

*Office of the Superintendent*  
Acton Public Schools  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District  
<http://ab.mec.edu>  
(978) 264-4700 x 3211

TO: Acton Public School Committee Members  
FROM: Stephen Mills  
ON: May 19, 2011  
RE: **ADDENDUM**

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**3.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S INTRODUCTION**

3.4 Letter of Resignation

**7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.4 FY'11 and FY'12 Budget

7.4.1.1 SMARTBoard Survey Results: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers

7.9 2011-2012 School Calendar revision – **VOTE** – Steve Mills

(Elem Early Dismissal Day moved from Nov 2 to Nov 15 AND Apr 30 added)

**10.0 FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

10.11 "Students Make Their Mark" exhibit through May 30 at Acton Senior Center

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May 12, 2011

To the APS and ABRSD School Committees,

I regret that because of personal reasons I am resigning from the School Committees today.

I wish everyone the greatest success in this coming year. You have what are arguably the best faculty, central office, and staff in the Commonwealth. While you will face ongoing economic challenges, I am confident you will lead the Districts successfully through this coming year and into the next.

I thank you all for the opportunity I have had to work with you for the good of the community.



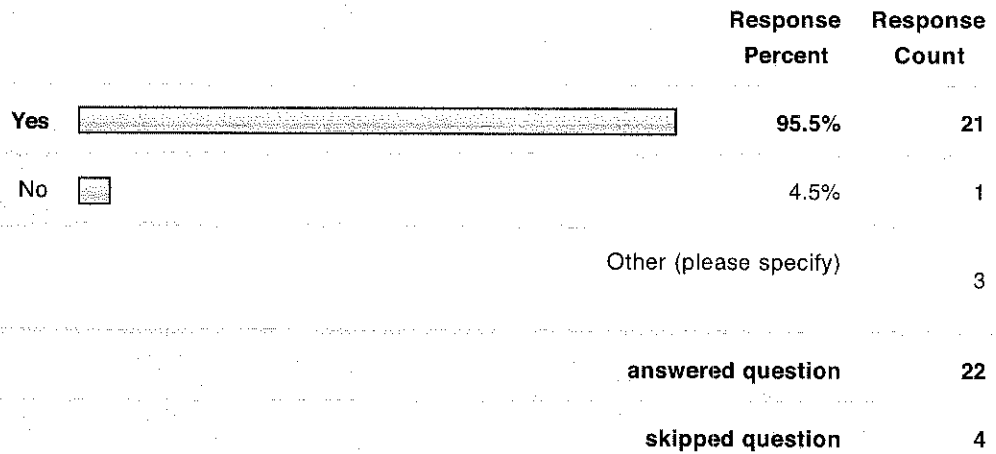
Terry Lindgren

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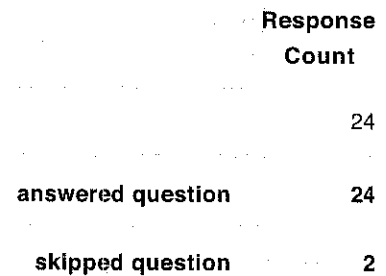
# SmartBoard Survey



1. As a teacher, do you feel having an interactive white board (SMARTBoard) in your class would positively impact student learning?



2. If you answered yes above, please briefly describe how you would use the interactive white board in your classroom. If you answered no, please provide some feedback as to what your concerns would be.



Q1. As a teacher, do you feel having an interactive white board (SMARTBoard) in your class would positively impact student learning?

