

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

**February 6, 2014**

**7:00 p.m. ABTSC FY'15 Open Budget Hearing  
7:30 p.m. (approx.) APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC Meeting  
followed by Joint SC 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

February 6, 2014  
7:00 p.m. ABTSC Open Budget Hearing  
Followed by Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC meeting (7:30 p.m.)  
Followed by Joint Executive Session

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**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order – ABTSC (7:00)**

**ABTSC FY15 BUDGET HEARING** – *Please see material posted for 2/1/14 meeting at <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml>*

**2. Chairmen’s Introduction**

**3. ABTSC FY15 Budget– Steve Mills and Don Aicardi**

1. FY15 Budget Presentation Slides (*revised from 2/1/14, to be posted 2/5*)
2. Questions from 2/1/14 Meeting (*oral*)
3. Revised Table of Assessments (Table 6)

**4. Discussion and Deliberation – Maria Neyland**

**5. Recommendation to Approve FY15 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (ABRSD) Budget and Assessments – VOTE – Steve Mills**

**JOINT BUSINESS MEETING**

**6. Call to Order – ABRSC and APSC**

**7. Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes of meetings on: 2/1/14, 1/25/14, 1/15/14 and 1/7/14 (*next meeting*)

**8. Public Participation**

**9. ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization Update – Steve Mills**

**10. Recommendation to Approve Change to Administrators Benefits Manual - ABTSC VOTE – Maria Neyland** (addition of “Superintendent” to List of Positions on page 14)

1. Manual is posted at <http://ab.mec.edu/hr/hrpdf/2013-2014-administrators-benefits-manual.pdf>

**11. FY14 SMART Goals Update – Steve Mills**

**12. School Committee Member Reports (*oral*)**

1. Acton Leadership Group (ALG), Draft minutes of 1/23/14 meeting, next meeting is 2/13/14 –*Dennis Bruce*
2. Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) – *Maria Neyland*
3. Health Insurance Trust (HIT)– *Kim McOsker*
4. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Task Force– *Dennis Bruce*
5. Acton Finance Committee - *Dennis Bruce*

6. Acton Board of Selectmen - *Paul Murphy*
7. Boxborough Finance Committee- *Maria Neyland*
8. Boxborough Board of Selectmen – *Maria Neyland*

**13. Acton and Boxborough Local Elections Reminder – *Dennis Bruce and Maria Neyland***  
*Addition of School Committee members per PreK-12 Regional Agreement*

**14. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

1. Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
  - i. Discipline Report, 1/31/14
2. R.J. Grey Junior High School
  - i. Discipline Reports, 1/31/14
3. Pupil Services
  - i. APS English Language Learner (ELL) Student Population 2/1/14
  - ii. Early Childhood Student Population 2/1/14
4. Monthly Enrollment 2/1/14 (*brought to meeting*)
5. School Systems' Profile 2013-2014
6. CASE Collaborative AB Assessment Proposed Change memo and Annual Report 2012-2013 found at <http://casecollaborative.org/annual-reports>
7. Community Correspondence: "Budget Questions and Common Core"

**15. JOINT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Strategy with respect to collective bargaining and strategy with respect to negotiations with nonunion personnel*

**16. ADJOURN**

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

- February 13, 7:00 p.m. APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- Tuesday, February 25, 7:30 p.m. School Budget Presentation to Acton Finance Committee meeting, Acton Town Hall
- March 6, 7:30 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting
- March 20, 7:00 p.m. APSC meeting
- March 27, 7:30 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting
- April 7, 7:00 p.m. Acton Town Meeting begins, ABRHS auditorium
- May 1, 7:30 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- May 12, 7:00 p.m. Boxborough Town Meeting begins

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

|   | GROSS BUDGET        | ACTON               | BOXBOROUGH          |         |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|
|   | 2014-2015           | 83.97%              | 16.03%              | K to 12 |
| EXPENDITURES INSIDE DEBT LIMIT:   |                     | 82.46%              | 17.54%              | 7 to 12 |
| OPERATING BUDGET  | \$74,264,261        | \$62,359,700        | \$11,904,561        |         |
| OPEB TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTION  | \$506,000           | \$424,888           | \$81,112            |         |
| LOWER FIELDS CONSTRUCTION DEBT SERVICE  | \$120,818           | \$105,667           | \$15,151            |         |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY - BUILDINGS  | \$155,200           | \$130,321           | \$24,879            |         |
| TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT   | \$75,046,279        | \$63,020,577        | \$12,025,702        |         |
| EXPENDITURES OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT (PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED BY REGION):                |                     |                     |                     |         |
| CONSTRUCTION DEBT SERVICE (FOR JHS & SHS/AUTHORIZED OUTSIDE PROP 2 1/2)           | \$462,028           | \$404,090           | \$57,938            |         |
| SH CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION  | \$1,429,919         | \$1,250,607         | \$179,312           |         |
|   | \$1,891,947         | \$1,654,697         | \$237,250           |         |
| <b>GROSS BUDGET-Subtotal</b>  | <b>\$76,938,226</b> | <b>\$64,675,274</b> | <b>\$12,262,952</b> |         |
| EXPENDITURES OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT (PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED BY ACTON OR BOXBOROUGH):   |                     |                     |                     |         |
| BUILDING ADDITION BLANCHARD SCHOOL (Authorized FY06)                              | \$397,800           | \$334,033           | \$63,767            |         |
| SBAB REIMBURSEMENT BUILDING ADDITION BLANCHARD SCHOOL (Authorized FY06)           | (\$284,092)         | (\$238,552)         | (\$45,540)          |         |
| HAGGER WELL (WATER & SEWER) (Authorized FY00)                                     | \$108,948           | \$91,484            | \$17,464            |         |
| TWIN SCHOOLS (Authorized FY03)  | \$1,533,700         | \$1,287,847         | \$245,852           |         |
| SBAB REIMBURSEMENT TWIN SCHOOLS (Authorized FY03)                                 | (\$922,673)         | (\$774,769)         | (\$147,904)         |         |
| TOTAL OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT  | \$833,683           | \$700,043           | \$133,639           |         |
| SCHOOL RELATED DEBT SERVICE AUTHORIZED BY BOXBOROUGH TOWN MEETING:                |                     |                     |                     |         |
| COMBINATION: (REPLACEMENT OF PORTION OF BLANCHARD MEMORIAL ROOF (Authorized FY12) | \$2,325             | \$1,952             | \$373               |         |
| REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS BLANCHARD MEMORIAL ROOF (Authorized FY13)                  | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                 |         |
| SECURITY UPGRADES AT BLANCHARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL (Authorized FY13)                  | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                 |         |
| TOTAL TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH SCHOOL DEBT SERVICE                                      | \$2,325             | \$1,952             | \$373               |         |
| SCHOOL RELATED DEBT SERVICE AUTHORIZED BY ACTON TOWN MEETING:                     |                     |                     |                     |         |
| SCHOOL REPAIR (Authorized FY05)   | \$31,195            | \$26,195            | \$5,001             |         |
| CONANT SCHOOL (Authorized FY10)   | \$24,501            | \$20,574            | \$3,928             |         |
| SCHOOL FACILITIES (Authorized FY10)   | \$76,755            | \$64,451            | \$12,304            |         |
| DOUGLAS ROOF (Authorized FY09)  | \$24,913            | \$20,919            | \$3,993             |         |
| TOTAL TOWN OF ACTON SCHOOL DEBT SERVICE   | \$157,364           | \$132,139           | \$25,225            |         |
| CREDIT FOR SCHOOL RELATED DEBT SERVICE TO BE PAID FROM MUNICIPAL BUDGETS          | (\$993,372)         | (\$768,391)         | (\$224,981)         |         |
| <b>GROSS BUDGET-TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$76,938,225</b> | <b>\$64,741,017</b> | <b>\$12,197,209</b> |         |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:  |                     |                     |                     |         |
| CHAPTER 70 BASE AID   | \$14,254,476        | \$11,969,483        | \$2,284,993         |         |
| CHOICE/CHARTER SCHOOL ASSESSMENT  | (\$539,532)         | (\$453,045)         | (\$86,487)          |         |
| CHARTER SCHOOL AID  | \$67,707            | \$56,854            | \$10,853            |         |
| REGIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (Cherry Sheet)                                     | \$1,296,794         | \$1,088,918         | \$207,876           |         |
| REGIONAL BONUS AID  | \$139,000           | \$116,718           | \$22,282            |         |
| TRANSFER FROM PREMIUM ON LOAN-IHS   | \$658               | \$553               | \$105               |         |
| TRANSFER FROM OPEB TRUST FUND   | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                 |         |
| TRANSFER FROM RESERVES (Excess & Deficiency)                                      | \$300,000           | \$251,910           | \$48,090            |         |
| TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES   | \$15,519,103        | \$13,031,391        | \$2,487,712         |         |
| TOWN ASSESSMENTS  | \$61,419,122        | \$51,709,626        | \$9,709,496         |         |

