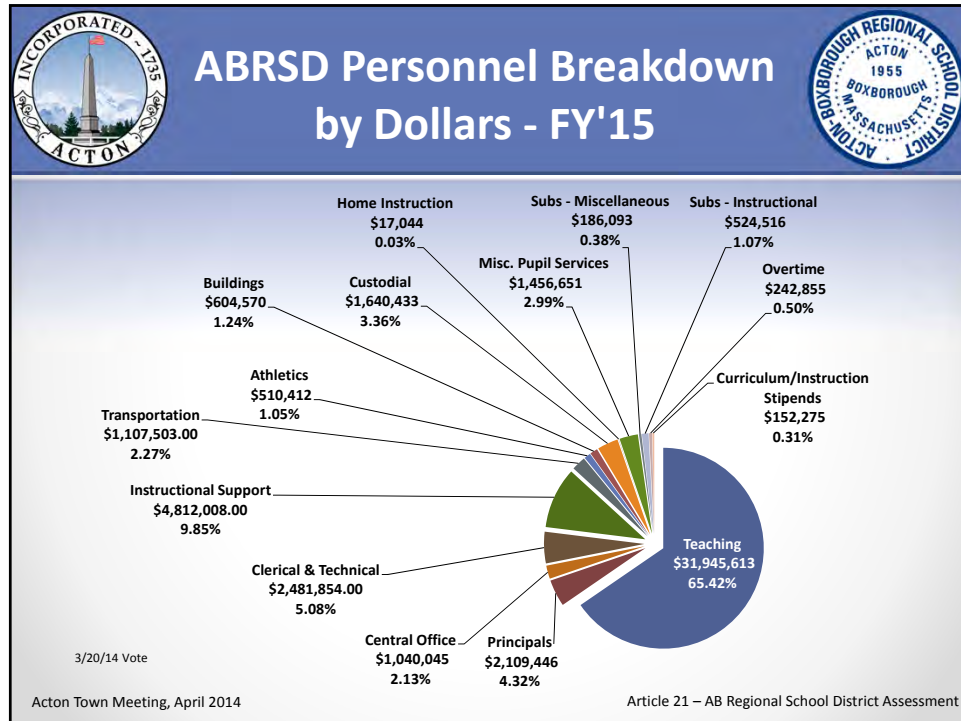

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">ABRSD FY'15</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Operating Budget</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">(in thousands)</p> </div>  </div>	
	A-B
FY'15 Budget	\$76,003
FY'14 Final (Constructed)	\$74,237
\$ Change from Final FY'14	\$1,766
% Change from Final FY'14	2.38%

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014
Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment






Financial Benefits from Regionalization

Additional Transportation Aid	\$550,589
Staff Regionalization Savings	<u>\$416,454</u>
TOTAL	\$967,043*

***Does Not Include \$139,000 in new Regional Bonus Aid**


Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



Budget Analysis Budget Drivers


(in thousands)




• Total Budget Increase	\$1,766k	2.38%
• CASE and Out of District Tuition Increase	\$1,068k	1.44%
• OPEB Increase	\$130k	.17%

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment




Overall Staff Changes




	FTE	Budget
Positions Reduced from Regionalization	4	\$416,454
Positions Reduced Original Budget	6	\$539,223
Additional Positions Reduced	3	\$161,240
Total Reductions	13	\$1,116,917
Additions from Realigned Positions	5	\$457,000
Net Staffing Reductions	8	\$659,917

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



New Staff: Move Half-Time Assistant Principals to Full Time



Multi-Year Plan

- FY '11** - Redeploy two Central Office Administrators to two Assistant Principals
- FY '14** - Added ½ Assistant Principal to Douglas
- FY '15** - Request Increase ½ time assistant principals to full time in all elementary schools