- |   |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Sometimes!  | Jan 15, 2011 5:02 PM |
| 2 | I am not sure. I would need lots of training and support. | Jan 13, 2011 6:00 PM |
| 3 | There are so many potential teaching opportunities.       | Jan 12, 2011 8:26 PM |

**Q2. If you answered yes above, please briefly describe how you would use the interactive white board in your classroom. If you answered no, please provide some feedback as to what your concerns would be.**

- 1      The interactive whiteboard provides a unique opportunity to meet the needs of our diverse populations. Visual learners, in particular, benefit from visual stimuli, whether in the form of video clips, photographs, maps, etc. The inherent interactive feature allows students to engage more fully in the student-learning activity. Jan 18, 2011 5:24 PM
- 2      I would be excited to be able to integrate what I teach with the internet and all that is available. Having to take my class of first graders to the computer lab just to watch a sixty second clip on what we are learning is sometimes worth the time, but with six year olds it takes a lot more than five minutes! I would be able to demonstrate what we are learning and organize lessons so that they are not lost from year to year. Jan 16, 2011 2:23 PM
- 3      No and Yes... No: I firmly believe that our little ones need direct teacher contact during most meetings and lessons. Rugtime allows teachers of young children to employ countless individualized and group strategies that promote attending and learning-to-attend, facilitating lesson-learning and developing social skills. Yes: That said, I am a BIG InFocus user; we research and watch volcanoes erupt and... With a SMARTBoard, I know this would be easier to manage. In addition, I have limited white board space, and a SMARTBoard would probably help me better deliver board-lessons. My greatest HOPE is that it be understood, that developmentally, table sitting time is limited in the lower grades and we would not be using the SMARTBoard in place of the easel and grouptime on the rug. Jan 15, 2011 5:02 PM
- 4      It would enhance all of our curriculum, especially math. Our math curriculum includes a lot of technology that is not able to be utilized without a SMARTBoard. Jan 14, 2011 3:02 PM
- 5      I would most definitely use the interactive white boards in my first grade classroom. At this time I'm using an overhead projector to present math lessons which is difficult as the whiteboards make glare and a screen isn't interactive. A SMART board would allow me to have interactive lessons. I use an infocus machine quite often. It is not reliable and a pain to set up. I just used it to show the children a video about MLK and the speakers didn't work well and it took about 15min to set up for a 3 min video. The SMARTboard would allow me to present material and info quickly. I could also have children working on interactive reading etc. while I am in working with other children- a great teaching tool. Jan 14, 2011 3:02 PM
- 6      My concern is that we don't have enough support. I'm all for using technology in the classroom, but we need to have a FULL-TIME technology teacher who can support teachers in planning and integrating new ways to deliver instruction. Jan 14, 2011 7:26 AM

**Q2. If you answered yes above, please briefly describe how you would use the interactive white board in your classroom. If you answered no, please provide some feedback as to what your concerns would be.**

- |    |  |                       |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 7  | <p>It is hard to be brief with all the possibilities I have seen or heard about! The potential to motivate first grade students by allowing them to manipulate: - letters to make words - text to put stories in order - pictures to match with vocabulary in science is boundless. Whenever I ask anyone who has a SMARTboard how they like it, they talk about the simplicity of showing short videos to enhance a lesson, the ability to go to literacy sites like Starfall and have the children interact with the text and how Powerpoint presentations can be made more interactive. Our Math series has a link to daily lessons that you can project on a SMARTboard and actually demonstrate how to do the problems on the page on a large screen instead of trying to hold up and point to a regular workbook size page and have 23 students try to see and follow along! I understand you can access reading series as well! You can have a large screen size version of books where students can all see the words clearly. You can highlight words, replay lines to practice fluency, mask text and have the students fill in missing words to enhance comprehension or vocabulary. There are also so many ready-made lessons that you can access, as well as teacher support pages. On one page a teacher asked how to put sight words on a 3-D dice for students to play a game and other teachers respond with the steps on how to do it! I think the possibilities for engaging students, making learning fun, enhancing the lessons and the teaching and learning that is already taking place is vast. I can't wait to start! I think having a SMARTboard will be a game changer. Thank you.</p> | Jan 13, 2011 9:28 PM  |
| 8  | <p>opportunity to access web sites to use for teaching- social studies- accessing maps interactive writing and math in a dynamic way</p>   | Jan 13, 2011 5:05 PM  |
| 9  | <p>The students would become more active participants in their learning. The whole class would be able to share more off the internet, literature, music, any available visuals....</p>  | Jan 13, 2011 10:48 AM |
| 10 | <p>I would use it for more interactive lessons, to have the students more engaged with their learning (and participating), and to show educational clips and videos.</p>   | Jan 13, 2011 9:50 AM  |
| 11 | <p>I think an interactive white board would enhance the existing lessons I teach. I would be able to add more visual cues to my lessons. I would also be able to add movement to my lessons by allowing the students to interact directly with the white board. Overall, I think it would add more energy and excitement to my third grade curriculum.</p>   | Jan 13, 2011 9:42 AM  |
| 12 | <p>Since I don't have one right now, I don't know all the capabilities and uses, but our math curriculum has many interactive white board features/lessons which we don't use now. I would probably start there, and I'm sure I would find many more uses.</p>   | Jan 13, 2011 9:22 AM  |
| 13 | <p>I believe that technology is so important to our children. The interactive white board opens up many educational opportunities for our students. Examples of this would be the ability to have video clips to show the kids on any area of study, math manipulatives, language editing etc. There are SO many uses for an interactive white board that would further our children's education. I look forward to using this technology in my classroom, and the kids do as well. I am frequently asked when we will be getting on in our classroom.</p>   | Jan 13, 2011 9:14 AM  |