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

| Description  | Total        | ACTON        | BOXBOROUGH   | Steps |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Project Total Benefit Amount   | \$1,873,119  |              |              | 1     |
| Base Budgets   | \$62,885,811 | \$51,788,675 | \$11,097,136 | 2     |
| Benefit Percentage Shares  |              | 80%          | 20%          | 3     |
| Share of Benefits  | \$1,873,119  | \$1,498,495  | \$374,624    | 4a    |
| Reduce Base Budgets By Benefit Shares  | \$61,012,692 | \$50,290,180 | \$10,722,512 | 4b    |
| Recalculated Assessment Percentages Based On Benefit Shares Applied To Base Budget | 100.00%      | 82.43%       | 17.57%       | 4c    |
| Input Table 6 Result From FY15 Actual Budget                                       | \$61,419,122 | \$51,709,626 | \$9,709,496  | 4d    |
| Assessment Percentages With Actual Budget  |              | 84.19%       | 15.81%       | 4d    |
| Shift In Percentage Shares   |              | -1.77%       | -1.77%       | 4d    |
| Final Assessment   | \$61,419,122 | \$50,625,183 | \$10,793,939 | 4d    |
| Actual Assessment Percentages With Actual Budget                                   |              | 82.43%       | 17.57%       |       |

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

TO: Acton-Boxborough Regional Transitional School Committee  
FROM: Steve Mills, Superintendent  
DATE: February 4, 2014  
RE: Recommendation for FY'15 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Budget and Assessments

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**Recommendation for FY'15 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Budget and Assessments**

Attached is a copy of the Analysis of Assessments for FY'15. The Administration recommends 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 \$76,938,225 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 \$50,625,183 Boxborough \$10,793,939, 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 \$300,000, and a transfer from the Junior High School Project Premium on Loan in the amount of \$658.

CC: Donald Aicardi, Director of Finance  
Marie Altieri, Director of Personnel

Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools  
Office of the Superintendent

TO: Acton Boxborough Transitional School Committee  
DATE: January 13, 2014  
FROM: Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent, APS and AB Schools  
SUBJECT: Regionalization Update

The Regional transition committee continues to meet weekly to plan for the implementation of full Pre-K – 12 regionalization. Below is an update of the major decisions that have been made over the last quarter.

**Blanchard Principal**

We have completed the hiring process for Blanchard Memorial School’s next principal. Dana Labb, currently the Principal of the West Street School in Southbridge, MA, will officially start his role as Principal of BMS on July 1, 2014. Dana will attend the Acton-Boxborough Kindergarten Night and Budget Saturday as he begins to transition into his new role. We welcome Dana to AB and to the Blanchard Memorial School.

**Performing Arts**

After a thorough program review, Mark Hickey, Acton-Boxborough’s K-12 Director of Performing Arts, met with the Blanchard Friends of Music and Music Staff. Mark announced that the current Blanchard Music and Band Programs would continue on as they currently are being run. The Band will continue to be open to students in grades 4-6. Scheduling and invoicing for private lessons will take place through Acton-Boxborough’s Community Education Department.

**Transportation and Scheduling**

J.D. Head and the Transitional School Committee spent the fall looking at various options for transportation. In December, the School Committee decided to go forward with a two-tier elementary busing schedule. In the fall of 2014, Blanchard, Douglas and Gates will be on the early schedule from 8:30 to 2:45. Conant, Merriam, and McCarthy-Townie will be on the late schedule from 9:15 to 3:30. Buses will run from Acton to Boxborough and vice-versa for students enrolled in either town.

**Kindergarten**

The tuition rate for All-Day Kindergarten has been set at \$4,000 for the 2014-2015 school year. A general Kindergarten Registration overview presentation will be given on Tuesday January 14 at 7:00 at the Parker Damon Building in Acton. Families with priorities (Boxborough residents, siblings, walkers) may register at the R. J. Grey Jr. High School on Jan 21 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

or on Jan 22 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The schedule for tours and individual school information nights is included on the AB website [www.ab.mec.edu](http://www.ab.mec.edu).

### **Food Services**

The food services organizations from Acton and Boxborough will be combined with the new Region. The AB schools have an on-line lunch purchasing program called "Parent Online." Blanchard will transition to this new system in May 2014. Students will have a four digit code which they will enter into a keypad when they purchase lunch. Parents will be able to put money on their child's account. Students will be able to charge lunch to their account or use cash. Any existing lunch tickets will be transferred to the student's account. Details will be provided in April.

### **Budget and Staffing**

Don Aicardi has submitted the first Acton-Boxborough Pre-K – 12 budget to the Transitional School Committee. The district has achieved the one million dollars of savings that were projected by the Regional Study Committee. Extensive budget presentations will be given on Saturday February 1, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the R. J. Grey Jr. High Library. There will also be an open budget hearing on Thursday February 13 at 7:30 pm also in the Jr. High Library in preparation for Town Meetings in Acton (April 7) and in Boxborough (May 12). The proposed budget includes some modifications to current Blanchard staffing. Some Blanchard positions (Library, Technology Integration) will remain primarily at Blanchard while spending some time working with staff in similar positions at the Region. One of the Blanchard Reading Specialist positions will be converted to a district-wide Elementary Literacy Coordinator. The Boxborough Public Schools Special Education Team Chairperson position will be converted to a district-wide Special Education Grades 6-8 Coordinator and some of the Speech and Language Services at Blanchard will be converted to a Speech and Language Chairperson for the district. These decisions are subject to the School Committee's budget process.

### **School Committee Open Positions**

The new Regional School Committee will include 7 members from Acton and 4 members from Boxborough. This is an increase of one position to the Regional School Committee from each town. The 2014 elections will elect 3 members from Acton and 2 Members from Boxborough. Any citizens interested in running should contact their Town Clerk's office. The deadline to submit papers with 50 signatures in Acton is February 11, 2014. The Acton election is April 1, 2014. The deadline to submit papers with 25 signatures in Boxborough is March 24. The Boxborough election is May 19, 2014.

ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL  
SCHOOLS

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**ADMINISTRATORS'  
BENEFITS MANUAL**

**July 1, 2013**



12.6 The Administrator shall have the right to representation at any level of the process.

**ARTICLE 13**  
**STAFF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOLS**

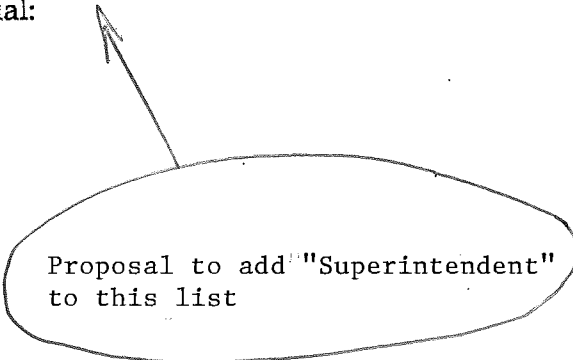
13.1 As a benefit for Administrators covered by the agreement, their children may attend schools in the Acton and/or Acton-Boxborough Regional School Systems at no charge provided application is made no later than November 1 of the year preceding the date of enrollment.

13.2 If the Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District remain a choice community, and in the event any provision of the School Choice Law is in conflict with 13.1, a substitute provision which is in compliance with the requirements of the law or regulation will be put into place.

