

*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: February 15, 2012  
RE: **ADDENDUM**

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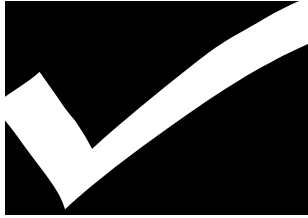
**ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING:**

6.0 APS SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 6.3 FY'13 Budget - *Steve Mills, Don Aicardi*
  - 6.3.1 ALG Report – *Xuan Kong*
    - 6.3.1.2 Materials from 2/16/12 meeting
  - 6.3.3 APS FY'13 Budget Discussion and **VOTE** – *Steve Mills, Don Aicardi*
    - 6.3.3.2 Art/Music/Physical Education Specialists – *Deborah Bookis*
    - 6.3.3.4 Early Childhood Programming – *Liza Huber*
    - 6.3.3.5 Presentation Slides (*brought to meeting*)
- 6.5 EDCO Update – *Steve Mills*

7.0 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- 7.7 “Pledge” Motion Hearing held 2/13/12, Jane & John Doe and the American Humanist Association v. Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, the Town of Acton Public Schools and Dr. Stephen E. Mills, Superintendent of Schools, (Original complaint posted 12/2/10 addendum at <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings10-11.shtml>)



# Acton Leadership Group Meeting

February 16, 2012

**5:00 PM**

**Town Hall, Faulkner Hearing Room 204**

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Bart Wendell Facilitating

## ----- Agenda Topics -----

Comments

----- Agenda Topics -----		
		<u>Comments</u>
1. Approve Minutes of January 30, 2012	General Discussion	
2. Review FY 13 Plan (Incorporating the Town Manager and School Superintendent budget reductions)	General Discussion	Reach Consensus on: 1) Revenue Assumptions 2) Reserve Use 3) Expense Allocation
3. Public Comments	ALL	
4. Next Meetings: February 28 March 8 and 22 (Tentative)		
5. Adjourn		

**Town of Acton Multi-Year Plan**  
Prepared for Annual Town Meeting by the Acton Leadership Group

2/14/2012

Town of Acton Revenues	FY11 Recap	FY12 Recap	FY13	FY14	FY15
<b>A. Revenues (GROSS)</b>					
Tax Levy (excluding debt exclusion)	\$62,108	\$63,764	\$66,398	\$68,499	\$70,653
State Aid	\$12,010	\$12,092	\$12,216	\$12,827	\$13,469
EdJobs (Acton share of APS & ABRSD for school use in FY13)	\$0	\$0	\$741	\$0	\$0
Local Receipts	\$3,788	\$3,906	\$3,980	\$4,080	\$4,182
Debt Exclusion	\$3,098	\$3,073	\$3,034	\$2,928	\$2,902
SBAB Reimbursement	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$1,009
<b>Total Revenues (including debt)</b>	<b>\$82,012</b>	<b>\$83,845</b>	<b>\$87,378</b>	<b>\$89,343</b>	<b>\$92,214</b>
<b>B. Debt Exclusion Debt Service</b>					
APS School Debt Exclusion	\$619	\$611	\$615	\$614	\$616
Public Safety Facility Debt Exclusion	\$394	\$483	\$473	\$462	\$451
Municipal Debt Exclusion	\$492	\$378	\$343	\$244	\$230
JHS/SHS Debt Exclusion	\$1,593	\$1,601	\$1,604	\$1,608	\$1,605
SBAB Reimbursement-Parker/Damon	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$1,009
<b>Total Debt Exclusion/SBAB</b>	<b>\$4,107</b>	<b>\$4,082</b>	<b>\$4,043</b>	<b>\$3,937</b>	<b>\$3,911</b>
<b>C. Available Town Revenues (NET) (A - B)</b>	<b>\$77,905</b>	<b>\$79,762</b>	<b>\$83,335</b>	<b>\$85,406</b>	<b>\$88,303</b>
Town of Acton Expenditures	FY11 Recap	FY12 Recap	FY13	FY14	FY15
<b>Town of Acton Municipal Budget</b>	\$24,545	\$25,061	\$25,936	\$27,233	\$28,595
Nursing Enterprise Fund Tax Subsidy	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$400	\$400
Transportation Enterprise Fund Tax Subsidy	\$0	\$75	\$246	\$240	\$240
FY11 ATM Article 13 (April 2010) & STM (June 2010)	\$151	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY11 Acton Municipal Capacity Not Utilized	(\$11)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
+ Transfer to Acton Municipal for APS Debt	\$309	\$309	\$203	\$198	\$132
+ Transfer to Acton Municipal for COPS	\$70	\$72	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Municipal Allocation</b>	<b>\$25,064</b>	<b>\$25,517</b>	<b>\$26,985</b>	<b>\$28,071</b>	<b>\$29,367</b>
Percentage change year-to-year		1.81%	5.75%	4.03%	4.62%
<b>Acton Public Schools Allocation</b>	\$26,289	\$26,495	\$27,413	\$28,373	\$29,867
- Transfer to Acton Municipal for APS Debt	(\$309)	(\$309)	(\$203)	(\$198)	(\$132)
- Transfer to Acton Municipal for COPS	(\$70)	(\$72)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total APS Allocation</b>	<b>\$25,910</b>	<b>\$26,114</b>	<b>\$27,210</b>	<b>\$28,571</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
Percentage change year-to-year		0.79%	4.20%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>Town of Acton Portion of ABRSD Allocation</b>	<b>\$28,849</b>	<b>\$29,207</b>	<b>\$30,645</b>	<b>\$32,177</b>	<b>\$33,786</b>
Percentage change year-to-year		1.24%	4.92%	5.00%	5.00%
<b>Total Minuteman Allocation</b>	<b>\$608</b>	<b>\$777</b>	<b>\$839</b>	<b>\$876</b>	<b>\$916</b>
Acton Share of Trade Hall Remediation Project			\$29		
Percentage change year-to-year		27.80%	7.94%	4.50%	4.50%
<b>Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Contribution</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Town of Acton			TBD	\$0	\$0
Town of Acton Portion of ABRSD Contribution			TBD	\$0	\$0
<b>FY13 Health Insurance Design Changes (TBD) (Acton Mun &amp; APS &amp; ABRSD)</b>			<b>(\$702)</b>	<b>(\$952)</b>	<b>(\$1,040)</b>
<b>FY13 Acton Municipal Budget Reductions</b>			<b>(\$200)</b>	<b>(\$210)</b>	<b>(\$221)</b>
<b>FY13 Acton Public Schools and Acton Portion of ABRSD Budget Reductions</b>			<b>(\$242)</b>	<b>(\$242)</b>	<b>(\$242)</b>
<b>Non-Recurring Expenses from Special Town Meeting Votes</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<i>Oct 25 2010 Caouette Land Purchase</i>	\$170				
<i>Oct 12 2010 Caouette Land Purchase</i>	\$257				
<i>June 14 2010 FY09-10 Fire</i>	\$86				
<i>Article 23 ATM Bridge Work</i>	\$210				
<i>Article 12 Police Sup Past Due</i>	\$31				
<b>D. Town of Acton Expenditures (NET)</b>	<b>\$81,184</b>	<b>\$81,615</b>	<b>\$85,035</b>	<b>\$88,292</b>	<b>\$92,565</b>
<b>E. Subtotal Town of Acton Projected Balance</b>	<b>(\$3,279)</b>	<b>(\$1,853)</b>	<b>(\$1,700)</b>	<b>(\$2,886)</b>	<b>(\$4,262)</b>
<b>F. Use of Reserves (TOTAL)</b>	<b>\$3,278</b>	<b>\$1,853</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>	<b>\$2,052</b>	<b>\$2,052</b>
<b>G. Total Town of Acton Projected Balance</b>	<b>(\$1)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$834)</b>	<b>(\$2,210)</b>
Town of Acton - Tax Impact	FY11 Recap	FY12 Recap	FY13	FY14	FY15
Existing Valuation ('000s)	\$3,640,774	\$3,640,774	\$3,664,283	\$3,687,253	\$3,687,253
New Growth value ('000s)		\$23,509	\$22,969	\$22,354	\$22,354
Total Valuation ('000s)	\$3,640,774	\$3,664,283	\$3,687,253	\$3,709,606	\$3,709,606
Tax Rate	\$18.08	\$18.50	\$19.01	\$19.44	\$19.44
SF Value	\$500,492	\$500,492	\$500,492	\$500,492	\$500,492
SF Tax Bill	\$9,048	\$9,261	\$9,516	\$9,728	\$9,728
% Change	3.16%	2.35%	2.76%	2.23%	2.23%
Highly volatile numbers Subject to change	\$277.08	\$212.66	\$255.18	\$211.93	\$211.93