**Q2. If you answered yes above, please briefly describe how you would use the interactive white board in your classroom. If you answered no, please provide some feedback as to what your concerns would be.**

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|----|--|----------------------|
| 14 | There are a multitude of ways to use the Smartboard to enhance classroom instruction including instant accessibility to research, lessons being taught from the board, students being able to interact with information, video and audio capabilities for student work, and scanning work/lessons directly to the board. I think it would be a wonderful addition!   | Jan 13, 2011 9:12 AM |
| 15 | So often when doing a lesson not all the children can see the materials being presented. Being able to project papers or other materials so that all children can access it would be so helpful. I would love to be able to share save lessons for future use or even to give to children who were absent. There are so many great resources on the internet that would add to the curriculum (short educational video clips, pictures, etc.) it would be great to be able to share these with students.   | Jan 12, 2011 9:54 PM |
| 16 | I am eager to learn more about how to use this technology to enhance what I am teaching in the classroom. I would like to use this tool in math so make the math lessons come alive.   | Jan 12, 2011 8:26 PM |
| 17 | I am not as familiar with the SMART board so I answer as a novice user but I feel it would enable me to bring a whole other world into my classroom that would enhance the different areas of the curriculum I teach. For example I could bring my class to many different places in the world for our SSunit on Children Around the World and give them first hand views of some of the places their family is originally from and go on a virtual visit to England or Russia or J China. I would be free of the many cords and machinery that I need to set up and attach my computer to if I want to show a clip from a video that would be shorter than the time it takes to set everything up in my classroom. We could go to visit a science lab and see what real scientists do when they study something in nature. There is so much available on the internet that would be so great to show to children and enhance their learning but at this time I am unable to do this. Just to have use of an overhead projector is a project to make use of because of cords, moving furniture and then making sure no one trips on a cord. I know it is possible for student s to also be involved with what is being shown on the board but at this point I cannot explain the how of this. YET... | Jan 12, 2011 7:00 PM |
| 18 | 1. There are many teacher created resources/lessons for the smartboard on the web. 2. Some publishers are now creating smartboard lessons to accompany their curriculum. 3. I would not have to drag out my In Focus, computer stand, and all the electrical cords, move desks, rearrange children because either I or my large stand are in the way, all for a short but very valuable video clip, or photo on the web. 4. I believe I can actually save work we've done as a class to share with children that are out of the room or absent. 5. Everyone in the room can see all at the same time. 6. It's interactive. 7. I can save time by demonstrating a new application before we head off to the computer lab. 8. Maximizing the only computer in my room...the teacher's laptop. 9. No messy clean up. 10. Interfaces well with other devices: digital camera   | Jan 12, 2011 5:26 PM |
| 19 | It would allow class interactions with math activities, present more clearly webpages that children could see demonstrated and then work on themselves, and it would facilitate whole-class teaching.  | Jan 12, 2011 4:50 PM |

