

**Acton Public and Acton-Boxborough  
Regional School Committees  
Annual Workshop**

**July 9, 2013**

**6:30 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC Meeting Workshop  
8:30 p.m. Joint APS/ABRSC Executive Session**

**at the R.J. Grey Junior High Library**

JOINT ACTON PUBLIC and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Library  
R.J. Grey Junior High School

July 9, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Joint School Committee Workshop  
8:30 p.m. Joint School Committee Executive Session

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AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** (6:30)
2. **Chairmen's Introduction**
3. **Statement of Warrant**
4. **Joint School Committee Business**
  - 4.1 Approval of Minutes (*addendum*)
  - 4.2 Discussion of Junior High/High School Track – *Steve Mills, JD Head, Don Aicardi*

*School Committee Annual Workshop (6:50)*

5. **School Committee Policy, Operations, and Organizations**
  - 5.1. Policies (6:50)
    - 5.1.1. Policy Subcommittee Annual Summary
  - 5.2. Operations (7:00)
    - 5.2.1 Meeting protocol and parliamentary procedure review (KR)
    - 5.2.2 Meeting packets (BP)
    - 5.2.3 Public perception of School Committee (KR)
6. **School Operations** (7:20)
  - 6.1. Return to Review of Demographic Survey Results (MC)
  - 6.2. Public Request: Teacher Evaluation vs Increasing Educational Output (MN)
  - 6.3. Dr. Zhao Community Forum – July 23 (*to be on 8/22/13 SC meeting agenda*)
    - 6.3.1. Cultural diversity & Standardized testing concerns (KR, PM)
  - 6.4. More Attention to “middle ground” kids (PM)
7. **FY15 Budget Process and Priorities** (7:40)
8. **Regionalization** (7:45)
  - 8.1 Financial Oversight Subcommittee, reps from ALG, BLF, Fincoms, SC
  - 8.2 Future of the Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC)
  - 8.3 Transitional Issues
    - 8.3.1. FY14 School Committee meetings
    - 8.3.2. School Committee members' roles
    - 8.3.3. School Administrators' roles
9. **Approval of 2013-2014 Subcommittee Members – VOTE** – *M. Neyland/D. Bruce* (8:15)
10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: “Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining”** (8:30)

**ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting:** Joint School Committee, August 22, 7:00 p.m. in the Junior High Library

Acton-Boxborough Regional  
School District  
Review of Leary Field Track Repair  
Financial Implications  
July 9, 2013

Don Aicardi  
Finance Director

1

**Leary Field Track Repair  
Financial Ramifications**

**What is our FY'14 capacity?**

**What are the ramifications if we move  
forward and the ABRSD matches the private  
donations from FY'14?**

2

## Leary Field Track Repair Financial Ramifications

What information was shared with ABRSC on  
the potential need to repair the Leary Field  
track?

What other items were on that list?

JD Head's Presentation for  
Budget Saturday, January, 2013

3

## Capital Project List (January, 2013)

Project	Cost	Notes
HS Nstar Project	\$122,000	\$90,000 per year savings (addresses library lighting) Nstar contribution 125K
Leary Track	\$50,000	Buy time to get to larger project
Campus Circulation / Signage / Landscape Plan	TBD	Could work to achieve in pieces
HS Concrete	\$44,000	Safety / access issue
PDB Water Intrusion	\$30,000	Need to install drainage rear building
Admin Modular	TBD	Mold / Water issue Project Scope needs to be determined
Admin Roof	\$70,000	In progress / Completed 1/3 plus
RJ Grey HVAC	TBD (1.7 mill)	Possible opportunity to submit SOI to MSBA
Security Measures	TBD (47K)	Security and Safety Task Force under review
Conant Roof	\$400,000	\$2,100 in repairs over three years
Gates Roof	\$400,000	\$1,500 in repairs over three years

## **Leary Field Track Repair Financial Ramifications**

Based on the current plan, if debt was issued, it has been assumed that revenues from the Lower Field project:

1. Would pay off FOLF Loan
2. Revenues would then flow to Community Ed
3. New Special Revenue Account would be established for Lower Fields expenses
4. Revenues could then pay 100% of debt service related to repairs ... would never hit future operating budget

**EST TIME: FY'18 to FY'19**

5

## **Leary Field Track Repair Financial Ramifications**

Did we plan on spending any funds out of the FY'14 ABRSD budget towards the design and/or repair of the Leary Field Track?

**NO**

6

## **Leary Field Track Repair Financial Ramifications**

If not, has anything changed since the FY'14 ABRSD budget was approved last spring that could allow for expenditures for track design/repair?

**YES-with our eyes wide open**

7

## **Leary Field Track Repair Financial Ramifications**

Since this potential expense was not included in the FY14 budget,

1. We could over-expend from one account, as long as we know the expense is covered by a favorable change in another account
2. Other Fund Balance Replenishment

8

## Leary Field Track Repair Financial Ramifications

### 1. Over-Expend/Expend

GOOD NEWS: Energy Accounts (+\$100k)

BAD NEWS: Gasoline (\$-40k)  
Athletics (\$-30k)  
Legal (\$-30k)  
Workers Comp (\$-24k)

Other Unknowns/Unexpected?  
Yet To Be Determined Regionalization Implementation Costs?

9

## Leary Field Track Repair Financial Ramifications

### 2. Fund Balance Replenishment

FY'14 AB Circuit Breaker Assumed **65%** (\$1.1 million)

First, Recent Resolution of FY'14 State Budget

Second, final CB numbers in late August - potentially  
closer to **75%???**

Futures Study: Recommends AB to apply for Medicaid  
Reimbursement.