Costs = \$301,000

- Salary = **\$271,000**
- Health = **\$30,000**


Tasks

- Statewide recommendation for schools with over 400 students. Our schools average 500
- Direct service to students and implementation of new state initiatives: Common Core; PARCC Assessments; Teacher Evaluations
- Instructional Leadership: Work with teachers to implement Common Core Curriculum standards, oversee MCAS/PARCC, analyze data, review student work
- Teacher evaluation requirements go into effect Sept 2014
- Work with Principal to supervise 40 - 50 teachers and 40 - 50 other staff
- Works with students and families: Behavior, social/emotional, Child Study, Crisis Team responding to all student emergencies

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014
Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



New Staff: Special Ed and Psychological Supports




- Special Educator**
- Elementary Psychologist**
- HS School Psychologist**

Costs = \$156,000


- 0.4 SPED Teacher Merriam = \$21,000
- 0.6 Psych Merriam/McT = \$42,000
- 0.5 Psych ABRHS = \$35,000
- 0.4 Speech/Language Chair = \$28,000
- Health Insurance = \$30,000

<i>HIGH SCHOOL STATS</i>	2012-2013 Cases (for entire year)	2013-2014 Cases (as of March '14)
Hospitalizations for Mental Health	29	52 as of March
Concussions	90	69 as of March
STAR and Home Hospital	41	44 as of March

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014
Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment




Assessment



Assessment = Budget - Revenue

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment



Calculation of Final Assessments per Revised Regional Agreement


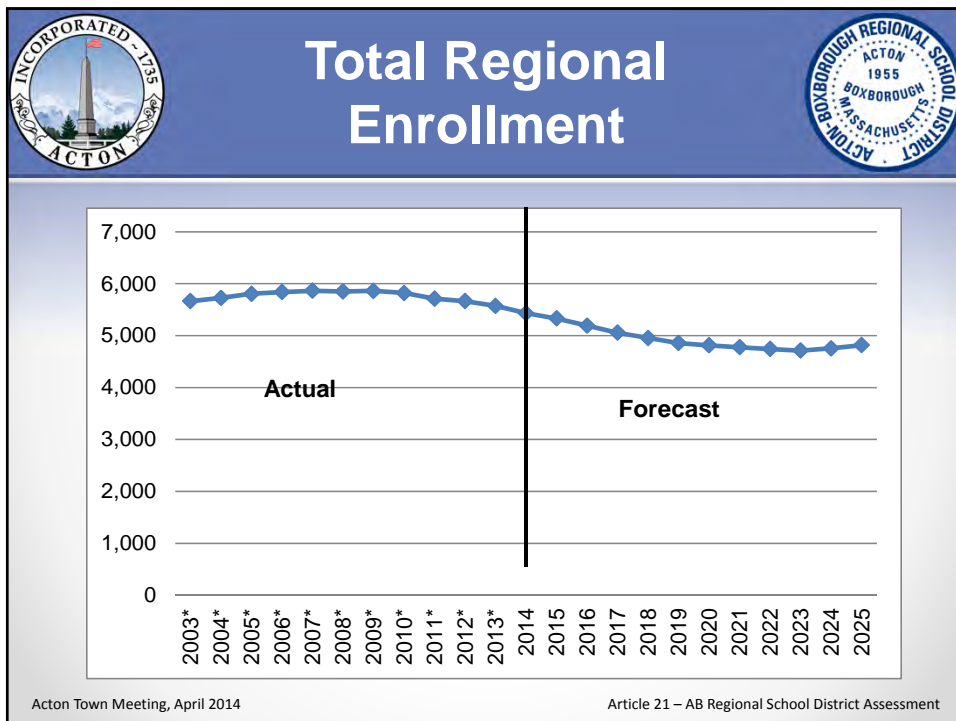
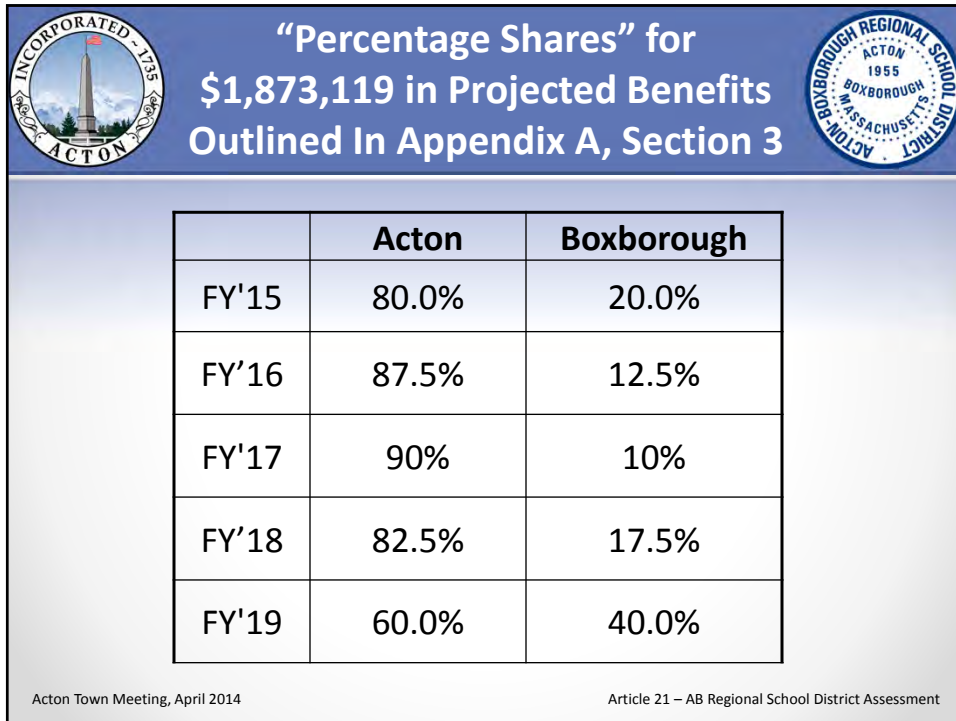