**ARTICLE 14**  
**LIST OF ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS**

14.1 The following positions are covered by this Manual:

- Director of Curriculum and Assessment
- High School Principal
- Junior High School Principal
- Elementary School Principal
- Director of Community Education
- Director of Facilities and Transportation
- Director of Finance
- Director of Personnel and Administrative Services
- Director of Pupil Services
- High School Associate Principal
- High School Dean of Students
- Junior High School Assistant Principal
- Elementary School Assistant Principal
- Early Childhood Coordinator
- Director of Athletics
- Director of Educational Technology
- Director of Performing Arts, K-12
- Director of Visual Arts, K-12
- Coordinator of Elementary Pupil Services
- Coordinator of Secondary Pupil Services



Proposal to add "Superintendent"  
to this list

|   |
|---|
| <b>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.</b>  |
| <b>Relevance to LRSP: District Mission</b>  |
| <b>Statement of Purpose:</b> 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.   |
| <b>Strategies:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Personnel:</b> 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.</li> <li>2. <b>Finance:</b> 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.</li> <li>3. <b>Pupil Services:</b> 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.</li> <li>4. <b>Educational Technology:</b> to integrate all aspects of the Blanchard Schools' educational technology, curriculum, hardware and software into the District Ed Tech office.</li> <li>5. <b>Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning:</b> 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.</li> <li>6. <b>Facilities:</b> 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.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Measurable Outcomes:</b>   |
| 1. to <b>complete</b> the integration of the six strategy areas during the school year  |
| <b>Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed):</b><br>December 2013, February 2014, April 2014, and June 2014   |
| <b>Lead Parties:</b><br>Superintendents Stephen Mills and Curtis Bates and their Central Office staffs  |
| <b>Progress Reports</b><br>To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June  |
| <b>February Update -</b>  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Personnel:</b> 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.</li> </ol>   |

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.

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| <p><b>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.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Relevance to LRSP:</b> Goal #2</p>   |
| <p><b>Statement of Purpose:</b> 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.</p>  |
| <p><b>Strategies:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participate in MA DESE webinars and information sessions to build own knowledge of DDMs and State’s expectations.</li> <li>2. Meet with all district leadership teams to share connection between DDMs and the educator evaluation process.</li> <li>3. Work with Principals and Department Leaders to build assessment literacy and keep them apprised of the State’s expectations.</li> <li>4. Contract with consultants to build understanding and use of formative assessment.</li> <li>5. Convene DDM Task Force to determine district protocols, plan for professional learning, explore technology needs, and write contract language.</li> <li>6. Use district-wide grade level meetings to identify APS and Blanchard educator DDMs.</li> <li>7. Communicate PARCC pilot expectations and information to the School Committees, district leadership, educators, and parents.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Measurable Outcomes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DDMs articulated for all educators and administrators.</li> <li>2. District DDM Plan submitted to DESE in June.</li> <li>3. Professional Learning opportunities scheduled and completed.</li> <li>4. DDM Task Force objectives completed.</li> <li>5. Documentation for PARCC pilot.</li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed):</b><br/>June 2014</p>  |
| <p><b>Lead Parties:</b><br/>Superintendent, Director of Curriculum and Assessment</p>  |
| <p><b>Progress Report</b><br/>To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June</p>  |
| <p><b>February Update –</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participate in MA DESE webinars and information sessions to build own knowledge of DDMs and State’s expectations.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinars 1-6 completed. Brought school leadership group to DESE information session.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Meet with all district leadership teams to share connection between DDMs and the educator</li> </ol>   |

- 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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| <b>Goal #3: Fully implement new Massachusetts Educator Evaluation System and report outcomes to state.</b>   |
| <b>Relevance to LRSP:</b> Goal #3  |
| <b>Statement of Purpose:</b> 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.  |
| <b>Strategies:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use pilot feedback to inform updates of forms, procedures and contract language for full implementation.</li> <li>2. Finalize contract language and secure ratification votes from School Committee and AEA. Submit approved contract language to DESE in September, 2013.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. Calibrate ratings for Exemplary, Proficient, Needs Improvement and unsatisfactory with all evaluators for consistency throughout the district.</li> <li>5. Fully implement Teachpoint with AB’s tailored forms. Train all staff. Use reports to report outcomes to DESE in June EPIMS report.</li> </ol>                                  |
| <b>Measurable Outcomes:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Obtain positive ratification votes from School Committee and AEA and submit final contract language to DESE in September.</li> <li>3. Evaluators will complete summative evaluations by June 1, 2014.</li> <li>4. Evaluators and teachers will provide feedback that will inform plans for full implementation.</li> <li>5. All staff will be trained and using Teachpoint by October 15 for self-reflection, goal submittals and observation feedback.</li> <li>6. Successfully submit EPIMS report in June, 2014 which includes ratings for at least 50% of professional staff.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed):</b><br>By June 2014   |
| <b>Lead Parties:</b><br>Superintendent, Director of Personnel, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Principals and all Department Leaders  |
| <b>Progress Report</b><br>To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June  |
| <b>February Update</b> - 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.  |

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| <p><b>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.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Relevance to LRSP:</b> Goal #1</p>   |
| <p><b>Statement of Purpose:</b> 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.</p>  |
| <p><b>Strategies:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring all regular student transportation operations into our existing APS / ABRSD operation.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. Identify appropriate strategies to retain existing drivers and hire the necessary additional qualified individuals to fulfill the needs of the system.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Measurable Outcomes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build a system utilizing budget within 5% of the existing APS / BPS / ABRSD respective transportation budgets.</li> <li>2. Build a system that can be successfully implemented by start of the 2014 / 2015 academic year.</li> </ol>  |
| <p><b>Timeline (Dates tasks will be completed):</b><br/>Submitted for review December 2013, February 2014, April 2014, and June 2014.</p>  |
| <p><b>Lead Parties:</b> Director of Facilities and Transportation</p>  |
| <p><b>Progress Report</b><br/>To be submitted to the School Committees for review and input in December, February, April and June</p>  |
| <p><b>February Update</b> – 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 to 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.</p>   |



ALG minutes Jan 23, 2014

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator; Steve Noone & Pat Clifford, FC; Janet Adachi & Mike Gowing, BoS; Dennis Bruce & Kim McOsker, SC; Steve Ledoux, Steve Mills, Steve Barrett and Don Aicardi, staff.

Audience: Mary Ann Ashton, FC; Brian McMullen, asst. assessor & asst. finance director & Charles Kadlec.

Extra info: Town Of Acton FY15 budget with % change from FY 14; ALG multi-year financial model

Minutes of December 12 were approved

2. Update on FY 14 Revenues and Expenditures

S Ledoux: nothing major either way

S Mills: We still have the problem of the \$150k for the track; unexpected legal bills for the inter-municipal agreement (IMA) and the APS has a very expensive, one-time out-of-district tuition SPED expense. Mills indicated that the town must also have the extra legal costs for the IMA.

There was an attempt to look at # 3 on agenda- outstanding issues needing consensus but Bart, at the request of the members jumped ahead to #5 Review of spreadsheet.

**5. Review of spreadsheet**

S Barrett: a lot has changed since the last meeting on 12/13 and changes have been made to reflect new data. The spread sheet is using a prop. 2.5% increase [the FC has requested a 2%] He noted that the tax rate for this year is the same as last year \$19.56

SB went down the spread sheet and highlighted the areas of change: there is a transfer of \$588k for APS health insurance from the town to the region; transfer of \$100k for property and liability insurance; transfer of \$95k for worker's comp. These transfers are based on "final assessment shift per Appendix A of Regional agreement.

Don: we know the OPEB for Acton and the schools is \$1.1m---we have been carrying \$425k. We also have a shift of @ \$1m away from Acton to Boxboro.

We have been using the state aid numbers from last year as our estimates; now it looks as there will be an increase. There are questions about the numbers in House I and how they will make out when they go through the state senate and house. Ch. 70 funds increase \$361k add these to the district and it's a modest 1% increase.

There is the regional bonus aid that we will be weaned away over three years; transportation increases and the \$1m savings.

The Charter and school choice numbers came out yesterday. We are looking at them. From now on the split will be 83.97% for Acton's share. We are still sifting through the numbers.

SB: we now have @ \$600k increase in state aid

Pat Clifford questioned the \$600k amount

SB: look at the Dec. ALG sheets with the estimates of state aid and the delta is \$602K; but we are carrying a \$500k increase in transportation

Steve N: have changes been made to table 6

Don: No.