Will be started up during FY'14; revenue was not assumed for  
FY'14

**BOTH WILL IMPROVE ABRSD FUND BALANCE**

10

## Food For Thought

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Maintaining the ABRSD's E & D balance in a thoughtful and prudent way only grew in importance due to the vote last month by the towns of Boxborough and Acton to fully regionalize K to 12

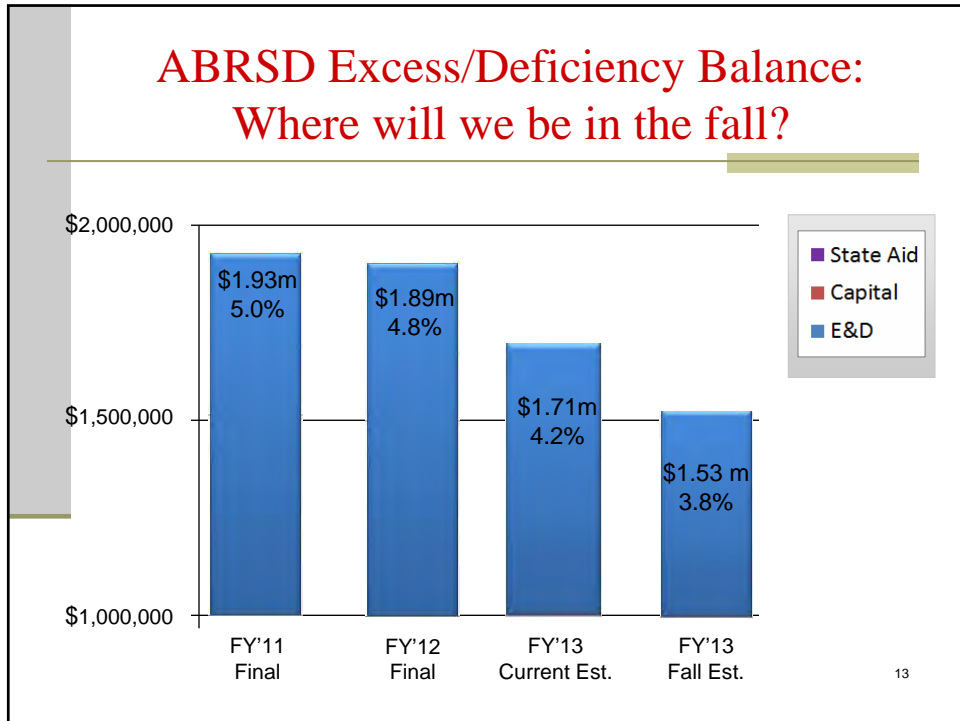
## Food For Thought

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### Fund Balance Spreadsheet Review

(interactive during meeting)





### Acton Boxborough Regional School District Excess & Deficiency FY'98 to FY'13

FY	E & D	FY	E & D
FY'98	\$391,959	FY'06	\$632,349
FY'99	\$460,077	FY'07	\$1,415,970*
FY'00	\$803,026	FY'08	\$1,231,767*
FY'01	\$427,861	FY'09	\$1,545,953
FY'02	\$467,258	FY'10	\$1,711,823
FY'03	\$767,772	FY'11	\$1,925,118**
FY'04	\$605,464	FY'12	\$1,892,740
FY'05	\$805,557	FY'13	\$1,530,000 EST

## Wrap Up

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I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**2012-2013 Policy Subcommittee Report**

The following policies and procedures were reviewed and revised this year:

**Student Fees File: JQ**

Approved: 9/6/12

**Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff File: GBEB**

Approved: 9/6/12

**Mission and Vision/Values File: AD-E**

Approved: 3/7/13

**Prohibition of Harassment File: ACAB, combining ACAB, JBA, GBA**

Approved: 3/7/13

**Employee Acceptable Use of Technology File: GBEE**

Approved: 5/2/13

**Security Camera Systems File: EEAEB**

Approved: 6/6/13

**Family and Medical Leave File: GCCC/GDCC**

First Reading: 6/6/13

Second Reading/Vote expected 9/22/13

**Small Necessities Leave File: GCCCA/GDCCA**

First Reading: 6/6/13

Second Reading/Vote expected 9/22/13

7/2/13



6.2

## A better way to evaluate teachers...

**Maria Neyland** <mneyland@abschools.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2013 at 6:09 PM

To: Alex Horovitz <ahorovitz@ibms.com>

Cc: AB Regional School Committee <abrsc@acton-ma.gov>, Beth Petr <bpetr@abschools.org>, Stephen Mills <smills@abschools.org>

Alex,

Each summer the RSC conducts a workshop, at which we set our priorities and sub committees for the upcoming year. I will be sure to add this to the agenda.

Thank you,  
Maria

On Thu, Apr 11, 2013 at 5:20 PM, Alex Horovitz <ahorovitz@ibms.com> wrote:

Maria,

Thank you for your response.

I'm so pleased to hear that you are a firm believer in improvement. While I am deeply skeptical of the impact teacher evaluation will have at improving the day to day educational experiences of our students, I think there are issues that can be actually be meaningfully addressed.

Two off the top of my head:

- 1) I'm not sure what Boxborough has for a Certified Librarian, but here in Acton we got rid of ours back before my middle child ( now in 8th grade ) arrived in elementary school. At the time the position was cut it was promised to the community that it would be restored as soon as the budgets allowed. So now I have had 2 of my kids go through elementary school with no instruction from a certified library / media center instructor.
- 2) Children with mental health issues that need to work with a clinical psychologist. Why do we only have a fractional psychologist for 3 out of the 5 grammar schools?