Updated ALG 2/14/2012

Summary - Changes from Previous Version dated 7/20/11

2/14/12 4:25 PM

Location of Change (Sheet)	Subject Title	Amount	Explanation of why assumption changed	Date of Change	Proposor
Revenues-Local Receipts	Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	(\$40)	Revised FY12 Estimates Based on final FY11 estimates	20-Jul-11	John Murray
Revenues-Local Receipts	Fees	\$186	Revised FY12 Estimates Based on final FY11 estimates	20-Jul-11	John Murray
Revenues-Local Receipts	Investment Income	(\$20)	Revised FY12 Estimates Based on final FY11 estimates	20-Jul-11	John Murray
	<b>7/20/2011 Meeting</b>	<b>\$126</b>			
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Chapter 70	\$104	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Charter Tuition Reimbursements	(\$0)	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	School Lunch	\$1	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Unrestricted General Government Aid	\$110	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Police Career Incentive	(\$10)	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Veterans Benefits	\$2	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Exemptions: Vets, Blind, Surviving Spouses & Elderly	\$2	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	State Owned Land	\$5	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Public Libraries	\$1	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
	<b>7/20/2011 Meeting</b>	<b>\$214</b>			
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	Mosquito Control Projects	\$1	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	Air Pollution Districts	\$0	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	Metropolitan Area Planning Council	\$0	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	\$0	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	MBTA	\$2	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	Regional Transit	\$0	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	School Choice Sending Tuition	(\$5)	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
Acton FY12 Cherry Sheet-Charges	Library and School Lunch Direct Aid (Cherry Sheet Offsets)	(\$2)	Reflecting Final Acton FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
	<b>7/20/2011 Meeting</b>	<b>(\$2)</b>			
ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Chapter 70	\$111	Reflecting Final ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Regional School Transportation	\$70	Reflecting Final ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Charter Tuition Reimbursements	\$4	Reflecting Final ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Charter School Sending Tuition	(\$14)	Reflecting Final ABRSD FY12 Cherry Sheets (released July 11, 2011)	20-Jul-11	Don Aicardi
	<b>7/20/2011 Meeting</b>	<b>\$172</b>			
	<b>Revenues Increase/(Decrease) since last meeting?</b>	<b>\$510</b>			

Location of Change (Sheet)	Subject Title	Amount	Explanation of why assumption changed	Date of Change	Proposor
ABRSD FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Chapter 70	\$61.9	Reflects % Change for Acton Portion of AB Revenue from 79.81% to 80.67%	11/22/2011	Don Aicardi
ABRSD FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Charter Tuition Reimbursements	\$0.4	Reflects % Change for Acton Portion of AB Revenue from 79.81% to 80.67%	11/22/2011	Don Aicardi
ABRSD FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Charter School Sending Tuition	(\$3.0)	Reflects % Change for Acton Portion of AB Revenue from 79.81% to 80.67%	11/22/2011	Don Aicardi
Town of Acton Municipal Budget	+ Transfer to Acton Municipal for APS Debt	(\$106.0)	Reflects drop in APS Debt After FY12	11/22/2011	Don Aicardi
Acton Public Schools Allocation	+ Transfer to Acton Municipal for APS Debt	\$106.0	Reflects drop in APS Debt After FY12	11/22/2011	Don Aicardi
Town of Acton Portion of ABRSD Allocation	Acton Portion of APS	\$418.0	Reflects % Change for Acton Portion of AB Expenditures from 79.81% to 80.67%	12/2/2011	Don Aicardi
Reserves	Acton Portion of Certified E&D	\$6	Reflects % Change for Acton Portion of AB Revenue from 79.81% to 80.67%	11/21/2011	Don Aicardi
Acton FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Chapter 70	\$213	Reflects change in Foundation Budget formula for Inflation Factor from 2.5% to 3.6%	12/2/2011	Don Aicardi
ABRSD FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Chapter 70	\$100	Reflects change in Foundation Budget formula for Inflation Factor from 2.5% to 3.6%	12/2/2011	Don Aicardi
ABRSD & APS FY13 Federal Grants	EdJobs	\$19	Reflects final federal EdJobs number due to additional \$2.9 million made available	12/5/2011	Don Aicardi
	<b>12/8/2011 Meeting</b>	<b>\$815</b>			
APS FY13 Budget	FY13 APS Investment Budget	(\$9.0)	Reflects FY13 APS Investment request	1/4/2012	Don Aicardi
AB FY13 Budget	FY13 AB Investment Budget	(\$379.0)	Reflects FY13 AB Investment request	1/4/2012	Don Aicardi
FY13 Minuteman Allocation	FY13 Minuteman Allocation	\$27	Reflects current estimate for Minuteman plus \$27,000 for Trade Hall Remediation	1/4/2012	Don Aicardi
Total Revenue	FY13 Estimated Tax Levy Base	\$22	Reflects technical change post recap submittal	1/4/2012	Don Aicardi
	<b>1/12/2012 Meeting</b>	<b>(\$339)</b>			
FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues-APS	Chapter 70	(\$56)	Reflects Governor's Proposal of House #1 January 26, 2012	1/25/2012	Don Aicardi
FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues-AB	Chapter 70	(\$267)	Reflects Governor's Proposal of House #1 January 26, 2012	1/25/2012	Don Aicardi
FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Town of Acton	(\$42)	Reflects Governor's Proposal of House #1 January 26, 2012	1/25/2012	Don Aicardi
FY13 Cherry Sheet-Revenues	Acton-Boxborough	(\$35)	Reflects Governor's Proposal of House #1 January 26, 2012	1/25/2012	Don Aicardi
	Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Contribution	(\$500)	Reflects 1/12/12 ALG meeting	1/26/2012	Don Aicardi
	<b>1/25/2012 Meeting</b>	<b>(\$899)</b>			
FY13 Reserves	Free Cash	(\$192)	Reflects 1/30/12 ALG meeting	2/2/2012	Don Aicardi
	<b>2/16/2012 Meeting</b>	<b>(\$192)</b>			