Mike: the \$1m for Boxboro what is it? On the front page [of the spread sheet] 4992k

Don: changes in the regional agreement shift money from Acton to Boxboro; that is separate from the \$1m cut in staff.

Pat: you say \$1.1m to \$758k where did the money go?

SB: \$684k from the town and \$425k from the schools was the original plan; we took the APS numbers out of the town and cut the town's contribution by 30% \$333k. The schools still have \$758k contribution.

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Dennis: shouldn't we have discussed this before you did the shift---was there discussion with the schools?

SB: No

Janet: I'm struck by the fact that it's underfunded

S Noone: do the budget numbers represent the current thinking? What is the % increase in the education costs?

Don: the Education numbers are in five different places; the percentage basis is @2.9%---because of one-time changes its more like 3.8%.

S Noone: it looks bigger to me

Mike: to Dennis' point talking about OPEB percentage transfer; for the APS retirees the town "owns" the health insurance but now the APS should go to the region. The region needs to pick up the costs.

Bart: are the questions about the plan?

Kim: there is a lot of information to sort through with regard to the shift. The schools have been incurring costs for APS from things like payroll.

Don: the region prints its own checks so that will stop on July 1

Kim: we have been sharing expenses for years [without splitting costs]

S Noone: it looks to me as if the schools increase is 6.4%

### **OPEB allocation**

Bart: it's clear some don't agree with the numbers or how they were derived. What needs to happen?

S Noone: it's not a question of the numbers but how they are divided. In the past APS numbers were in Acton and invested in a separate trust from the region. Active employees need to go to the region; that makes the retirees from APS "orphans" where do we put the costs? It's like the APS buildings; the costs were incurred by the town on behalf of the schools. The town will get credit for the debt

Kim: this is a place for conversation---why did we not have a conversation [before the shift]?

SB: there has been a huge work load between Dec 1 and Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. I assumed Don talked ....

Bart: one thing's implicit; we assume the good attentions on the part of the people making the decisions. If we let Steve fall on the sword, this will be a particularly hard hurdle to get over. The highlighted numbers are public and I'm hearing that people are ticked off. What do we do about it?

Janet: I have the feeling that we are having the discussion now. I do sense the resistance on the school side to take on 2/3rds of the obligation. The town side is going down by transferring costs for OPEB to the schools. The town will still have \$1/2 m for retirees

Kim: there was not a conversation..

Bart: is this the chance for the conversation?

Kim: this is the time for the subgroup to discuss the reallocation [from Dec. minutes] Don and Steve may have had a conversation about the schools picking up the costs but this negates the role of the ALG.

Bart: What's your suggestion?

Kim: a proactive conversation

Bart: Off-line?

Mike: there are practical aspects; we can't put money into the Acton town trust, it will have to go into the region's trust.

Pat: if we are looking for a group focus on OPEB specific issues, we have one

It was agreed that the OPEB group would meet again and work on the problem. Pat requested that the group also come back with number recommendations. She noted that ALG needed to have these numbers settled soon because of the warrant printing deadline.

S Mills: I appreciate the work done by OPEB group but an additional \$470k in FY 15 is "problematic. Even now the \$300k represents 5-6 teaching positions. We would not have agreed to the \$1.1m. \$780k is just too much. I can accept \$480k which is what I have in the budget.

S Noone: it's difficult for everyone to work through th changes. Pat will have to do the presentation[at Town Meeting] Right now it's all a shell game; if we don't get this settled we will lose all credibility.

S.B. I apologize for moving too fast....

Bart: I would think with the regionalization issues ---some assumptions are going to take some hard swallowing. Kim and Dennis are not the only two who could be ticked off.

Kim: the tax rate is lower

Don: we are still trying to set the numbers for FY 15. We did a good job on the FY 14 recap numbers but we need a valuation update.

Kim: the tax rate has no impact on these numbersSB: in FY 14 we did not tax to the max. Right now the model has the tax to the full extent and doesn't reflect the new growth numbers

3.

Bart: what is the best order for these to be discussed?

Dennis: we need to hear from Pat about reserve use

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Pat: the sub committee meets tonight to look at the accumulated reserves. We have \$10m in accumulated reserves and the question is should the town be maintain that amount. What are the possible use deployed in an objective way?

#### **\*Use of Reserves**

There was no way the group was ready for a consensus on reserves. Bart noted that consensus needed to be reached on tax levy, overlay, revenue projections as well as use of reserves.

Bart noted that as facilitator of the ALG the group comes to the same point every year; tempers are short and it is more difficult to get to a "yes." Theb group is based on consensus and that cannot happen unless/until people feel that there is no better alternative---everyone is equally unhappy. When/as time runs out (he may not be here in March) it is a tough place to be given that you have tompush for your stake holders in reaching a decisios that are hard made and can make you unhappy.

Kim: although I sit on the SC I am also an Acton citizen so I see both the town and the schools as my stakeholders

#### **Revenue Projections**

Bart: are those on the sheet?

Pat: how confident is the staff in these numbers?

S. L: the big nut is local aid. MMA is not happy with the numbers so I see these as the floor and expect them to get a bit higher.

SM: Ch 70 is not much higher; regional transportation is level funded which is a disappointment

Mike it's an election year so I think we can expect some of these numbers to increase.

Kim asked about reserve levels SN: noted that the committee was looking beyond the known \$10M; other places like trust funds

Pat one potential source is the \$1m in the NESWC liability fund. It could be made available for free cash or to lower the tax rate.

SL: said he was hoping to use these funds bit by bit on an annual basis for town needs

### **Tax Levy**

Bart: question is do we tax to the max or not?

Pat: the fFC recommendation has been from the beginning to tax at 2% level to give the taxpayers some relief. Taxing to the max does not do that.

SB: Going from 2.5% to 2% is a reduction of @\$350k in revenue.

Janet: I'm open to the suggestion but looking at the spreadsheets we are already \$330k in the hole.

Mike: from my point of view we make up the difference from the appropriation of reserves. It seems the same as last year.

Pat: last year the FC recommended \$1.5m from reserves but it crept up to \$2m

Kim: does the \$2m include OPEB?

Pat: yes we included the \$1.1m for OPEB

SM: I have developed a reasonable school budget that meets the educational needs of the students. It seems to me that the town is in a very strong position with reserves of \$10M. My budget calls for no new staffing, I have abided by the FC's point of view on our portion of the \$1.1m for OPEB and made good on the \$1m savings from regionalization. We are \$330 in the red and the loss of \$350k just makes that bigger.

Pat: Steve M and Don will meet with the FC on Tuesday, we will see where we can agree. . We do want to reach a consensus.

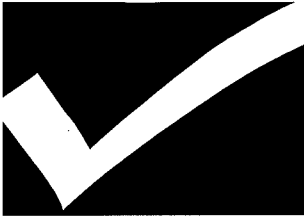
Bart: what should we be doing between now and the next meeting?

It was determined that the next two meetings in February the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> will be long meetings---going beyond the normal 7PM cut-off.

Adjourned at 7 PM

Next meeting: Feb 13, 5:30----?

Ann Chang



# Acton Leadership Group Meeting

January 23, 2014

5:30 PM

Town Hall, Faulkner Hearing Room 204

Bart Wendell Facilitating

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

|   |                             | <u>Comments</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Approve Minutes of December 12, 2013   | General Discussion          |                 |
| 2. Update on FY14 Revenues and Expenditures   | Steve Ledoux<br>Steve Mills |                 |
| 3. Outstanding Issues Needing Concensus <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of Reserves</li><li>• Overlay Use</li><li>• Revenue Projections</li><li>• Tax Levy (Full 2.5% or not)</li></ul> | ALL                         |                 |
| 4. Update on Excess and Deficiency Certification  | Don Aicardi                 |                 |
| 5. Review of Spread Sheet   | Steve Barrett/ Don Aicardi  |                 |
| 6. Finance Committee Working Paper on Use of Reserves   | Pat Clifford                |                 |
| 7. Public Comment   |                             |                 |
| 8. Adjourn<br>Next Meeting, February 13, 2014   |                             |                 |

## **DRAFT ALG Minutes, December 12, 2013**

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator; Mike Gowing & Janet Adachi, BoS; Steve Noone & Pat Clifford, FC; Dennis Bruce & Kim McOsker, SC; Steve Ledoux, Steve Mills, Steve Barrett, Brian McMullin & Don Aicardi, Staff.