I do appreciate the time and energy that has gone into creating an evaluation system. I guess I am most perplexed as to why we suspect that building upon a state mandated evaluation process in a high performing district like ours is the best use of time, energy, and money. It seems to me that activities which actually engage in the children in their education or caring for their emotional needs is far likely to yield better outcomes for the same time, energy, and money.

Perhaps it is time to take a step back. Instead of simply just going along with every mandate that comes out of the DOE ( or worse lending endorsement to it by using it as a foundation ) perhaps it is time to speak up and put a stop to the madness. I think it very interesting that you can't get anyone to say anything nice about the DOE (unless their school funding depends on it) and yet they seem to feel perfectly free to exercise their better judgement over all of us in the realm of education.

I find it highly telling that right now, Chinese leaders, in an attempt to improve the creativity of their population, are trying to move the country away from its notoriously rigorous focus on standardized testing while here in America our political leadership seems to be heading in exactly the opposite direction. As the Chair, perhaps you could appoint a sub-committee to figure out how best to limit the DOE and re-appropriate the bureaucratic waste on actual educational functions as opposed to state mandated testing & reporting. If you are looking for

volunteers, consider my hand to be raised.

Best Regards,

Alex

On Apr 11, 2013, at 12:55 PM, Maria Neyland <mneyland@abschools.org> wrote:

Alex,

Thank you for your email, it will be included in our next SC package. While I agree we have an outstanding district I am a firm believer that there is always room for assessment and possible improvement. The administration and the teachers worked hard to produce an evaluation model that while keeping with the DESE requirements also works for our district.

Your comments are appreciated, and I am sure the administration will consider them along with other feedback as the district completes this pilot year.

Thank you,  
Maria E. Neyland, Chair

On Tue, Apr 9, 2013 at 9:28 PM, Alex Horovitz <ahorovitz@ibms.com> wrote:

Dear Superintendent Mills, Principals of my Children and School Committee Members,

I find it so interesting that we are spending so much time doing teacher assessments for a district that is at the top of the state ( and country for that matter ) that it requires the administrative overhead of Assistant Principals just to get that done. In no small part that is, as I have come to understand, because we put our own "Acton Touch" on the DOE's mandate.

It makes you wonder why, when we are doing so well, we spend so much time and money obsessing over the metrics that are designed to bring non-performing school districts up to some minimally acceptable standard. What I find particularly mind blowing is that somehow we felt the need to go beyond the minutia described here: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/edeval/model/> to produce our own version...

Layering on bureaucracy in an environment of declining classroom resources and increased taxpayer suspicion of how money is being spent seems wrong headed. I mean seriously, how did we imagine we in Acton were going to improve upon the DOE's 52 pages of Part VII "Rating Educator Impact on Student Learning Using District-Determined Measures of Student Learning" which in my opinion was already excruciating enough. What is the goal and interest in the State of a School district that is performing well?

Do we only play along because we need the state dollars to help foot the bill? At some point it becomes a question of integrity. Are we achieving the goal of educating the students under our supervision or not. If we are, and we prove it using the state tests, then why is all this other stuff necessary?

I, for one, would like to see a proposal for how we can ask to be exempted from the reporting and evaluation minutia that does not substantially increase the educational outcomes of our students. Being one of the best in the state at outcomes ought to come with some privileges.

Best Regards,

Alex



Please Join Us for  
**An Evening with Dr. Yong Zhao**  
July 23, 2013  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, along with the Acton Chinese Language School, welcome Dr. Yong Zhao on July 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to the High School auditorium. Please join our school administration and staff as we hear Dr. Zhao's presentation on the complexities of today's American education system and where it stands within global education.

**About Dr. Zhao . . .**

An internationally known scholar, author, and speaker, Dr. Zhao has established himself as one of the most compelling voices in education today with an emphasis on developing students to be creative, resourceful thinkers with an entrepreneurial spirit. He argues that our country's current focus on standardized learning and testing is counter-productive to developing the skills, strategies, levels of engagement, and attitudes students will need for our ever-changing world. Currently a Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education at the College of Education at the University of Oregon, Dr. Zhao is also a full professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy, and Leadership and a fellow of the International Academy of Education. Author of *World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students* and *Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization*, Dr. Zhao's books are available online at the Amazon bookstore. These books are also available at the Acton Memorial and Sargent Libraries.

**How to register . . .**

Please join us as Dr. Zhao shares his research and perspectives on developing the skills and strategies necessary for students to be successful in meeting the demands of a global society. Admission is free and seating is first come, first served. To register, visit the school districts' website at <http://ab.mec.edu> and click on the "General Admission" link under "News and Events."

(With Appendix A)

**AGREEMENT  
FOR A REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FOR THE TOWNS OF  
ACTON AND BOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS**

(As revised effective July 1, 2014)

(As approved March 21, 1955 and  
As Amended on: October 10, 1955  
October 1, 1956  
March 9, 1959  
December 27, 1973  
October 5, 1998 and  
June 3, 2013)

Certificate of the Secretary

I, the undersigned Secretary of Acton-Boxborough Regional School District having custody of its official records, hereby certify that this document represents the Agreement for a Regional School District for the Towns of Acton and Boxborough, Massachusetts as amended to date.

Witness my hand and the official seal of said Acton-Boxborough Regional School District this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.

Elizabeth A. Petz  
Secretary as aforesaid

## Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

### AGREEMENT

This Agreement is intended to establish a pre-school through grade 12 regional school district for the Towns of Acton and Boxborough, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereinafter referred to as member towns.

#### SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- A. The Regional District School Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee," or "the Regional School Committee," shall consist of eleven (11) members, seven (7) residing in the Town of Acton and four (4) residing in the Town of Boxborough. The weight of voting is as established in paragraph G below.
- B. At the annual town elections in 2014, in addition to electing two members of the Regional School Committee consistent with the Regional Agreement which is expiring on June 30, 2014, the Town of Acton, in order to achieve the configuration of Committee members established in paragraph A of this Section, will also elect a third member, whose term of office will begin on July 1, 2014. At the annual town elections in 2014, in addition to electing one member of the Regional School Committee consistent with the Regional Agreement which is expiring on June 30, 2014, the Town of Boxborough, in order to achieve the configuration of Committee members established in paragraph A of this Section, will also elect a second member, whose term of office will begin on July 1, 2014.
- C. At the annual town elections beginning in 2015, the Town of Acton shall elect two (2) or three (3) members of the Committee from the Town of Acton (whichever number is necessary to complete Acton's complement of seven committee members), and the Town of Boxborough shall elect one (1) or two (2) member(s) of the Committee from the Town of Boxborough (whichever number is necessary to complete Boxborough's complement of four committee members). Each member so elected shall serve for a term of three (3) years or until a successor is elected and qualified.
- D. No fewer than four (4) members from Acton and no fewer than two (2) members from Boxborough must be present in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- E. The Committee shall have all the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon school committees by Massachusetts General Law and conferred and imposed upon it by this Agreement and any special laws.



- F. At the first regular meeting of the Committee following the latest town election to be held in each year, the Committee shall organize by choosing a Chairman from its own members, and by appointing a Secretary and a Treasurer who may be the same person, but who need not be members of the Committee. The Committee shall define the duties of all officers. The Committee shall appoint such other officers and agents as it deems advisable.
- G. On all matters coming before the Committee, each member from Boxborough shall cast one vote and each member from Acton shall cast 2.5 votes. This weighted voting will be re-examined every ten (10) years, after the publication of the new federal census data to verify that the weighted voting is within DESE standards.

## SECTION 2. TYPE OF REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL

- A. The Regional School District shall consist of school grades pre-school through twelve, inclusive.
- B. The Committee may establish and maintain state-aided vocational education, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 74 of the General Laws, and acts amendatory thereto or dependent thereon by amendment to this agreement.

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## SECTION 3. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- A. Residents of the member towns may attend the Regional District Schools under the same regulations as would apply to a local school system.
- B. Students residing outside the District may attend the Regional District Schools upon approval of the Committee and payment of tuition established in the manner provided by law.
- C. Students wishing to attend vocational schools may do so in the manner provided by law.
- D. During the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019, pre-school to grade 6 students who reside in Acton will have first option for attending an elementary school in Acton while pre-school through grade 6 students who reside in Boxborough will have first option for attending an elementary school in Boxborough. Exceptions to this may be made for special education purposes or for other reasons which the Superintendent finds compelling. As of July 1, 2019, the "first option" described in the preceding two sentences will continue unless the option is altered by the Regional School Committee. In any event, any student who began his or her attendance in a particular elementary school, as well as any younger siblings of that student, will be given a preference in terms of continuing to attend at that school.

- E. School transportation shall be provided by the Regional School District for all eligible students residing in the member towns who are enrolled in the District, grades pre-K through 12.

#### SECTION 4. LOCATION OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS

- A. The Regional District's schools shall be located in the towns of Acton and Boxborough. Each town will be guaranteed at least one school within its borders.
- B. Effective July 1, 2014, the Town of Acton and the Town of Boxborough will sell and convey to the District for the sum of one dollar each, ownership of the elementary school buildings, and the property on which said buildings are located, that are then currently in existence. Said conveyance of these school properties shall be contingent upon the execution of intermunicipal agreements between Acton and the District and between Boxborough and the District which will resolve any outstanding title issues associated with the properties, allocate responsibility for any pre-existing condition of or debt service associated with the properties or buildings, address any pre-existing leases of any portions of the properties or buildings, reserve and ensure continued town uses as defined in those agreements, and otherwise ensure that any issues of mutual concern to each Town and the District regarding these properties are satisfactorily addressed in those agreements. At any time in the future, if the Regional School Committee votes that any of the Region's buildings and properties that are owned by the Region is/are no longer needed by the Region for school-related purposes, the ownership of said building and property shall be sold and conveyed to the Town in which it is located for the sum of one dollar.

#### SECTION 5. APPORTIONMENT AND PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT

- A. The construction, capital, operating, and transportation costs of the District and payments of principal and interest on its bonds, notes and other obligations, net of Federal and/or State financial aid and any other income received by the District, shall be apportioned annually between Acton and Boxborough as set out in subsections B and C below.
- B. Providing such is not contrary to applicable law, each member town's share of capital, operating and transportation costs for each fiscal year shall be determined by computing, to the nearest 1/100 of 1%, the ratio which the sum of its pupil enrollments in the Regional School District on October 1 of the three years next preceding the start of such fiscal year bears to the sum of the pupil enrollments in the Regional School District of all member towns on October 1 of the same three years. These ratios shall be known as the base percentages.
- C. Providing such is not contrary to applicable law, Boxborough's share of construction costs incurred prior to July 1, 2014 which are attributable to the Region's grade 7-12

facilities for each fiscal year shall be its base percentage minus five percentage points. This five percentage point "discount" will not be applied to construction costs incurred after July 1, 2014, which are attributable to the Region's grade 7-12 facilities. Acton shall pay the remainder of such construction costs attributable to the Region's grade 7-12 facilities. Each town's respective share of the construction costs attributable to the Region's Pre K through grade 6 facilities will be computed using the same criteria as applied to operating costs.