**Q2. If you answered yes above, please briefly describe how you would use the interactive white board in your classroom. If you answered no, please provide some feedback as to what your concerns would be.**

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|----|---|----------------------|
| 20 | I could dramatically impact our Social Studies curriculum of 'Kids Around the World'. The amount of video clips and other current information that I could easily access would have immediate impact on my instruction. An interactive white board would also better my teaching practice with current programs that are used for math and reading.   | Jan 12, 2011 4:15 PM |
| 21 | I would use the Smartboard to use the interactive issue of Scholastic News(I currently use a projector which is difficult) and other interactive games/activities for reading/language arts/phonics. Many websites(abcteach.com) that I already subscribe to have introduce, practice and review of skills in an engaging hands on way that i would be able to use to make learning more engaging for my students. By using this way of teaching, I will be able to reduce the amount of copy paper that is used. Using a Smartboard as a second grader is a jumping off point for all students who are growing up in a technology based society. | Jan 12, 2011 4:15 PM |
| 22 | It would be used to raise the level of student engagement in a classroom, motivate all students to participate and promote enthusiasm for learning. I would be creating lessons that would meet these needs and I would be able to utilize some amazing tools and sites for learning.   | Jan 12, 2011 4:10 PM |
| 23 | So many times I want to show the children something quick, like a 2 minute piece on the animals of the amazon rain forest and this is currently impossible without taking 30 minutes to set up the in-focus machine for a 2 min. piece. I would also love to save things from the day before that we didn't finish...currently due to whiteboard space I can't keep items up that we didn't complete.   | Jan 12, 2011 4:05 PM |
| 24 | projecting online films, interacting with online games or supporting lessons as a class, projecting the elmo, image capturing and interacting with images (manipulating cycles of a butterflies life into a chart etc.)   | Jan 12, 2011 4:00 PM |

Acton Public Schools  
 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District  
**SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2011-2012**  
**Bold Underlined Dates = No School Days**

**Proposed 5/16/11**

Aug.	M	T	W	T	F	Teachers' mtg. - Aug 29
Sept.	29	30	31	1	2	Schools Open - Aug 30
	5	6	7	8	9	No School - Sept. 2
	12	13	14	15	16	Labor Day - Sept. 5
	19	20	21	22	23	<b>HS Late Start - Sept. 23</b>
	26	27	28	29	30	Rosh Hashanah - Sept 29
						School Days - 21
Oct.	M	T	W	T	F	
	3	4	5	6	7	Yom Kippur - Sat., Oct 8
	10	11	12	13	14	Columbus Day - Oct. 10
	17	18	19	20	21	Elem Early Dismissal - Oct 26
	24	25	26	27	28	School Days - 20
						31

Nov.	M	T	W	T	F	Prof. Day - Nov. 1 (no school/students)
	7	8	9	10	11	<b>Elem Early Dismissal - Nov 15</b>
	14	15	16	17	18	Veterans Day - Nov. 11
	21	22	23	24	25	Half Day - Nov. 23
	28	29	30			Thanksgiving Recess - Nov. 24-25
						School Days - 18

*originally Nov 2*

Dec.	M	T	W	T	F	
	5	6	7	8	9	Jr. High. Early Dis. - Dec. 15 & 20
	12	13	14	15	16	Winter Recess - Dec. 24 - Jan. 2
	19	20	21	22	23	School Days - 17
	26	27	28	29	30	

No School and Delayed Opening Announcements air on: <http://ab.mec.edu>  
 TV Channels 4, 5, & 7 and radio stations WBZ, WEIM  
 Delayed Opening - delayed starting time.  
 NO SCHOOL SIGNALS: 2-2-2-2 6:30 AM - No School ABRSD, 7-12, ALL DAY;  
 2-2-2-2; 7:00 AM - No School ALL Schools ALL DAY;  
 1-1-1-1 7:15 AM - No School APS, K-6, ALL DAY

School Committee Meetings:  
 A-B Regional - 1st Thursday, JHS Library - 7:30 PM;  
 APS Local - 3rd Thursday, JHS Library - 7:30 PM (exceptions: Oct.-Mar. @ Elem. Schools). Check postings as locations may change.