Extra Information: Multi-year financial model;

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

### **1. Minutes of Nov 7, 2013. Approved**

### **2. Update on FY 13 Revenue and expenditures & FY 14 revenues**

- a. FY 13 – No update
- b. FY 14.
  - i. Steve Ledoux / Brian McMullin. BoS has approved the FY14 tax rate. New Growth is up substantially above projections. As a result, the tax rate is lower than it would otherwise need to be. The amount of taxes that will be generated for FY14 will be approximately \$441K less than was projected at Town Meeting. This is good news for the taxpayers of Acton.

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Pat Clifford – does this version of the ALG plan reflect this news ? Answer: no.

- ii. Steve Mills. No update on FY13/FY14 school finances

### **3. Review of Spreadsheet**

- a. Steve Barrett.
  - i. New growth numbers changes will be incorporated in next update.
  - ii. Regionalization of APS will cause changes in how certain expenses are funded and thus in the spreadsheet as we work out how to deal with co-mingled expenses and assets
    1. APS Retire Health Expenses. This expense has traditionally been funded in the school budget. After regionalization, it will need to be funded in the town budget. This is an increase of approximately \$588K in town expense (approximately 2% of town budget). Town Boards need to reach an agreement on how this will be funded.
    2. OPEB Contributions. The town has begun putting money into a trust fund for OPEB liabilities. Approximately 60% will eventually go to APS retirees. How is this responsibility shared between the town and the region ?
    3. Workers Comp
    4. Middlesex Retirement. Currently the town covers town employees and APS non-teacher staff.



5. Health Insurance Trust. New drug program for retirees will change costs. Need to work out the allocation of costs (not a new cost but a change in allocation).
  6. Possibly other things...
- iii. FY15 is where the complexity happens. Some funding mechanism needs to be created that will take into account the net change in financial responsibility (some may go each way).
    1. Adhoc agreement ?
    2. Change in the split ?
    3. One time allocation ?
    4. in the draft IMA ?
  - iv. Kim – will bring these issues to the next SC meeting
- b. Don Aicardi.
    - i. Table 6 has been updated. The allocation of chapter 70 funds for the next 3 years will shift to allocate more funds to Acton. The 3-year average will be 83.7%
    - ii. OPEB amount has been changed by \$8K. Tentative E & D is \$300K for the region (this is less than last year).

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4. Public Comment

- a. None

5. Next Meeting: Cancel the Jan 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Next ALG meeting is Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Paulina Knibbe

Next meeting Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - ACTON AREA**

**"HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE"**

**ACTON ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION  
APRIL 1, 2014**

**PROCEDURES FOR RUNNING FOR LOCAL OFFICE**

**Qualifications**

Any registered voter residing in the town of Acton may run for local office.

**Nomination Papers**

Nomination papers are available now through February 7, 2014 at the Town Clerk's Office at the Acton Town Hall (978-929-6620). The Clerk's office asks that a candidate submit, in writing, a request for nomination papers. The papers will be prepared by the Town Clerk. Candidates for office must gather the signatures of 50 registered Acton voters. Signatures must be legible and should not differ substantially from the way the names appear on the voting list.

No voter may sign more petitions for an office than there are vacancies. The Town Clerk will disqualify the signatures that exceed this limit.

The deadline for submitting completed nomination papers to the Board of Registrars at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall is February 11, 2014. It is suggested that each candidate collect more than the required signatures in the event of disqualification of any signature by the Board of Registrars. The deadline for withdrawing nomination papers is February 27, 2014.

**Campaign Finance Reporting**

Candidates and their committees, if any, are required by state law to file periodic campaign finance reports with the Town Clerk. These reports must be filed whether or not money has been raised or expended during the reporting period and whether or not the candidate is elected. Report forms may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk and reports are due by the close of business according to a specific schedule.

## **Running for Office in Boxborough**

### **Boxborough 2014 Town Election Calendar**

**Date of Election: Monday, May 19, 2014**

**Qualifications:** Any registered voter residing in Boxborough may run for office.

**Nomination Papers:** Nomination Papers for town office are available from the Town Clerk starting **January 13, 2014**. Candidates must appear in person to take out papers or else provide a written request specifically stating the office he/she is interested in running for. Candidates must collect a **minimum of 25** signatures of voters registered in Boxborough to get on the ballot.

**Nomination Paper Filing Deadline:** The deadline for submitting completed nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office for certification is **Monday, March 24, 2014, at 5pm**.

**Campaign Finance Reporting:** Candidates and their committees, if any, are required by state law to file periodic campaign finance reports with the town clerk. These reports must be filed whether or not any money has been raised or expended during the reporting period. The clerk will provide you with the forms and the schedule for filing.

#### **Elected Offices on the 2014 Town Ballot:**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Town Moderator</b>            | One-year term (1 position)  |
| <b>Selectman</b>                 | Three-year term (2 positions)   |
| <b>Regional School Committee</b> | Three-year term, effective 5/19/2014 (1 position)<br>Three-year term, effective 7/1/2014 (1 position) |
| <b>Planning Board</b>            | Three-year term (2 positions)   |
| <b>Library Trustees</b>          | Three-year term (2 positions)   |
| <b>Board of Health</b>           | Three-year term (1 position)  |

To: Stephen Mills  
 From: Larry Dorey  
 Re: Discipline Report for January, 2014  
 Date:1/31/2014

There were 16 discipline referrals to the administration during the month of January, 2014. This total is down from 28 last year. 0 students were suspended this month, while there were 5 students suspended during January, 2013

#### Suspensions for January, 2014

| <b>Infraction</b>                 | <b>2010</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Abusive/Obscene Language          | 1           | 1           |             |             |             |
| Alcohol Use                       |             |             |             | 2           |             |
| Disruptive/Uncooperative Behavior | 3           |             | 1           |             |             |
| Drug Paraphernalia                | 2           | 1           |             |             |             |
| Drug Use (other)                  |             |             | 2           |             |             |
| Marijuana Possession              |             |             | 3           |             |             |
| Marijuana Sale                    |             | 1           | 2           |             |             |
| Marijuana Use                     | 2           | 3           | 5           |             |             |
| Fighting                          |             | 2           | 2           |             |             |
| Leaving School Grounds            |             |             | 1           |             |             |
| Other                             | 2           |             |             |             |             |
| Sexual Harassment                 |             |             |             | 1           |             |
| Stealing                          |             | 1           |             |             |             |
| Threatening                       |             |             | 2           | 2           |             |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>10</b>   | <b>9</b>    | <b>18</b>   | <b>5</b>    | <b>0</b>    |

A list of all infractions for the month of January, 2014 appears on the backside of this page.

c: JoAnn Campbell

Other Infractions for January, 2014

|                                   |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Abusive/Obscene Language          | 1         | 3         |           |           |           |
| Academic Integrity                | 2         | 5         |           | 1         |           |
| Alcohol Use                       |           |           |           | 2         |           |
| Bus Discipline Issue              |           |           |           | 1         |           |
| C.H. Alcohol                      | 1         |           |           | 2         |           |
| C.H. Drugs                        |           | 2         |           |           | 2         |
| C.H. Smoking                      |           | 1         |           |           |           |
| Disrespectful                     |           |           | 1         |           | 5         |
| Disruptive/Uncooperative Behavior | 7         | 2         | 5         | 2         | 3         |
| Drug Paraphernalia                | 2         | 1         |           |           |           |
| Drug Use (other)                  |           |           | 2         |           |           |
| Fighting                          |           | 2         | 2         |           |           |
| Harassment                        | 6         | 1         | 6         |           |           |
| Leaving School Grounds            | 5         |           | 6         |           |           |
| Marijuana Possession              |           |           | 3         |           |           |
| Marijuana Sale                    |           |           | 2         |           |           |
| Marijuana Use                     | 2         | 3         | 5         |           |           |
| Non Compliance w/school rules     | 1         |           | 2         |           |           |
| Other                             | 5         |           | 3         | 2         |           |
| Out of School Issue               | 3         | 1         |           | 1         |           |
| Parking Violation                 | 3         | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |
| Physical Aggression               |           |           | 1         |           |           |
| Sale of Drugs                     |           | 1         |           |           |           |
| Sexual Harassment                 |           |           |           | 1         |           |
| Stealing                          |           | 1         |           |           |           |
| Tardy                             |           | 2         |           | 4         | 2         |
| Teasing                           | 1         | 2         |           |           |           |
| Threatening                       | 1         |           | 2         | 2         |           |
| Truancy                           | 2         | 5         | 4         | 9         | 4         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>42</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>16</b> |