- D. Because of considerations discussed and agreed to at the time of the expansion of the District from a grade 7 to 12 region to a pre-K to 12 region, the transitional rules appearing in Appendix A regarding the apportionment of costs to the member towns for fiscal years 2015 through 2021 will apply. Appendix A is incorporated herein by reference.
- E. In the event that some provision of applicable law requires some different apportionment of the costs of construction or capital or operating the District than is provided in this section of the Agreement, then insofar as is practical and allowed by the applicable law, in good faith the member towns shall apportion those costs, the division of which is not otherwise controlled by the applicable law, so as to exactly or as nearly as practical achieve the same overall apportionment of total costs in each fiscal year as would otherwise have been achieved by the formulas specified in Section 5, subsections B and C above.
- F. In the event that (an) additional town(s) is (are) admitted into the Region under the provisions of Section 7, the formulas in Section 5 will be renegotiated.

## SECTION 6. AMENDMENTS

- A. This agreement may be amended from time to time in the manner hereinafter provided, but no such amendment shall be made which shall materially or adversely affect the rights of the holders of any bonds or notes or other indebtedness of the District then outstanding, or the rights of the District to procure the means for payment thereof, provided that nothing in this section shall prevent the admission of a new town or towns to the District. A proposal for amendment may be initiated by a single petition bearing the signatures of at least 200 registered voters of the District or by a majority of the members of the Committee.
- B. Said petition shall also contain, at the end thereof, a certification by the town clerks of the respective member towns as to the number of signatures on the petition which appear to be names of registered voters from that town; such certification to be prima facie evidence thereof. Any such proposal for amendment shall be presented to the secretary of the Committee who shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this agreement has been received and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signatures in the case of a proposal by petition). The selectmen in each member town shall include, in the warrant for

the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose, an article stating the proposal or the substance thereof. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by a majority of voters present and voting in each of the member towns. Said vote shall be by ballot. All amendments are subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education.

- C. Recognizing that over time circumstances often change, and intending that this Agreement should continue to serve the best interests of the member Towns, the School Committee should, at five year intervals, review the need to establish an ad hoc study group composed of knowledgeable persons to study this Agreement and report to the Committee as to whether or not any changes to this Agreement might be beneficial, in light of the then prevailing conditions. The Committee shall give any such ad hoc study group's report due consideration, but may exercise its discretion as to whether or not it will implement any of the group's recommendations.

#### SECTION 7. ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TOWNS

- A. By an amendment of this agreement adopted under and in accordance with Section 6 above, any other town or towns may be admitted to the Regional School District upon adoption as therein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance by the town or towns seeking admission of the agreement as so amended and also upon compliance with such provisions of law as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such amendment.
- B. Upon admission of such town or towns, the total construction costs plus the cost of any subsequent capital acquisitions and improvements, reduced by an appropriate depreciation allowance, shall be reapportioned to all towns in the District including the newly admitted town (or towns) in a reasonable manner. The newly admitted town shall then assume liability of its entire share of the cost to be paid to the District over the remaining term of any funded debt issued to pay such construction costs or subsequent capital acquisitions or improvements. If no such funded debt exists, the newly admitted town (or towns) shall finance its share independently of the District and pay the same directly to each member town according to the proportion such towns had originally paid to the District.

#### SECTION 8. WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER TOWNS

Any member town may petition to withdraw from the Regional School District under terms stipulated in Section 6 of this agreement provided (1) that the town seeking to withdraw has paid over to the Regional School District any operating costs and non-debt financed capital or construction costs for which it became liable as a member of the

District, and (2) that said town shall remain liable to the District for its share of the indebtedness of the District, other than temporary indebtedness incurred in anticipation of revenue, outstanding at the time of such withdrawal, and for interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though the town had not withdrawn from the District, except that such liability shall be reduced by any amount which such town has paid over at the time of withdrawal and which has been applied to the payment of such indebtedness and interest or which has been deposited for the purpose as provided in the second paragraph below.

Said petitioning town shall cease to be a member town if the proposed amendment is accepted by the petitioning town and each of the other member towns by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

Money received by the District from a withdrawing town for payment of funded indebtedness and interest thereon shall be used for only such purpose and until so used shall be deposited in trust in the name of the District with a Massachusetts bank or trust company.

#### SECTION 9. NOTICE OF DEBT AUTHORIZATION

Notice of any debt authorization shall be given to the member towns in accordance with the applicable law, or within ten days of the relevant vote of the Committee, whichever is less. Thereinafter, notwithstanding any provision of applicable law, as has been the Region's practice for many years, such debt shall not actually be incurred until the amount of the proposed debt has been specifically approved by a two-thirds vote at the next annual or special town meeting in each member town.

#### SECTION 10. BUDGET

- A. The Committee should annually, at least 20 days prior to the date on which the final budget is adopted, prepare a preliminary budget. A preliminary budget shall include the amounts necessary to be raised to maintain and operate the Regional District Schools during the ensuing fiscal period, and include the amount required for payment of debt and interest incurred by the District which will be due in said fiscal period. All non-recurring expenditures shall be itemized. This preliminary budget shall be itemized in such further detail as the Committee may deem advisable. From the total of said budget there shall be deducted any surplus receipts for the preceding fiscal period over the costs and expenses for that fiscal period, excepting those receipts which were reserved for that fiscal period. The preliminary budget shall be approved by a majority of the members of the Committee from each member town.
- B. Copies of said preliminary budget shall be prepared by the Committee, and promptly made available to the Finance Committee of each member town.
- C. The Committee shall hold a budget hearing annually. Thereafter, the Committee shall adopt a final budget not later than forty-five days prior to the earliest date on

which the business session of the annual town meeting of any member town is to be held, but in no event later than March 31 (provided that said budget need not be adopted earlier than February 1). The final budget shall be adopted pursuant to applicable provisions of law.