Jan.	M	T	W	T	F	
	2	3	4	5	6	Schools Open - Jan. 3
	9	10	11	12	13	<b>JH AND HS Early Dis. - Jan. 5</b>
	16	17	18	19	20	Martin Luther King Day - Jan. 16
	23	24	25	26	27	Kindergarten Change-over - Jan. 23
	30	31				School Days - 20

Feb.	M	T	W	T	F	
	6	7	8	9	10	<b>JH AND HS Late Start - Feb 9</b>
	13	14	15	16	17	Presidents' Day - Feb. 20
	20	21	22	23	24	Winter Recess - Feb. 20 -24
	27	28	29			School Days - 16

Mar.	M	T	W	T	F	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	<b>JH AND HS Late Start - March 8</b>
	26	27	28	29	30	School Days - 22

Apr.	M	T	W	T	F	
	2	3	4	5	6	Good Friday - April 6
	9	10	11	12	13	Spring Recess - April 16 - 20
	16	17	18	19	20	Patriots Day - April 16
	23	24	25	26	27	School Days - 15
	30					- added

May	M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4		
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	Memorial Day - May 28
	21	22	23	24	25	School Days - 22
	28	29	30	31		

June	M	T	W	T	F	
	4	5	6	7	8	Graduation - June 1
	11	12	13	14	15	Last day - June 13 - 20
	18	19	20	21	22	(depending on snow days)
	25	26	27	28	29	School Days - 9
						<b>Total Days = 180 - 185</b>

7.9  
 (revised)  
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**“Students Make Their Mark”**

*Action Senior Center,  
50 Audubon Drive, Acton,  
through May 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Representative student artwork from Conant, Douglas, Gates, McCarthy-Towne and  
Merriam Schools, RJ Grey Jr. High, Acton Boxborough Regional High School*

*Reception for students, families, friends, teachers,  
Monday, May 16, 3:30 – 5:00 pm*

**Conant**

Christina Pathrose (5), Nisha Iyer (2), Erin Tobin (K)

**Douglas**

Emily Streeter (3), Mia Fillion (1), Christian Young (1)

**Gates**

Michael Li (4), Gabrielle Carlson (1), Sophie Hua (1)  
Rohit Dhar (1), Maria Redmond (1)

**McCarthy-Towne**

Avery Durrant (6), Victor Sun (4), Lexa Champoux (K)

**Merriam**

Taylor Finkel (5), Spencer Haigis (5), Spencer Follett (5), Avani Shah (5)  
Lauren Kholsa (5), Annie Lye (5), Ashlyn Durkin (5), Katerina Barbas (5),  
Sam Metcalf Wallace (5), Jake Durkin (4), Michael Shi (3)  
Nicole Marcin-Van Meter (3), Joe Lister (3), Lucy Mann (3), Will Hemond (3)  
Brendt Wang (3), Nick Hunsinger (3), Alex Zhang (3), Dante Blasi (3)

**RJG**

Mason Kolb (7), Julia Friend (7), Tomas Kis (7)  
Lily He (8), Ailish Tighe (8), Marielle Doucette (8)

**ABRHS**

Cathy Kuang (9), Julia Paratore (9), Maddie Stewart (9), Emerson West (9)  
Morgan Baum (10), Qianhui Gao (10), William Hartman (10)  
Kathy Lu (10), Breanna Taylor (10)  
Chrissy Connors (12), Rachel Frazee (12), Sunny Li (12)