**Revenues****Tax Levy**

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
	Recap	Recap			
Base	\$ 61,044	\$ 63,020	\$ 64,998	\$ 67,048	\$ 69,149
Unused Levy Capacity	(293)	(618)			
2 1/2%	\$ 1,526	\$ 1,576	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,676	\$ 1,729
New Growth	\$ 449	\$ 402	\$ 425	\$ 425	\$ 425
Prior Year Overlay Deficit	\$ (6)				
Overlay	\$ (612)	\$ (616)	\$ (650)	\$ (650)	\$ (650)
<b>Total Tax Levy (excluding debt exclusion)</b>	<b>\$ 62,108</b>	<b>\$ 63,764</b>	<b>\$ 66,398</b>	<b>\$ 68,499</b>	<b>\$ 70,653</b>
<b>Debt Exclusion</b>	<b>\$ 3,098</b>	<b>\$ 3,073</b>	<b>\$ 3,034</b>	<b>\$ 2,928</b>	<b>\$ 2,902</b>
Total Tax Levy (including debt exclusion)	\$ 65,206	\$ 66,837	\$ 69,432	\$ 71,427	\$ 73,555

**Tax Impact**

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
	Recap				
Existing Valuation ('000s)	\$ 3,640,774	\$ 3,640,774	\$ 3,663,014	\$ 3,686,093	\$ 3,708,447
New Growth value ('000s)		\$ 22,240	\$ 23,080	\$ 22,354	\$ 21,867
Total Valuation ('000s)	\$ 3,640,774	\$ 3,663,014	\$ 3,686,093	\$ 3,708,447	\$ 3,730,314
Tax Rate	\$ 18.08	\$ 18.41	\$ 19.01	\$ 19.44	\$ 19.89
		1.86%	3.25%	2.23%	2.35%
SF Value	\$ 500,492	\$ 500,492	\$ 500,492	\$ 500,492	\$ 500,492
SF Tax Bill	\$ 9,048	\$ 9,216	\$ 9,516	\$ 9,727	\$ 9,956
% Change		1.86%	3.25%	2.23%	2.35%
\$ Change		\$ 168	\$ 299	\$ 212	\$ 229

**Debt Exclusion & SBAB Income**

	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>
	<b>Recap</b>	<b>Recap</b>			
Debt on APS	\$619	\$611	\$615	\$614	\$616
Debt on JHS/SHS	\$1,593	\$1,601	\$1,604	\$1,608	\$1,605
Municipal Debt Incurred	\$394	\$378	\$343	\$244	\$230
Debt on PSF	\$492	\$483	\$473	\$462	\$451
<b>Total Debt Exclusions</b>	<b>\$3,098</b>	<b>\$3,073</b>	<b>\$3,034</b>	<b>\$2,928</b>	<b>\$2,902</b>
<b>SBAB Reimbursement - Parker Damon</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>
<b>Total Debt Exclusions + SBAB Reimb</b>	<b>\$4,107</b>	<b>\$4,082</b>	<b>\$4,043</b>	<b>\$3,937</b>	<b>\$3,911</b>

\$2,481

Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Contribution

Town of Acton

Town of Acton Portion of ABRSD Contribution

**Total OPEB Trust Contributions**

	FY11 Recap	FY12 Recap	FY13	FY14	FY15
Town of Acton	\$0	\$0	TBD	\$0	\$0
Town of Acton Portion of ABRSD Contribution	\$0	\$0	TBD	\$0	\$0
<b>Total OPEB Trust Contributions</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>



**Revenues**

**State Aid**  
 Cherry Sheet  
 Regional Revenue (Acton Share)  
 Total State Aid

	FY11 Recap	FY12 Recap	FY13	FY14	FY15
\$	6,261	\$ 6,190	\$ 6,350	\$ 6,667	\$ 7,001
\$	5,749	\$ 5,902	\$ 5,866	\$ 6,160	\$ 6,468
\$	12,010	\$ 12,092	\$ 12,216	\$ 12,827	\$ 13,469

	FY09 Cherry Sheet	FY10 Cherry Sheet	FY11 Cherry Sheet	FY12 Cherry Sheet FINAL	FY13 Estimate		
<b>Acton</b>							
Chapter 70	\$5,228,141	\$5,123,578	\$5,160,527	\$5,188,231	\$5,390,352	4%	Assumes Full Foundation Funding
SFSF Stimulus	\$0	\$357,131			\$0		
<b>Subtotal Ed Aid</b>	<b>\$5,228,141</b>	<b>\$5,480,709</b>	<b>\$5,160,527</b>	<b>\$5,188,231</b>	<b>\$5,390,352</b>	<b>\$202,121</b>	
Charter Tuition Reimbursements	\$11,331	\$5,967	\$3,880	\$9	\$9		
School Lunch	\$12,013	\$12,013	\$9,996	\$11,212	\$10,872		
Lottery, Beano & Charity Games	\$1,484,039	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
General Fund Supplemental to Hold Harmless Lottery	\$227,222	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Additional Assistance	\$29,696	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Unrestricted General Government Aid	\$0	\$1,232,453	\$1,183,155	\$1,097,608	\$1,097,608		
Unrestricted General Government Aid- <i>Supplemental</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Police Career Incentive	\$118,000	\$18,748	\$9,245	\$0	\$0		
Veterans Benefits	\$8,286	\$20,782	\$35,498	\$42,560	\$45,277		
Exemptions: Vets, Blind, Surviving Spouses & Elderly	\$38,932	\$37,687	\$38,099	\$36,566	\$37,564		
State Owned Land	\$62,997	\$56,752	\$51,904	\$53,760	\$53,777		
Public Libraries	\$33,363	\$25,937	\$25,729	\$25,780	\$26,691		
<b>Subtotal-Other</b>	<b>\$2,025,879</b>	<b>\$1,410,339</b>	<b>\$1,357,506</b>	<b>\$1,267,495</b>	<b>\$1,271,798</b>	<b>(\$4,303)</b>	
Mosquito Control Projects	(\$52,897)	(\$53,264)	(\$52,842)	(\$54,053)	(\$58,206)		
Air Pollution Districts	(\$6,571)	(\$6,601)	(\$6,749)	(\$7,048)	(\$7,354)		
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	(\$6,034)	(\$6,159)	(\$6,270)	(\$6,461)	(\$6,907)		
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	(\$8,820)	(\$9,740)	(\$8,860)	(\$14,520)	(\$8,100)		
MBTA	(\$107,610)	(\$108,703)	(\$107,508)	(\$107,395)	(\$73,959)		
Regional Transit	(\$22,908)	(\$23,481)	(\$24,068)	(\$24,670)	(\$68,565)		
Special Education	\$0	(\$1,056)	\$0	\$0	\$0		
School Choice Sending Tuition	(\$15,000)	(\$7,650)	(\$15,000)	(\$15,000)	(\$51,500)		
<b>Subtotal-Less Assessments</b>	<b>(\$219,840)</b>	<b>(\$225,654)</b>	<b>(\$221,297)</b>	<b>(\$229,147)</b>	<b>(\$274,591)</b>	<b>\$45,444</b>	
Library and School Lunch Direct Aid (Cherry Sheet Offsets)			(\$35,725)	(\$36,992)	(\$37,563)	\$571	
<b>Net Cherry Sheet-Town of Acton</b>	<b>\$7,034,180</b>	<b>\$6,665,394</b>	<b>\$6,261,011</b>	<b>\$6,189,587</b>	<b>\$6,349,996</b>	<b>\$41,712</b>	<b>\$160,409</b>
<b>Acton-Boxborough</b>							<i>Percentage of Acton Portion</i>
Chapter 70	\$5,413,736	\$5,305,461	\$5,492,159	\$5,622,000	\$5,622,000	0%	80.67%
Regional School Transportation	\$622,353	\$488,864	\$479,959	\$530,319	\$497,218	(\$15,994)	83.70%
Charter Tuition Reimbursements	\$113,901	\$63,297	\$87,963	\$34,542	\$31,646	(\$66,188)	80.67%
Charter School Sending Tuition	(\$328,937)	(\$281,507)	(\$311,279)	(\$284,542)	(\$284,520)	(\$22)	80.67%
School Choice Sending Tuition							
<b>Net Cherry Sheet-Acton Portion of Acton/Boxborough</b>	<b>\$5,821,053</b>	<b>\$5,576,115</b>	<b>\$5,748,802</b>	<b>\$5,902,319</b>	<b>\$5,866,344</b>	<b>\$18,868</b>	<b>(\$35,975)</b>