**ELL STUDENT POPULATION**  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District  
February 1, 2014

| Category            | Total as of 1/1/2014 | Additions | Subtractions | Current Total as of 2/1/2014 |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| RJG JHS             | 10                   | 0         | -1           | 9                            |
| ABRHS               | 13                   | 0         | 0            | 13                           |
| <b>ABRSD TOTALS</b> | <b>23</b>            | <b>0</b>  | <b>-1</b>    | <b>22</b>                    |

**MONTHLY REPORTING OF  
ELL STUDENT POPULATION**

Acton Public Schools  
February 1, 2014

| Category         | Total as of<br>1/1/2014 | Additions | Subtractions | Total as of<br>2/1/2014 |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Conant           | 36                      | 0         | -1           | 35                      |
| Douglas          | 31                      | 0         | 0            | 31                      |
| Gates            | 22                      | 0         | 0            | 22                      |
| McCarthy-Towne   | 39                      | +2        | 0            | 41                      |
| Merriam          | 23                      | +2        | 0            | 25                      |
|                  |                         |           |              |                         |
| <b>APS TOTAL</b> | <b>151</b>              | <b>+4</b> | <b>-1</b>    | <b>154</b>              |

14.3.22

**EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENT POPULATION  
MONTHLY REPORTING & PROJECTIONS**

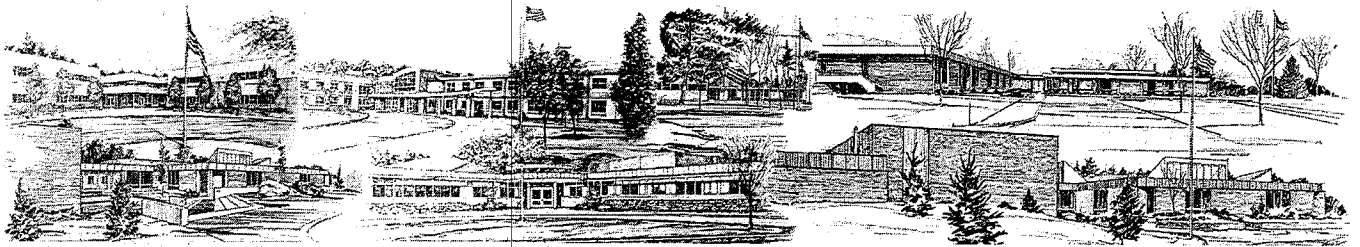
Acton Public Schools  
February 1, 2014

|  | December 1, 2013 | Additions/ Subtractions December 1, 2013 | Final Total As of December 1, 2013 | January 1, 2014 | Additions/ Subtractions January 1, 2014 | Final Total As of January 1, 2014 | February 1, 2014 | Additions/ Subtractions February 1, 2014 | Final Total As of February 1, 2014 | End of Year Projection** |
|--|------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>SPED</i><br>3-Year Olds (In-District)                           | 17               | +3                                       | 20                                 | 20              | +1                                      | 21                                | 21               | +3                                       | 24                                 | 26                       |
| <i>SPED</i><br>4-Year Old (In-District)                            | 17               | 0  | 17                                 | 17              | 0                                       | 17                                | 17               | 0  | 17                                 | 19                       |
| <i>SPED</i><br>5-Year Old (In-District)                            | 0                | 0  | 0                                  | 0               | 0                                       | 0                                 | 0                | 0  | 0                                  | 1                        |
| <i>SPED</i><br>3-Year Old<br><i>Tuition in From<br/>Boxborough</i> | 0                | 0  | 0                                  | 0               | 0                                       | 0                                 | 0                | 0  | 0                                  | 0                        |
| <i>SPED</i><br>4-Year Old<br><i>Tuition in From<br/>Boxborough</i> | 2                | 0  | 2                                  | 2               | 0                                       | 2                                 | 2                | 0  | 2                                  | 1                        |
| <b>SPED Student In Class<br/>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>36</b>        | <b>+3</b>                                | <b>39</b>                          | <b>39</b>       | <b>+1</b>                               | <b>40</b>                         | <b>40</b>        | <b>+3</b>                                | <b>43</b>                          | <b>48-50</b>             |
| Itinerant  | 8                | +1                                       | 9                                  | 9               | 0                                       | 9                                 | 9                | +4                                       | 13                                 | 20                       |
| OOD<br>Preschool   | 0                | 0  | 0                                  | 0               | +1                                      | 1                                 | 1                | 0  | 1                                  | 2                        |
| <b>SPED TOTAL</b>  | <b>44</b>        | <b>+4</b>                                | <b>48</b>                          | <b>48</b>       | <b>+2</b>                               | <b>50</b>                         | <b>50</b>        | <b>+7</b>                                | <b>57</b>                          | <b>61-62</b>             |
| <i>*TYPICAL</i><br>3-year old (In-District)                        | 21               | -1                                       | 20                                 | 20              | 0                                       | 20                                | 20               | +3                                       | 23                                 | 24                       |
| <i>*TYPICAL</i><br>4-Year Olds (In-District)                       | 26               | 0  | 26                                 | 26              | 0                                       | 26                                | 26               | -1                                       | 25                                 | 28                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>91</b>        | <b>+3</b>                                | <b>94</b>                          | <b>94</b>       | <b>+2</b>                               | <b>96</b>                         | <b>96</b>        | <b>+9</b>                                | <b>105</b>                         | <b>112**</b>             |

The school district must ensure that programs are available for eligible students 3 and 4 years of age. The programs must developmentally appropriate and located in a setting that includes student with and without disabilities (State Requirement 603 CMR 28.06 (7) and Federal Requirement 34 CFR 300.101 (b); 300.124(b); 300.323(b))

\*\*Projections may be impacted by move-ins and/or Department of Public Health referrals





**ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ACTON, MA 01720  
978-264-4700 http://ab.mec.edu**

**SCHOOL SYSTEMS' PROFILE - 2013-2014**

**Kind of Communities:** residential suburbs near Routes 2 and 495  
**Population:** Acton - approx. 21,650    Boxborough - approx. 5,129

**Total Student Enrollment** (October 1, 2013):  
Acton Public: 2,464    Acton-Boxborough: 2,943  
(includes APS School Choice: 0 and A-B School Choice: 47)

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

| <u>School</u>  | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Principal</u>     | <u>Enrollment*</u> | <u>Specialty Programs**</u>  |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Conant         | K-6          | Damian Sugrue        | 476                | Nature Program, Student Council, Connections Program, Before/ After School Program                   |
| Douglas        | K-6          | Christopher Whitbeck | 478                | Nature Program, Before/ After-School Enrichment Program, Japanese and Chinese Cultural Program (K-4) |
| Gates          | K-6          | Lynne Newman         | 433                | Nature Program, School Chorus, Student Council, Before/ After-School Program                         |
| McCarthy-Towne | K-6          | David Krane          | 482                | Integrated Curriculum Program, SLOYD, CASE classes, Before/ After School Enrichment Program          |
| Merriam        | K-6          | Ed Kaufman           | 522                | Project-based Curriculum, Looping classes, Curriculum Evenings, Before/ After School Program         |

\* Enrollment does not include SPED PreSchool: 49, and SPED Out-of-District Placements: 24

\*\* In all schools: All-Day Kindergarten, Computer Lab, Classroom Assistants, ELE, Fee-based Instrumental Music (gr. 5-6), School-Business Partnership, Community Service Learning

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

\*Enrollment does not include SPED Out-of-District Placements, gr. 7-12: 52

| <u>School</u>  | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Enrollment*</u> | <u>Extracurricular Programs</u>   |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| R.J. Grey Junior High<br>7 <sup>th</sup> grade teams of 113-116 students with five teachers<br>8 <sup>th</sup> grade teams of 115-118 students with five teachers<br>Integrated Curriculum | 7-8          | Andrew Shen      | 931                | Ambassadors, Anime Club, Art, Book Club, Climate, Creative Writing, Drama, French, Interscholastic and Intramural Sports, Jazz Band, Literary Magazine, Math Counts, School Store, Select Choir, Ski Club, Speech & Debate, Student Council, Technology & Engineering, Theater Production, Yearbook |