- D. Within ten days, or such lesser period as provided by law from the date on which the final annual budget is adopted by the Committee, the Treasurer of the Committee shall certify to the Treasurer of each member town and inform the Chairmen of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee of each member town of its share of the budget to become due in the ensuing fiscal period, as well as any other information required by law.
- E. Each member town shall seasonably bring the Committee's final budget before an annual or special town meeting and thereafter pay its proportionate share of the annual construction, capital and operating costs to the Regional School District in equal monthly amounts and on the fifteenth of each month, unless the District Treasurer, after due consultation with the member Towns' Treasurers, determines that there is good cause to select a different day of the month for any particular fiscal year. If either Acton or Boxborough should fail to approve any Regional budget submitted to its respective meetings, any further proceedings will be as provided by law.

#### SECTION 11. ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee shall on or before October 1 of each year submit an annual report to each of the member towns, containing a detailed financial statement, and a statement showing the method of computing the annual charges assessed against each town, together with such additional information relating to the operation and maintenance of the regional school as may be deemed necessary by the Committee or by the selectmen of any member town, and each member town shall include said report in its annual report.

#### SECTION 12. TRANSITION PERIOD

- A. Until July 1, 2014, the Acton School Committee and the Boxborough School Committee will continue to oversee and operate the pre-school through grade 6 programs in Acton and Boxborough, respectively, subject to the restrictions spoken to in paragraph D below, and until said date the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee will continue to oversee and operate the grades 7-12 programs for the two towns.
- B. Upon the acceptance of this Agreement by the Town Meetings in Acton and Boxborough and the approval of this Agreement by the Commissioner of Education, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee, in addition to its duties to oversee and operate the then existing grade 7 through grade 12 regional school district, shall also become a "transitional school committee," consistent

with 603 CMR 41.03(5) with respect to the expanded pre-school through grade 12 region. This transition period will extend from the date of acceptance by the two Town Meetings and the approval by the Commissioner until June 30, 2014. During this transition period, the same criteria regarding quorum, weight of voting, and the service of officers will apply to the Transitional School Committee as apply to the then-current Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee.

- C. During the transition period, the Regional School Committee, acting as the Transitional School Committee, shall possess all powers, subject to the availability of funds necessary for the exercise of such powers, necessary for the planning and implementation of the expanded regional school district, including but not limited to the following:
1. The power to receive funds from the Commonwealth as well as appropriations, grants, and gifts from other sources. This is not intended to alter the fact that during the transition period other funds from the Commonwealth will continue to flow to the member towns and their individual school departments.
  2. The power to establish and adopt policies for the expanded regional school district.
  3. The power to employ a superintendent, treasurer, chief financial officer, school physician, and director of Special Education, as well as the power to authorize the superintendent to employ other personnel as needed.
  4. The power to contract for and/or purchase goods and services, as well as the power to enter into leases and other agreements with the member towns, collaboratives, vendors, and other agencies and parties, with all the powers being able to be exercised on behalf of the expanded regional school district.
  5. The power to adopt budgets for the expanded regional school district, and to assess the member towns for these budgets.
  6. The power to negotiate and to enter into collective bargaining agreements, which will take effect no sooner than the inception of the expanded regional school district.
  7. The power to develop and adopt a strategic plan for the expanded regional school district.
  8. The power to appoint subcommittees.
- D. During the transition period, the local school committees of the member towns

and the Regional School Committee when not acting as the Transitional School Committee, may not make decisions that will financially obligate or legally encumber the expanded regional school district without ratification by majority vote of the Regional School Committee acting as the Transitional School Committee. In addition, the local school committees shall comply with the following during the transition period:


1. No construction of new schools will be undertaken and no building closures will occur unless ratified by majority vote of the Regional School Committee acting as the Transitional School Committee.
2. Program offerings will remain substantially the same.
3. No school choice openings will be filled to take effect after June 30, 2014 except with the approval by majority vote of the Regional School Committee acting as the Transitional School Committee.
4. The school administration of the local school districts shall cooperate with the Regional Administration in terms of information sharing and in terms of the transfer control during the transition period.
5. During the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, the Regional School Committee will assume responsibility for the transportation of the regular education students (i.e., not the special education students or the vocational students) who reside in Acton and Boxborough and who are enrolled in the Acton or Boxborough Public Schools. During 2013-2014 the Acton School Committee and the Boxborough School Committee will authorize the payment to the Regional School Committee of an amount equal to the cost of said transportation for their respective regular education students.



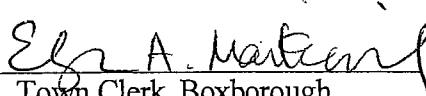
This agreement shall take effect on July 1, 2014 and shall continue in effect from year to year thereafter, unless amended or terminated consistent with the terms of this Agreement and with the General Laws and state regulations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement has been approved and accepted as of the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.