**Revenues**

**Local Receipts**

	FY11 Recap	FY12 Recap	FY13	FY14	FY15
Excise Taxes	\$ 2,515	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,665	\$ 2,732
Fees	\$ 999	\$ 1,101	\$ 1,210	\$ 1,240	\$ 1,272
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	\$ 84	\$ 86	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 190	\$ 120	\$ 170	\$ 174	\$ 179
<b>Total Local Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 3,788</b>	<b>\$ 3,906</b>	<b>\$ 3,980</b>	<b>\$ 4,080</b>	<b>\$ 4,182</b>

Variance to  
FY12 Projected?

	FY08 Recap	FY09 Recap	FY10 Recap	FY11 Recap	FY12 Recap	FY12 Projected	FY13 Projected	
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$2,690,300	\$2,865,000	\$2,514,503	\$2,514,503	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$0
Penalties and Interest on Taxes and Excises	\$140,200	\$180,000	\$148,573	\$148,573	\$106,500	\$148,573	\$148,573	
Payments In Lieu of Taxes	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,934	\$11,934	\$11,800	\$0	\$0	
Other Charges For Services	\$115,800	\$125,000	\$23,779	\$23,779	\$19,800	\$23,779	\$23,779	
Fees	\$338,100	\$360,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Misc	\$0	\$0	\$37,050	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Other Departmental Revenue	\$93,100	\$135,000	\$765,587	\$667,872	\$900,600	\$891,080	\$891,080	
Licenses and Permits	\$177,700	\$200,000						
Fines and Forfeits	\$127,600	\$160,000	\$146,812	\$146,812	\$62,100	\$146,811	\$146,811	
<b>Fees</b>	<b>\$1,004,000</b>	<b>\$1,171,500</b>	<b>\$1,133,735</b>	<b>\$998,971</b>	<b>\$1,100,800</b>	<b>\$1,210,243</b>	<b>\$1,210,243</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Investment Income	\$723,700	\$360,750	\$190,210	\$190,210	\$120,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$0
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$83,919	\$85,547	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Receipts-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,418,000</b>	<b>\$4,397,250</b>	<b>\$3,838,448</b>	<b>\$3,787,603</b>	<b>\$3,906,347</b>	<b>\$3,980,243</b>	<b>\$3,980,243</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**A. Beginning Reserve Position**

Certified Free Cash From Last Fully Completed Fiscal Year  
 Free Cash Voted Oct. 12, 2011 STM Vote  
 Free Cash Voted Oct. 25, 2011 STM Vote  
 Free Cash Voted Nov. 30, 2011 STM Vote

**Subtotal Certified Free Cash**

NESWC Available Balance  
 Acton Portion of Certified E&D from Last Fully Completed Fiscal Year  
**Total- Beginning Reserve Position**

For FY12 Use (thru June 30, 2010 close)	For FY13 Use (generated thru FY11 close)	For FY14 Use <b>Estimated</b>	For FY15 Use <b>Estimated</b>
\$4,650	\$5,933	\$5,747	\$5,085
(\$257)			
(\$170)			
<b>\$4,224</b>	<b>\$5,933</b>	<b>\$5,747</b>	<b>\$5,085</b>
\$2,435	\$1,859	\$1,468	\$943
\$1,366	\$1,507	\$1,197	\$882
<b>\$8,025</b>	<b>\$9,300</b>	<b>\$8,412</b>	<b>\$6,910</b>

**B. Actual Annual Use Of Reserves Used In Budget**

Certified Free Cash  
~~ANTICIPATED~~-Certified Free Cash for Nursing Enterprise at April, 2012 Town Meeting  
 NESWC  
 Acton Portion of Certified E&D

**Total- Actual Annual Use of Reserves Used In Budget**

**Annual Percentage Of Reserves Used to Support Annual Budget?**

FY12 Budget-FINAL	FY13 <b>TBD</b>	FY14 <b>Estimated</b>	FY15 <b>Estimated</b>
\$1,000	\$488	\$912	\$912
\$0	\$200	\$0	\$0
\$576	\$391	\$525	\$525
\$277	\$621	\$615	\$615
<b>\$1,853</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>	<b>\$2,052</b>	<b>\$2,052</b>
<b>2.27%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.32%</b>	<b>2.22%</b>

**C. Assumption of Reserve Replenishment Generated In Prior Fiscal Year**

**Townwide** Fiscal Year Turnbacks & Excess Revenues  
**Town** Savings from Reducing Acton Portion for ABRSD By Close of FY12 (5% Cap)  
 Unused Warrant Articles, Land Titles  
 NESWC  
**Anticipation of** Returning Acton Portion of ABRSD E & D By Close of FY12 (over 5% Cap)  
 ABRSD Fiscal Year Turnbacks-Acton Portion

**Total- Assumption of Reserve Replenishment**

(thru June 30, 2011 close)	(thru June 30, 2012 close)	(thru June 30, 2013 close)	(thru June 30, 2014 close)
\$2,709	\$250	\$250	\$250
\$0	\$252	\$0	\$0
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
(\$253)	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$672	\$311	\$300	\$300
<b>\$3,128</b>	<b>\$813</b>	<b>\$550</b>	<b>\$550</b>

**D. Year End Available Balance (A Minus B Plus C)**

Free Cash  
 NESWC  
 DOR Certified E&D Available Balance-Acton Portion  
**Total-Year End Available Balance**