TABLE 6	TOTAL	Acton	Boxborough
FY15 Budget Assessments	\$60,284,723	\$50,751,311	\$9,533,412
Assessment % with Actual Budget	100%	84.19%	15.81%
Actual \$\$\$ Shift	\$0	(\$1,061,165)	\$1,061,165
Final Assessment FY15	\$60,284,723	\$49,690,145	\$10,594,577
Final Assessment % FY15	100%	82.43%	17.57%

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment





Article 21:

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Assessment

Motion

Mr. Bruce moves that the Town raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, \$ 49,690,145, to defray the necessary expenses of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, or take any other action relative thereto

[Majority Vote]

Acton Town Meeting, April 2014

Article 21 – AB Regional School District Assessment

Statement from the ABRSD Regional Financial Oversight Committee

April 7, 2014

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee created a sub-committee last fall to review the projected financial benefits of Regionalization proposed by the Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) and presented to both Town meetings in the Spring of 2013.

The expectation is that the sub-committee will be in existence for five years. It currently consists of the following members:

- Acton Selectman - Janet Adachi
- Acton Finance Committee – Bob Evans
- Acton Public School Committee – Michael Coppolino
- AB Regional School Committee – Maria Neyland
- Boxborough Selectman – Vince Amoroso
- Boxborough Finance Committee – Jim Ham
- Boxborough School Committee – Mary Brolin

The sub-committee held four public meetings in September, December, January and most recently, on March 25th. At these meetings, we discussed, analyzed and asked questions of members of the RSDSC as well as District Central Office staff. Two meetings involved discussions with the Schools' Finance Director Don Aicardi and one meeting involved Superintendent Stephen Mills, prior to Budget Saturday (2/1/14).

After reviewing in detail projected financial benefits, and comparing those with the budget approved by the AB Regional School Committee to be presented here at Town Meeting, we concluded unanimously that the reported cost-cutting and increased Regional transportation aid were accurate and consistent with projections made at both Acton and Boxborough Town Meetings in the Spring of 2013.

*Read at Acton Town
Meeting 4/8/14*