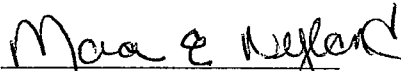
I hereby certify that the above Regional Agreement was approved by vote of the Town of Acton held on June 3, 2013


By   
Town Clerk, Acton

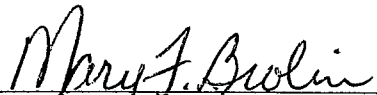
I hereby certify that the above Regional Agreement as approved by vote of the Town of Boxborough held on June 3, 2013

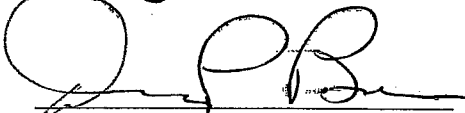
By   
Town Clerk, Boxborough

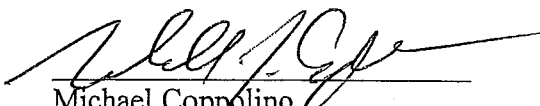
Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee:

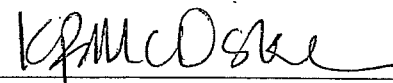
  
Maria Neyland, Chairperson

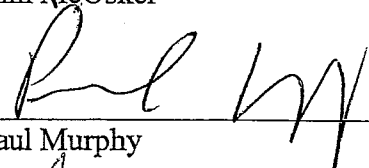
  
Brigid Bieber

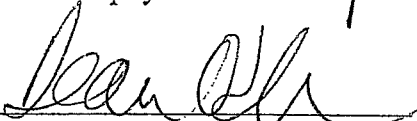
  
Mary Brodin

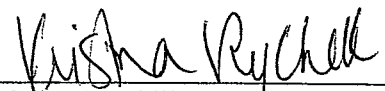
  
Dennis Bruce

  
Michael Coppolino

  
Kim McOsker

  
Paul Murphy

  
Deanne O'Sullivan

  
Kristina Rychlik

## APPENDIX A

1. The figure of \$1,873,119 has been established as the “projected benefits” that will be used as a factor in the calculations which will be made under the following paragraphs of this Appendix A.
2. The following projected “base budgets” have been established for Acton and for Boxborough for fiscal year 2015 (i.e., July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) through fiscal year 2019 (i.e., July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019):

FY’15: Acton, \$51,788,675; Boxborough, \$11,097,136  
FY’16: Acton, \$53,398,447; Boxborough, \$11,134,949  
FY’17: Acton, \$55,056,859; Boxborough, \$11,308,113  
FY’18: Acton, \$56,675,977; Boxborough, \$11,426,890  
FY’19: Acton, \$58,148,708; Boxborough, \$11,521,994

3. For fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2019, the following “percentage shares” of the projected benefits will be used for purposes of the calculations which will be made under the following paragraphs of this Appendix:

FY’15: Acton, 80%; Boxborough 20%  
FY’16: Acton, 87.5%; Boxborough 12.5%  
FY’17: Acton, 90%; Boxborough 10%  
FY’18: Acton, 82.5%; Boxborough 17.5%  
FY’19: Acton, 60%; Boxborough 40%

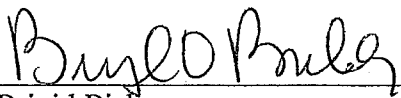
4. In order to establish the assessments for fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2019, the following multi-step process will be followed:
  - a. The percentage share (see paragraph 3 above) of the projected benefits for the respective town and for the respective fiscal year will be multiplied by the projected benefit figure of \$1,873,119, yielding an “allocated benefits figure” for each of the two towns for that particular fiscal year. For example, for FY’15, Acton’s allocated benefit figure will be \$1,498,495 (i.e., 80% x \$1,873,119), while Boxborough’s allocated benefit figure will be \$374,624 (i.e., 20% x \$1,873,119).
  - b. The base budget for each of the two towns for the respective fiscal year (see paragraph 2 above) will be reduced by the allocated benefits figure for that year and for that town. For example, for FY’15, Acton’s base budget of \$51,788,675 will be reduced by \$1,498,495, yielding a recalculated base budget figure of \$50,290,179. Similarly, for FY’15, Boxborough’s base budget of \$11,097,136 will be reduced by \$374,624, yielding a recalculated base budget figure of \$10,722,512.

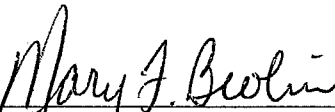
- c. The recalculated base budget figures for each of the two towns resulting from paragraph 4,b above will be added together, and the respective percentage that each town's base budget figure bears to that total sum will be calculated. For example, for FY'15, the sum of the recalculated base budget figures is \$61,012,691, of which Acton's recalculated base budget figure (i.e., \$50,290,179) represents 82.43%, while Boxborough's recalculated base budget figure (i.e., \$10,722,512) represents 17.57%.
- d. The percentage shares calculated under paragraph 4,c above (which, for example, in FY'15 would be 82.43% for Acton and 17.57% for Boxborough) will then be compared to the percentage shares that would result from the apportionment criteria that appear in Section 5, subsections B and C of this Agreement, and the respective differences in those shares will be identified. These respective differences will then be used to lower the actual assessment of the town by that percentage amount if the percentage share calculated under paragraph 4,c is lower than the percentage share that would result under subsections B and C, or to raise the town's actual assessment if the converse is true. If, for example, Acton would have an assessment percentage of 83.92% for FY'15 using the apportionment criteria that appear in subsections B and C, this percentage would be 1.49% higher than the percentage identified for Acton under paragraph 4,c above. Conversely, if Boxborough would have an assessment percentage of 16.08% for FY'15 using the apportionment criteria that appear in subsections B and C, this percentage would be 1.45% lower than the percentage identified for Boxborough under paragraph 4,c above. Under this example, Acton's actual assessment percentage for FY'15 will be lowered by 1.49% to 82.43% and Boxborough's actual assessment percentage will be raised by 1.49% to 17.57%, as compared to the assessments that would occur using the apportionment criteria that appear in subsections B and C.
- e. During each of the years from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2019, the Region's administration will report to the Regional School Committee and to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen of each member town the per pupil costs of each elementary school. The purpose of this reporting will be to incentivize the convergence of per pupil costs at each elementary school. This reporting shall be made as part of the Annual Report described in Section 11.
- f. For fiscal year 2020 Acton will be assessed \$425,000 less, and Boxborough will be assessed \$425,000 more, than would result from the apportionment criteria that appear in subsections B and C. For fiscal year 2021 Acton will be assessed \$25,000 less, and Boxborough will be assessed \$25,000 more, than would result from the apportionment criteria that appear in subsections B and C.
- g. Once the fiscal years addressed by the transitional rules established in this Appendix A have elapsed, the assessment language otherwise appearing in Section 5 of the Agreement will control.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have caused these presents to be signed,  
sealed and delivered by the officers of each hereunto duly authorized this 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
June 2013.