**Projected Year End Available Balance As A Percentage of Annual Budget?**

Thru Close of FY11; (Available for FY13)	Thru Close of FY12; (Available for FY14)	Thru Close of FY13; (Available for FY15)	Thru Close of FY14; (Available for FY16)
\$5,933	\$5,747	\$5,085	\$4,423
\$1,859	\$1,468	\$943	\$418
\$1,507	\$1,197	\$882	\$567
<b>\$9,300</b>	<b>\$8,412</b>	<b>\$6,910</b>	<b>\$5,408</b>
<b>7.87%</b>	<b>10.01%</b>	<b>7.98%</b>	

## APS Specialist Proposal

**Deborah Bookis**

APS School Committee Meeting 2/16/12

### Effective Instruction

- Identifying what needs to be taught and nurtured
- Articulating most effective practices
- Developing a collective understanding of those practices
- Defining learning goals
- Determining evidence of student learning

## Primary Impact

- 2500 students
- Quantity of instruction
- Quality of instruction
- Three disciplines:
  - Art
  - Music
  - Physical Education

## How will the **quantity** be impacted?

- Regular, recurring class, grade or school basis
- Extra class for 5 weeks
  - 2,500 students=28,125 student instructional hours
- Extra class for grade level to be at specials at one time
  - Rotating basis
  - Once every 6 weeks
  - 2,500 students=11,250 student instructional hours

## Music Specialist Schedule

- Present

Monday - MCT	Tuesday - MCT	Wednesday - MCT	Thursday - Merr	Friday - Merr
8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45
Gr. 4 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 4 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 6 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 5 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 6 8:45 - 9:30
Gr. 3 9:35 - 10:20	Gr. 3 9:35 - 10:20	Gr. 5 9:35 - 10:20	Gr. 5 9:35 - 10:20	Gr. 6 9:35 - 10:20
Gr. 1 10:25 - 11:10	Gr. 2 10:25 - 11:10	Gr. 4 10:25 - 11:10	Gr. 5 10:25 - 11:10	Gr. 6 10:25 - 11:10
Gr. 2 11:15 - 12:00	Gr. 1 11:15 - 12:00	Lunch 11:15 - 12:00	ADK 11:20 - 11:50	Gr. 4 11:15 - 12:00
Lunch 12:05-12:30	Lunch 12:05-12:30	Prep 12:00 - 12:50		Lunch 12:05 - 12:30
Prep - 25 min. 12:30 - 12:55	Prep - 25 min. 12:30 - 12:55	Chorus 12:55 - 1:40		Prep 12:30 - 12:50
Gr. 5 12:55 - 1:40	Gr. 5 12:55 - 1:40	Prep 1:45 - 2:30		Chorus 12:55 - 1:40
Gr. 6 1:45 - 2:30	Gr. 6 1:45 - 2:30			All School Meeting 1:45 - 2:30
2:30 - 2:45	2:30 - 2:45	2:30 - 2:45		2:35 - 2:45

## Music Specialist Schedule

- Possible Version #1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45
Grade 6 - sec.1 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 1 - sec.2 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 6 - sec.2 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 6 - sec.3 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 3 - sec.3 8:45 - 9:30
9:30 - 9:45	9:30 - 9:45	9:30 - 9:45	9:30 - 9:45	Prep 9:30 - 10:15
Gr. 4 - sec.1 9:45 - 10:30	Gr. 2 - sec.1 9:45 - 10:30	<b>Chorus</b> 9:45 - 10:30	Gr. 4 - sec.2 9:45 - 10:30	Gr. 4 - sec.3 10:15 - 11:00
10:30 - 10:45	10:30 - 10:45	10:30 - 10:45	10:30 - 10:45	11:00 - 11:15
AMK - 25min. 10:45 - 11:10	Gr. 3 - sec. 1 10:45 - 11:30	<b>AMK - 25min.</b> 10:45 - 11:10	<b>Extra #1</b> 10:45-11:30	Gr. 5 - sec.3 11:15 - 12:00
11:10-11:15 (5min.)	Lunch/reset 11:30 - 12:05	11:10-11:15 (5min.)	<b>All School Meeting</b> 11:30 - 12:00	Lunch/reset 12:00 - 12:45
ADK - 25min. 11:15 - 11:40	<b>ADK - 25min.</b> 12:05 - 12:30	<b>PMK - 25min.</b> 11:15 - 11:40	12:00-12:15	Gr. 2 - sec.3 12:45 - 1:30
Lunch/reset 11:40 - 12:15	12:30-12:35 (5min.)	Lunch/reset 11:40 - 12:15		1:30 - 1:45
Gr. 5 - sec. 1 12:15 - 1:00	PMK - 25min. 12:35 - 1:00	Gr. 2 - sec.2 12:15 - 1:00		Gr. 1 - sec.3 1:45 - 2:30
Prep 1:00 - 1:45	1:00 - 1:15	1:00 - 1:15		2:30 - 2:45
Gr. 1 - sec.1 1:45 - 2:30	Gr. 5 - sec.2 1:15 - 2:00	Gr. 3 - sec.2 1:15 - 2:00		
2:30 - 2:45	<b>Teacher mtgs.</b> 2:00 - 2:45	Prep 2:00-2:45		

## Music Specialist Schedule

- Possible Version #2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45	8:30 - 8:45
Grade 6 - sec.1 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 1 - sec.2 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 6 - sec.2 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 6 - sec.3 8:45 - 9:30	Gr. 3 - sec.3 8:45 - 9:30
9:30 - 9:45	9:30 - 9:45	9:30 - 9:45	9:30 - 9:45	Prep 9:30 - 10:30
Gr. 4 - sec.1 9:45 - 10:30	Gr. 2 - sec.1 9:45 - 10:30	<b>Extra #1</b> 9:45 - 10:30	Gr. 4 - sec.2 9:45 - 10:30	Gr. 4 - sec.3 10:30 - 11:15
10:30 - 10:45	10:30 - 10:45	10:30-10:35 [5min.]	10:30 - 10:45	11:15 - 11:30
AMK - 30 min. 10:45 - 11:15	Gr. 3 - sec. 1 10:45 - 11:30	<b>Extra #2</b> 10:35 - 11:20	<b>Extra #3</b> 10:45-11:30	Gr. 5 - sec.3 11:30 - 12:15
11:15-11:20 (5min.)	Lunch/reset 11:30 - 12:15	<b>Teacher Meetings</b> 11:20-11:50	<b>All School Meeting</b> 11:30 - 12:00	Lunch/reset 12:15 - 12:50
ADK - 30 min. 11:20 - 11:50	<b>Chorus</b> 12:15 - 1:00	Lunch/reset 11:50 - 12:25	12:00-12:15	Gr. 2 - sec.3 12:50 - 1:35
Lunch/reset 11:50 - 12:25	1:00-1:05	Gr. 2 - sec.2 12:25 - 1:10		1:35 - 1:50
Gr. 5 - sec. 1 12:25 - 1:10	PMK - 30 min. 1:05 - 1:35	1:10 - 1:25		Gr. 1 - sec.3 1:50 - 2:35
Prep 1:10 - 1:55	1:35 - 1:50	Gr. 3 - sec.2 1:25 - 2:10		2:35 - 2:45
Gr. 1 - sec.1 1:55 - 2:40	Gr. 5 - sec.2 1:50 - 2:35	Prep 2:10-2:45		
2:40 - 2:45	2:35 - 2:45			

## How will the **quality** be impacted?

- Learning environments
- Continuity of instruction
- Record of student learning
- Student needs
- Family and community engagement
- Stronger candidates

## Numbers of students taught

- Specialists who work in two schools

Present	Full-time Building-based
<b>618-656 students</b>	<b>486-524 students</b>
Additional 6 classes in part-time school=132 students	

## LRSP Value #1

- We value an environment that promotes social development and emotional and physical well-being for the entire school community.
- Arts' rich research-base for emotional and social growth
- Physical Education promotes good health, collaboration, and life-long healthy habits
- We value these disciplines in the education of our students



## Specialists' Teaching Schedules

“The teaching schedules of elementary school specialists . . . will be arranged among specialists, teachers and the appropriate Administrators so that, to the extent reasonably possible, the teaching load of all such teachers within a given field will be comparable and consistent with the highest quality of education.”