Acton-Boxborough Regional High School received the international Green Flag award from the National Wildlife Federation in May, 2012 and a Blue Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education in November, 2009.

| <u>School</u>   | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Enrollment*</u> | <u>Extracurricular Programs</u>  |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| A-B Reg. High School<br><br><i>Awards received by students:</i> Intel Science Talent Search Finalists 2012, 2013<br>Scholastic Art Awards (state & national), Band, Academic Decathlon 2010 (State Champs 21 yrs.), Science Olympiad (State Champs 2005, 2006, 2009-2012), Girls' Swim/Diving (State Champs 13 yrs.), Boys' Swim/Diving (State Champs 9 yrs.), Football - State Record of 52 consec. Wins - 5 Superbowl titles, Girls' Soccer (State Champs 2007), Field Hockey (State Champs 2007, 2009, 2012), Girls' Tennis (State Champs 2008, 2012), Boys Indoor Track (Class A State Champs 2012), NFL & NCFL Speech and Debate National qualifiers | 9-12         | JoAnn Campbell   | 1,960              | Academic Teams, (including Decathlon, Math, Science, Speech & Debate), Proscenium Circus (drama), Honor Societies, Publications, Student Government, Interscholastic Athletics, Community Service, AB Human Rights, Peer Leadership Group, SADD, Common Ground, WHAB radio station, Recycling Team, Outdoor Club<br><i>Career Exploration Programs:</i> Job Shadowing, Senior Internships, Work Study, Career Speakers |

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS**

| <u>Elementary</u>   | <u>Junior High</u>  | <u>High School</u>   |
|---|---|--|
| Language Arts<br>Mathematics<br>Science/Health Education<br>Social Studies<br>Art<br>Music<br>Physical Education<br>Library Skills/Media Center<br>Technology | Art, Band, Chorus, English<br>Health, Drama<br>Computer Literacy<br>Life Skills, Mathematics<br>Minuteman Tech. Lab, Music<br>Physical Education, Science<br>Social Studies<br>Study Skills<br>World Languages<br>plus other mini-courses | English<br>Industrial Arts<br>Mathematics<br>Performing Arts<br>Physical Education/Health<br>Science<br>Social Studies<br>Visual Arts<br>World Languages<br>Communication Arts |

**SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

| <u>Elementary</u>   | <u>Junior High</u>  | <u>High School</u>   |
|---|---|--|
| Special Education Services<br>Counseling/Psychology/Health Services<br>Child Study Team, RLL (Reading/<br>Language Art/Literacy Specialist)<br>Crisis Team, ELE | Special Education Services<br>Counseling/Psychology/Health Services<br>Academic Support Center: Reading<br>ELE, Academic Support<br>Child Study Team, Crisis Team | Special Education Services<br>Counseling/Psychology/Health Services<br>Academic Support Center<br>ELE, Student Assistance Team<br>Safety Committee |

**SYSTEM RESOURCES**

Approximately 90% of instructional staff holds a Master's. or higher degree. Staff represents more than 4,170 years of teaching in Acton/AB.

**Classroom teacher-pupil ratio/range:\***

| <u>Level</u> | <u>Range</u> |
|--------------|--------------|
| Elementary   | 1:20 - 1:25  |
| Junior High  | 1:14 - 1:30  |
| High School  | 1:3 - 1:56   |

\*Does not include special subject teachers

**Per Pupil Expenditure:\*\*\***

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 2011-12  | \$11,669 (Acton)            |
| 2011-12  | \$13,697 (Acton-Boxborough) |
| *** Per Pupil, All Funds/Total Expend. Per Pupil (from the Dept. of Ed.) |                             |

**Average Teacher salary:**

|                  |          |                    |          |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| 2013-14 for A-B: | \$75,320 | 2013-14 for Acton: | \$74,619 |
|------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013**

**Size of Class: 476**

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Percentage attending:             |             |
| 4-yr. college                     | 91%         |
| 2-yr. college/other post-sec. ed. | 6%          |
| Total continuing education        | 97%         |
| Employment/Other                  | 3%          |
| <b>TOTAL CLASS</b>                | <b>100%</b> |

**SAT Reasoning Test Profile - Average Scores**

|      | A-B |      |      | National |      |      |
|------|-----|------|------|----------|------|------|
|      | Cr* | Math | Wr** | Cr*      | Math | Wr** |
| 2013 | 622 | 661  | 630  | 496      | 514  | 488  |
| 2012 | 624 | 662  | 626  | 514      | 488  |      |
| 2011 | 610 | 645  | 622  | 497      | 514  | 489  |

\* Cr = Critical Reading      \*\* Wr = Writing

Last year, 96% of the seniors at A-B took SATs as compared to 79% in MA.

**SAT Subject Test Scores, 2013**

| Subject            | Number of Students | Mean Score<br>(Range is 200-800) | Subject              | Number of Students | Mean Score<br>(Range is 200-800) |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Biology E          | 151                | 716                              | Mathematics Level I  | 72                 | 671                              |
| Biology M          | 35                 | 703                              | Mathematics Level II | 132                | 750                              |
| Chemistry          | 103                | 712                              | Spanish              | 16                 | 669                              |
| English Literature | 41                 | 664                              | US History           | 95                 | 711                              |
| French             | 13                 | 648                              | World History        | 3                  | 683                              |
|                    |                    |                                  | Latin                | 7                  | 647                              |

**Advanced Placement Test Scores - 2012**

|  | Test Scores* | No. of Scores | National Merit Scholarships<br>(Class of 2014)      |
|--|--------------|---------------|---|
| 459 ABRHS juniors & seniors took 1,005 exams in Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Chinese, Computer Science, Economics, English Literature & Composition, Environmental Science, European History, French Language, German Language, Japanese Language, Latin:Vergil, Music Theory, Physics, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, U.S. Government & Politics, and U.S. History. | 5            | 622           | Semi-Finalists - 17<br>Letters of Commendation - 59 |
|  | 4            | 287           |   |
|  | 3            | 74            |   |
|  | 2            | 15            |   |
|  | 1            | 7             |   |

\* Scores of 3-4 qualify students for advanced placement in some colleges

**MCAS Test Scores, Spring 2013**

combined "Proficient" & "Above Proficient" level percentages\*

|          | Eng./L.A./Reading | Math | Science |
|----------|-------------------|------|---------|
| Grade 3  | 77%               | 81%  | ---     |
| Grade 4  | 75%               | 74%  | ---     |
| Grade 5  | 85%               | 84%  | 78%     |
| Grade 6  | 88%               | 88%  | ---     |
| Grade 7  | 92%               | 82%  | ---     |
| Grade 8  | 95%               | 83%  | 64%     |
| Grade 10 | 99%               | 97%  | 97%     |

\*This measure is used because "Proficient" & "Above Proficient" levels are the goals for performance.

**SPECIAL FEATURES OF SCHOOL SYSTEMS**

- Administrators and School Committees set and regularly review mission, vision, short and long-range goals. Administrators attend Leadership Conference annually.
- Staff continuously pursue professional development.
- Open enrollment at elementary level (choice of school)
- Teaming at R.J. Grey Junior High School
- All seven schools have wireless access; staff use current technology in management and instruction.
- Staff evaluate programs regularly; the districts support curriculum renewal through a research and development program.
- Community members actively participate in and support school programs, serve on advisory committees and task forces.
- Staff supervise a full range of extracurricular activities for students (see listings on reverse side).
- School-Business Community Partnerships include working relationships with area businesses, institutions of higher education and the Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce.
- Local foundation for athletics/extracurricular activities: ABSAF (Acton-Boxborough Student Activities Fund)
- Last year, the schools received approximately \$1.3 million in grants and other resources.
- Schools work with town(s) in Acton Leadership Group and Boxborough Leadership Forum.
- Acton-Boxborough Community Education is an asset to the school districts, offering a wide variety of programs for children and adults.

**SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND HOURS**

180 school days scheduled

| Elementary Schools                             |   |
|--|---|
| Douglas & Gates<br>Thursdays                   | 9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.<br>1:00 p.m. dismissal  |
| Conant, McCarthy-Towne<br>Merriam<br>Thursdays | 8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.<br>12:15 p.m. dismissal |
| Secondary Schools                              |   |
| A-B Regional High School                       | 7:23 a.m. - 2:18 p.m.                         |
| R.J. Grey Junior High School                   | 7:30 a.m. - 2:06 p.m.                         |

**BUSING DISTANCE**

(Busing provided by the school system)

| Level       |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| grades K-3  | No minimum (all transported) |
| grades 4-6  | Over 1 mile                  |
| grades 7-12 | Over 2 miles                 |

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

Stephen E. Mills, Superintendent  
Deborah Bookis, Director of Curriculum & Assessment  
Marie Altieri, Director of Personnel/Admin. Svcs.  
Elizabeth Huber, Director of Pupil Services  
Donald Aicardi, Director of Finance

**ACTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Dennis Bruce, APS Chairperson  
Michael Coppolino  
Kim McOsker  
Paul Murphy  
Deanne O'Sullivan  
Kristina Rychlik

**A-B SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

All Acton members plus the following Boxborough members:  
Brigid Bieber  
Mary Brolin  
Maria Neyland, ABRSC Chairperson  
12/16/13

## FY15 CASE COLLABORATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR ACTON-BOXBOROUGH

### **Background:**

CASE Collaborative has been notified by the DESE that the method by which CASE member districts claim their Circuit Breaker reimbursements must change. Under the current CASE Assessment methodology, a CASE member district's proportionate share of the CASE Assessment in any given year is determined by your percentage of CASE enrollment two years previous. That is to say, the Assessments for the FY15 Budget would be based on your share of the enrollment in FY13. Consequently, when CASE districts submit for Circuit Breaker reimbursement in any given year, they are reporting students from two years prior. The DESE has never been particularly pleased with this, and they have now decided that it must change, effective FY15.

### **Proposed Changes:**

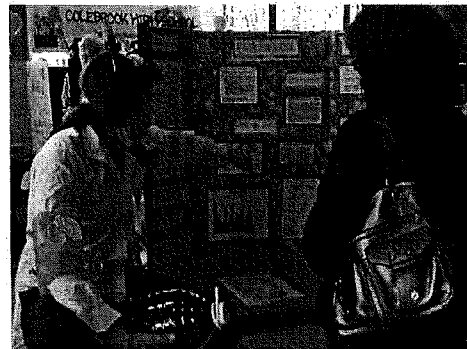
In order to respond to the DESE's determination, CASE will need to change the budget methodology for its Special Education programs (but not for Transportation) from an assessment-based method to a tuition-based method, similar to the method used at other collaboratives and private schools. While it is likely that the FY16 Budget for CASE will not use assessments at all, and districts will be charged a tuition rate or fee for the students who are enrolled in CASE services during FY16, a transitional budget methodology is being proposed for FY15.

Under current CASE Board policy, when the CASE Program Budget is developed, the amount assessed to districts is reduced by specified surpluses from the prior year. As an example, if the proposed CASE budget for FY15 is \$10 million, and there are \$1.5 million in surplus from the prior year, districts will be assessed a proportionate share of \$8.5 million (the \$10 million budget minus the \$1.5 million prior year surpluses). This has the benefit of ensuring that surplus funds are "returned" to districts via lowered costs, but has the adverse effect of artificially deflating current year costs (because they are being subsidized by the prior year's surplus).

Under the proposed transitional methodology, CASE districts will, as before, be assessed a proportionate share of the FY15 Budget based on their FY13 enrollment at CASE. However, instead of applying the prior year's surpluses to reduce the total amount of the FY15 Budget, CASE member districts will be allocated a share of the prior year surplus as a Prepaid Tuition Account, and their share of the Prepaid Tuition Account will combine with their FY15 Assessment to form their total FY15 Member District Account at CASE. Meanwhile, tuition rates are being developed based on budgeted costs for individual CASE programs. CASE districts will then "spend down" their total FY15 Member District Accounts, tuition by tuition, based on their actual use of CASE programs in FY15.

### **Specific to Acton-Boxborough:**

The current FY14 Assessments to Acton, Boxborough and Acton-Boxborough total \$1,345,072. This is based on an enrollment of 25.2 student FTEs in FY12, out of a total CASE enrollment of 152.2. The proposed FY15 Assessment to the combined Acton-Boxborough Regional district totals \$1,762,955. This is based on an enrollment of 31.3 student FTEs in FY13, out of a total CASE enrollment of 141.4. This is a projected increase of \$417,883. The Acton, Boxborough and Acton-Boxborough enrollment at CASE increased by 6.1 FTEs during this time. However, the Acton, Boxborough and Acton-Boxborough share of CASE enrollment increased from 16.6% in FY12 to 22.1% in FY13. Consequently, the Acton-Boxborough share of the CASE budget increased by 5.5% from FY14 to FY15. This results in the increase of \$417,883 in the combined Acton-Boxborough Assessment.



# CASE Collaborative Annual Report 2012 - 2013

*Serving: Acton; Acton-Boxborough; Bedford; Boxborough; Carlisle;  
Concord; Concord-Carlisle; Harvard; Lincoln; Lincoln-Sudbury;  
Littleton; Maynard; Sudbury*

**Approved by CASE Board of Directors: December 13, 2013**

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Concord, MA 01742

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14.7

Dr. Pat Schepel@abschools.org

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## Budget Questions and Common Core

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Scott Smyers <sdsmyers@gmail.com>  
To: abrsc@abschools.org

Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 1:12 AM

Dear Members of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee:

Although I was only able to attend part of the Saturday's meeting, I learned a great deal about the important decisions occurring on our budget. I was particularly impressed in the closing segment when one of the members explained how important it was that the Board maintains a high standard of integrity insofar as fulfilling their promises on cost savings resulting from regionalization.

It is refreshing to hear such strong statements prior to a vote, but it shouldn't be very surprising. Of course, we expect all town boards and committees to operate honestly and to the best of their ability so that our resources are efficiently and wisely used to provide the best education possible for our students.

---

I am very concerned about the apparent acceptance by ABRSC of ALL Common Core related increases in the budget. I've attended other ABRSC meetings and notice there is a lot of voting to obey new state mandates no matter what the cost or perceived need. Many people who are sympathetic to my concerns, tell me not to bother locally because it is State-driven. If towns do not control their own programs or how much they cost to implement, that means that towns do not control their own schools or school spending. I do not think this could be true and I do not believe any of you do either, so I am following the proper chain of command in my town.

Fist, please consider the evidence that Common Core and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is untested and invalid.

<http://www.uaedreform.org/downloads/2013/11/common-cores-invalid-validation-committee.pdf>

If you do not believe Dr. Stotsky's own words (above) as a professional educator who served on the validation committee, you must be wondering about where are these mandates coming from and is there really a demand for all these expensive changes? There is no call for more mandates in Acton that I know of. What happens if this is like many other "projected costs" by the experts? Way too low. What happens if Common Core is a disaster and you vote to implement as much as possible in this budget?

You are certainly aware of the avalanche of direct and indirect costs related to implementing these new programs. Although when I asked the appropriate state-level authorities a few months ago about the added costs of Common Core, they said it would be absorbed within the standard operating budgets of most schools. That doesn't seem to be true in our town and I expect that is the case state-wide. The increase in teacher evaluation responsibilities alone has required Vice Principals at every elementary school in next year's budget. This is a

substantial increase in staff, salaries, and benefits on top of the extra time each teacher will have to dedicate to paperwork and review interviews.

According to the presentation slides from Saturday's meeting, the new Vice Principal's #1 responsibility is to address "the extensive set of state and federal policies designed to hold schools more accountable." This means that schools are NOT held accountable to the District or the Parents, but to something/someone else at Common Core or the MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education, or the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Please consider putting up a bit more resistance before committing to hiring additional staff, purchasing expensive lesson plans, etc. (and that's a big ETC. that I promise will go on and on). If Common Core is invalid to begin with, you have a responsibility to slow this down however you can until it is fixed or rejected entirely.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Smyers

---

382 Central Street

Acton