“ . . . consideration will be given to necessary preparation time for classroom work, work with individual students, special programs and other teaching responsibilities.”

-ABRSD, SCTA, AEA 2010-2013 Agreement, 9.7.a

## Comparisons

- Districts researched have at least one full-time building-based specialist for each discipline

**Special Education Report  
With a Focus on  
Early Childhood Services**

**February 2012**

*By Liza Huber, Director of Pupil Services*

**Introduction**

Today, educational reform efforts at the state and national levels hold schools accountable for fully including all children with disabilities not only in the school building, but also in the school's general curriculum, the least restrictive environment, in most cases.

Massachusetts special education law (Chapter 766), passed in 1972, enacted in 1974, focused on access to public education by students who in some cases had been excluded by law or practice or both. Parents were the prime movers behind this law, believing that students with the most significant disabilities had a fundamental right to receive a public education that would enable them to maximize their potential. In this regard, parents formed unprecedented coalitions to ensure passage of this law and it became the one of the first comprehensive state laws in the nation that sought to guarantee that all students would be entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed the "Education for All Handicapped Children Act", enacted and approved as Federal Law, 94-142 (89 Stat. 773). Today, this is called the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)."

Within the IDEA, it is important to note that some states provide Early Intervention services from birth to age five (school entrance). In Massachusetts, Early Intervention provides services birth to three, with school districts picking up responsibility at age three.

**What is Early Intervention?**

Early Intervention is a process of providing evaluation and services to young children, birth to three years of age, who are found to be at risk given developmental concerns due to biological, medical or environmental factors. These identified special needs that may affect their health, early development or impede their education.

The purpose of early intervention is to lessen the effects of the disability or delay. Services are designed to identify and meet a child's needs in five developmental areas, including: cognitive development, physical development, social or emotional development, and adaptive development. Early intervention programs and services may occur in a variety of settings, with a heavy emphasis on the "natural environment". By definition, natural environments mean "settings that are natural or normal for the child's age peers who have no disabilities." (34 CFR §303.18)

The provision of early intervention services taking place in natural environments is not a guiding principles or suggestion, it is a legal requirement.

### **School Districts' Administrative Responsibilities**

State and Federal Regulations require that school districts meet a wide range of requirements; for the purposes of this memo, three key areas are highlighted:

**Child Find** is a component of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act that requires states to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities, aged birth to 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services. The process of identifying children who are at risk is ongoing throughout the school year through Preschool Screening and referral from Early Intervention.

**Young Children** requires that school districts evaluate young children, referred by Early Intervention, to ensure that, if eligible, special education services are available when the child turns three. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) must be in effect by the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**Provide Services** requires that special education and related services to all eligible children with disabilities must be based on each child's unique needs (not on his/her disability), and placements must be in the least restrictive environment appropriate to meet such needs.

### **School Districts' Programmatic Responsibilities**

Programs for young children three and four years of age require inclusionary programs, located in settings that include students with and without disabilities and meet the following standards:

- Services are provided in the home, the public school, or a licensed day care setting.
- For public school programs that integrate students with and without disabilities, the class size does not exceed 20 with one teacher and one assistant and no more than five students with disabilities.
- For public school programs that integrate students with and without disabilities, if the number of student with disabilities is 6 or 7, then the class size may not exceed 15 students with one teacher and one assistant.
- Additional staffing is required for any increase in group size and given the specific learning and therapeutic needs of the students enrolled.

## **Best Practices in Early Childhood Programming**

In 1971, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health opened 6 integrated preschools regionally across the state. These programs were opened to serve as models to school districts for educating young children with special needs, at age three. Common practice at that time was segregated programming for children. By the early 1990s, school districts were beginning to consider a more integrated model for educating young children and subsequent amendments to the IDEA required such shifts in programming.

In 1994, the Acton Public School special education administrators were grappling with the decision to continue to educate all young children with significant special needs at the CASE Collaborative or to place students in costly out-of-district placements. Parents, committed to local programming began to question this practice. In September 1994 Acton opened its Integrated Preschool Program, under the direction of Carol Huebner, Early Childhood Coordinator, who had previously directed one of the Department Public Health model programs. Acton became one of the first Integrated Preschools within the CASE Collaborative community and has served as a model for future program development, as all CASE communities now educate the majority of their young students with special needs using this practice. It has also led to the high level of inclusion of students with significant special needs matriculating throughout our schools, K-12.

## **Acton Public Schools' Tuition Setting, Rates, and Trends**

Since the APS Preschool opened in 1994, tuition has been collected annually from families of typical students.

In FY' 11, income generated from typical student tuitions are as follows:

<b>Half Day</b>	
26 Families	\$66,362
<b>Full Day</b>	
6 Families	\$25,110
<b>Total FY'11 Income Received</b>	<b>\$91,472*</b>

In FY '12, anticipated income from typical student tuitions are as follows:

<b>Half Day</b>	
26 Families	\$77,101
<b>Full Day</b>	
5 Families	\$34,380

**Total FY'12 Anticipated Income** \$111,481\*

Projected tuition income for the FY '13 school year the following can be assumed:

**Half Day**

28 families paying \$ 3410/year \$95,840

**Full Day**

14 families paying \$6610/year \$ 92,540

**Total FY'13 Anticipated Income** \$188,380\*

\*Sliding fee scales, assessed for specific families, impact exact tuition calculation

**Recommended Program Expansion**

Each year, budget planning for Early Childhood Services is based on the average number of children served in previous years. In recent years, the anticipation of 14 students has been projected and served us well. By October 2011, an additional 8 students had been referred by Early Intervention, many of whom are diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum (in addition to the 14 students previously anticipated and planned for). This necessitated an expansion of the Integrated Preschool in FY '12, and an additional half day class opened in December. For FY'13, this class will expand to an all day class to serve the identified students with special needs, along with their typical peers. The total anticipated revenue expected from the participation of typical students is noted previously, \$188,000 for FY'13.

TO: Acton and Acton-Boxborough School Committees  
FROM: Xuan Kong  
DATE: February 13, 2012  
SUBJECT: Update on Recent and Pending Education Collaborative Reform

## **Background.**

APS and AB belong to CASE and EDCO, two education collaborative established primarily for providing special education services to member districts. EDCO also provide many professional development programs.

EDCO actually has two separate legal entities (AB/APS are members of both). Education collaborative of Greater Boston, Inc. (ECGB) is a private not-for-profit organization established in 1969, pre-date the legislation that enables a public collaborative being formed among school districts. EDCO (public entity) was created after the education collaborative legislation was passed in late 70's. In addition to all public school districts (20 districts from 17 towns), ECGB has one more member: Archdiocese of Boston.

All student-related special education services are delivered through EDCO. ECGB currently has two multi-year contracts to provide education services to students in schools of the Archdiocese of Boston (via federal Title I and II Grant Programs) and comprehensive therapeutic services to adults living at the Wrentham Developmental Center (Habilitative Services Program).

EDCO and ECGB have been run by a shared administration (much like AB/APS). ECGB absorbs about \$250K of the combined operation overhead annually. ECGB currently hires about 40 staffs who provide direct services. They are not public employees thus are not subject to collective bargaining, tenure, or any public system pension/health care benefit post-retirement. Note: EDCO (public entity) staff currently are not unionized, not eligible for tenure, but are eligible for pension and other post-retirement benefits as any public employees.

## **Recent State-Wide Reform on Education Collaborative**

Recent reform on education collaborative (legislation in house-senate conference, expect to become law before the end of February) will require separation of the two entities. The current thinking of the EDCO administration and board is to dissolve ECGB (instead of running a separate entity with separate administration and governing board).

ECGB is the beneficiary of Seefurth Fund. The fund has enabled many professional development activities for its member district staff. The Seefurth Fund is likely to be transferred to EDCO upon an affirmative vote of its board. The remaining cash assets of ECGB are valued at \$700,000 at the end of FY2011.

## **Choices We Need to Make:**

Transfer Service Contracts. EDCO and ECGB Boards could elect to transfer service contracts to EDCO and continue to receive the financial benefit of overhead. However, EDCO (all member districts) will have to shoulder the future liability of the 40 new public employees (those currently employed by ECGB).

If the contracts are transferred to EDCO, there is a future risk that the adult service contract may not be allowed within 12 months. Currently, four public education collaborative state-wide delivers adult services and the commission to be established by the pending legislation will issue its recommendation within 12 month on whether public education collaborative should be allowed to continue to deliver services to disabled adults.

Terminate Service Contract. We could elect to terminate the service contracts and give up the overhead benefits. This will negatively impact the career of the 40 employees. Additionally, ECGB (all member districts) will be liable for unemployment benefits for these employees.

Cash Assets of ECGB. Remaining cash assets (\$700K less any cost related to dissolution of ECGB) can either be transferred to EDCO or distributed to ECGB members.

## **What Are the Next Steps for APS/AB?**

What information is required for SC to make an informed decision?

EDCO/ECGB boards have the authority to transfer service contracts from ECGB to EDCO. This action (transferring employees to public entity) would add a future retiree liability to our districts (and towns). Note: we were told by executive director that EDCO pension is currently over-funded but an actuarial study must be performed to determine the net impact of absorbing 40 additional employees.

What are the directions from SC to its EDCO/ECGB representatives?

Many decisions (transfer of service contracts, cash assets of ECGB) only require votes from board members. I would like to receive directions from the school committees on these issues as they may have long-term implications to our districts and towns. The board needs to take action before the start of fiscal year 2013.

Formal votes by SC to dissolve ECGB, Inc.

Dissolving ECGB requires 2/3 member entities (14 out of 21 members) vote. This vote must come from APS and AB school committees. We therefore need to schedule such a vote sometime in March/April time frame.

Feb. 7, 2012

To: Board of the EDCO Collaborative and the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc.  
From: Dorsey Yearley

Re: Material for the Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

At the time of this writing, the collaborative legislation is still in Conference Committee, but there are several areas of agreement between the House and Senate versions of the bill, particularly regarding timelines, so we can assume that these will be in the final legislation. Our goal for this meeting will be to map out the tasks that need to be done in the next several months in order to bring ourselves into compliance with the legislation.

Darren Klein will join us for this Board Meeting. Darren has done a great deal of work since our last meeting that has helped to clarify our process. First, Darren requested, and we have received, an Advisory Opinion from the Ethics Commission that concurred with his opinion that the Boards of our two organizations, although they had overlapping membership, could make decisions without a conflict of interest. The basic argument is that both agencies receive public funding to do public work, and both boards are made up of representatives of member school districts. Since the essential work of both agencies is public, and it is the school districts' interests that are being represented by the membership of each board, there is no inherent conflict of interest. This answers our threshold question regarding the ability of the current Boards to make decisions about the programs and assets in each entity.

Our second hurdle is to determine the process by which the current programs managed by the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. could be moved to the EDCO Collaborative, should the Boards decide to that. While we do not have definitive answers yet, we have had preliminary discussions with all relevant agencies, and we believe that this is quite doable.

Finally we need to determine how to make the best decisions about either maintaining both agencies or closing the private not-for-profit agency, based upon the costs, benefits and liabilities to students and adults served by our programs, to our member districts, and to the EDCO Collaborative and the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc.

Our goal for this meeting is describe the process and the timelines for getting all of this work done prior to the close of this fiscal year. We will also give you our current best thinking about a recommendation for what the decisions might be, based upon what we know about the legislation, but we need to reserve the final discussion of this topic until March after the legislation is passed.

Attached to this memo is a brief summary of the deadlines that we need to meet in order to comply with the law. In addition, in a separate document, we have included the minutes of the Board Meetings of December 8, 2011 for your review prior to voting on them.



## **Summary of Tasks and Timelines Related to Compliance With Pending Collaborative Legislation**

We are making the assumption that the Collaborative Legislation will be passed by the end of February, and the proposed deadlines are based upon that assumption. According to the legislation, here is a summary of the tasks that need to be accomplished:

No later than:  
May 2012

A Commission to determine several issues related to the future structure of collaboratives must convene.

August 2012

EDCO and ECGB, Inc. must eliminate the overlapping membership of the Boards and eliminate any shared employees, including the Executive Director. **It is our strong recommendation that this be finalized by June 30, 2012 to coincide with the close of the fiscal year.**

DESE must provide a model collaborative agreement reflecting the requirements of the new legislation.

February 2013

EDCO must submit a new collaborative agreement to DESE for approval

May 2013

The Commission must make recommendations to the legislature concerning the future structure of collaboratives

In order to separate the public collaborative from the private not-for-profit corporation by the close of this fiscal year, the EDCO and ECGB, Inc. Boards need to meet the following timelines:

February 9, 2012

Boards meet to review issues and timelines required to separate the entities

February to March

EDCO staff determines process, costs and benefits for moving assets and programs from ECGB, Inc. to EDCO and for moving the lease and other vendor contracts from ECGB, Inc. to EDCO

March 8, 2012

Boards meet to approve a recommendation for separating the two agencies to present to member School Committees for review and vote

March to April

School Committees review and vote on proposal. **NOTE: a vote to dissolve the private corporation, if that is the recommendation, requires a two-thirds vote from member School Committees. This vote cannot be delegated to the Board.**

May 10, 2012

Boards meet to take final votes to enact the decisions of the member School Committees concerning the assets and programs in ECGB, Inc.

Feb. 9, 2012

## **The EDCO Collaborative and Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc.**

### **History and Current Programs**

In 1969, the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. (ECGB, Inc.) was formed as a private not-for-profit consortium of school districts “to meet the educational needs and problems of the metropolitan Boston area and to assist in the provision of vitally needed educational services”. Because it was established prior to the enactment of Massachusetts General Laws (“M.G.L.”) Chapter 40, Section 4E, which was the legislation enabling the formation of public collaboratives, ECGB, Inc. was formed as a private not-for-profit charitable organization.

ECGB, Inc, was formed prior to the enactment of Chapter 766 as well, and therefore it had a broad mission to address a variety of educational issues, rather than a specific focus on special education. During this time period, it received a grant from the Ford Foundation to provide professional development to member districts, pioneered a school based desegregation program between the Boston Public Schools and member districts, and worked with the Department of Education to support students in institutional settings. Among other programs, it developed the Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing housed at Newton North High School and the EDCO Youth Alternative for students in the Boston Public Schools who were at risk for dropping out of school, both of which continue today.

In 1988, the EDCO Collaborative (EDCO) was formed as a public agency in accordance with M.G.L Chapter 40 Section 4E, as a partner to the existing private not-for-profit agency. The private not-for-profit agency continued in order to sustain programs that did not fall within the purview of the public collaborative. School districts established memberships in both organizations and were able to access services through both agencies. The governance of the private organization continued as it had been established, and the new public collaborative formed a Board in compliance with the legal requirements of Ch. 40, Sec. 4E.

Currently, all programs and services for public school students and staff are managed by the EDCO Collaborative. These services include a broad professional development program for teachers and administrators, leadership training programs for current and aspiring educational leaders, and school committee leadership programs. In addition the EDCO Collaborative offers special education programs for students, special education transportation services, collaborative utilities purchasing and programmatic support for at-risk public school students through state and federal contracts.

The Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. currently manages programs for the Archdiocese of Boston, one of the original founding members, and provides rehabilitative services to approximately 300 residents of the Wrentham Developmental Center.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### ***What is the governance of the two agencies?***

Both have Boards of Directors. Based on the 1969 by-laws, ECGB, Inc. has two voting members from each district – a superintendent and a school committee member. Based upon M.G.L. Chapter 40, Sec. 4E requirements, EDCO has one voting member from each district, either a superintendent or school committee member, determined by a vote of the school committee. Therefore, some individuals serve on both Boards. The Boards will be working with State agencies to determine if and how this might need to change to be in compliance with new guidelines once they are drafted.

### ***What is the financial relationship of the two agencies?***

Financially, the agencies are completely separate, with separate revenue sources, separate budgets, separate financial statements and balances, and separate annual audits.

### ***Do the two agencies do business with each other?***

EDCO does not purchase any services from ECGB, Inc. With the exception of sharing administrative support, they do not do business with each other.

### ***Are the financial operations of the agencies monitored?***

Each agency has a full audit annually done by CBIZ Tofias, a private accounting firm. The audit reports are shared annually with the Board of Directors. Without exception, EDCO and ECGB, Inc. have had unqualified audit reports.

### ***What are the EDCO special education programs?***

EDCO offers four special education programs to approximately 70 middle and high school students who are deaf and hard of hearing, who have primary emotional disabilities, and who are diagnosed with Aspergers' Syndrome. All teachers meet the DESE standards for licensure, with the exception of a very small number who are actively pursuing appropriate licensure under a waiver approved by DESE. Districts and families express a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of the special education programs.

### ***What are the EDCO professional development services?***

EDCO is known for its excellent and innovative professional development programs, which are offered through the EDCO Seefurth Educational Center. In addition to courses and workshops in the core academic areas of English/Language Arts, math, science and social studies, EDCO offers teacher training in music, art, library and media services, technology, ELL and special education. EDCO also offers a field based licensure program for aspiring principals and supervisor/directors. On average, EDCO trains over 2,000 teachers annually in approximately 150 offerings. In addition, EDCO offers a range of professional groups for curriculum leaders and administrators from member districts to provide ongoing support and professional development to administrators who are in solo roles in their districts.

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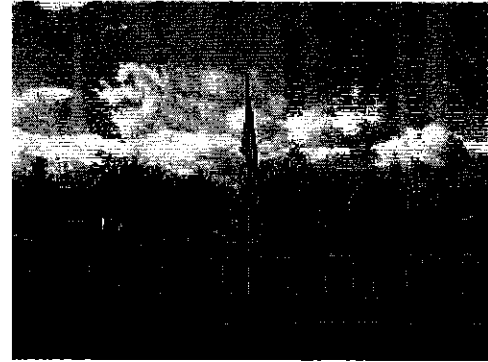
Family: 'Under God' Discriminates

## Acton Family Doesn't Want Kids Saying 'Under God'

POSTED: 6:33 pm EST February 13, 2012  
UPDATED: 6:48 am EST February 14, 2012

**ACTON, Mass.** -- Reciting the words "under God" during the Pledge of Allegiance discriminates and marginalizes the children of atheists, a Middlesex Superior Court was told on Monday.

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"This is a daily exercise that favors a particular religious view and defines patriotism according to a particular religious belief," said David Niosie, an attorney representing an Acton-Boxborough family, which has refused to identify itself.

In the complaint, the plaintiffs called themselves John and Jane Doe, and are the parents of three children. One is in the system's high school, the other two, age 12 and 10, are in the junior high school.

Geoffrey Bok, attorney for the school system, said it was indisputable that the pledge is both constitutional and voluntary.

"This business that we're marginalizing students," said Dr. Stephen Mills, superintendent of the Acton-Boxborough school district. "There's absolutely no recrimination, no negative consequences ever against a child who chooses not to say the pledge, or in this particular case, simply say the pledge and not say the words under God."

Before stepping into court Monday, legal bills for the Acton Boxborough School District totaled \$10,000.

"I'd prefer to spend it on textbooks," said Mills.

But Niosie argued that voluntary was not the point.

"By conducting a daily exercise that says the nation is in fact under God in a patriotic context, which really suggests that non-believers are less patriotic than everyone else," said Niosie, who would not say who was paying his legal fees.

The complaint also listed the American Humanist Association, a nonprofit incorporated in Illinois and located in Washington, D.C., as one of the plaintiffs.

It stated AHA has 20,000 members, of which 1,000 reside in Massachusetts.

"It promotes humanism and defends the rights of Humanists and other nono-theistic

individuals," according to the complaint.

It also cited a University of Minnesota study from April 2006 which "ranked atheists as the most disliked and distrusted minority group in the country."

Even the Knights of Columbus, the group responsible for putting the words under God in the pledge in 1954, sent a lawyer to the court hearing.

Eric Rassbach, representing the Becket Fund, told the judge the words do not have a religious meaning, but a political connotation.

Niosie noted the Knights of Columbus is a Catholic-based organization.

Niosie said one solution would be to instruct all the teachers to tell students not to say the words under God during the recitation of the pledge.

Mills said that simply would not happen because Massachusetts laws require him to display the flag and have students recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Middlesex Superior Court Jane Haggerty said she would take the matter under advisement.

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