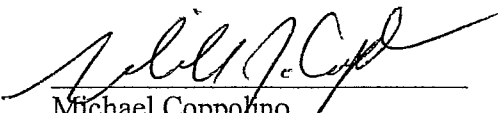
Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee:

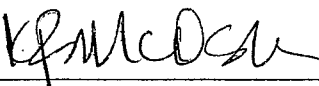
  
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Maria Neyland, Chairperson

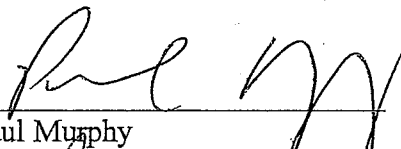
  
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Mary Brölin

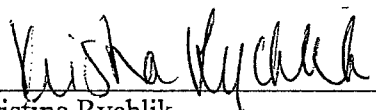
  
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Kim McOsker

  
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Paul Murphy


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deanne O'Sullivan

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristina Rychlik

Acton Board of Selectmen:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Adachi, Chairman

Boxborough Board of Selectmen:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Amoroso, Chairman

**ACTON and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
2013-2014**

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**Meetings are held in the R.J. Grey Junior High School Library unless otherwise indicated.**

Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of the month;

Acton Public School Committee meetings are usually held on the third Thursday.

ABRSC Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.. APSC Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

All materials are posted at <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings>.

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July 9 (Tues)	<b>Joint School Committee Annual Workshop – 6:00 pm</b>
August 22	<b>Joint School Committee followed by Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee, followed by Acton School Committee – 7:00 pm</b>
September 10 (Tues)	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee (9/5/ is no school)</b>
September 19	<b>Acton School Committee – Education Report from</b>
October 3	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b>
October 17	<b>Acton School Committee – Education Report from</b>
November 7	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b>
November 21	<b>Acton School Committee – Education Report from</b>
December 5	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b>
	Education Report from
December 19	<b>Acton School Committee</b>
January 7 (Tues)	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b>
January 16	<b>Acton School Committee</b>
January 25 (Sat)	<b>Joint School Committee Budget Saturday – 9 am – 2 pm</b>
February 6	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b> (open budget hearing-required by law)
February 13	<b>Acton School Committee</b> (open budget hearing-required by law)
March 6	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b> Education Report from
March 20	<b>Acton School Committee – Education Report from</b>
March 27	<b>Joint APS/ABRSC School Committee</b> (serves as April meetings)
May 1	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b>
May 15	<b>Acton School Committee – Education Report from</b>
June 5	<b>Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee</b>
June 19	<b>Acton School Committee</b>

Note: Acton Town Meeting is the first week of April. Boxborough Town Meeting is mid-May.  
6/14/13

<http://ab.mec.edu/about/schoolcommittee>

Acton Public Schools  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
2013 -2014

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<b>Acton Public Schools</b>			<u>Term Expires</u>
Dennis Bruce*	Acton	<a href="mailto:dbruce@abschools.org">dbruce@abschools.org</a>	April, 2015
Michael Coppolino	Acton	<a href="mailto:mcoppolino@abschools.org">mcoppolino@abschools.org</a>	April, 2016
Kim McOsker	Acton	<a href="mailto:kmcosker@abschools.org">kmcosker@abschools.org</a>	April 2014
Paul Murphy	Acton	<a href="mailto:pmurphy@abschools.org">pmurphy@abschools.org</a>	April 2014
Deanne O'Sullivan	Acton	<a href="mailto:dosullivan@abschools.org">dosullivan@abschools.org</a>	April, 2015
Kristina Rychlik	Acton	<a href="mailto:krychlik@abschools.org">krychlik@abschools.org</a>	April, 2016

\* \* \* \* \*

**Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools**  
(all of the above, plus the following Boxborough members)

Brigid Bieber	Boxborough	<a href="mailto:bbieber@abschools.org">bbieber@abschools.org</a>	May, 2015
Maria Neyland**	Boxborough	<a href="mailto:mneyland@abschools.org">mneyland@abschools.org</a>	May, 2014
Mary Brolin	Boxborough	<a href="mailto:mbrolin@abschools.org">mbrolin@abschools.org</a>	May, 2016

\* Acton Public School Committee Chairperson  
\*\*A-B Regional School Committee Chairperson

6/20/13

**BOXBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING SCHEDULE  
2013-2014**

School Committee meetings are held in the Blanchard Memorial School Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Wed., 7/10/13	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session – 7:30 AM Blanchard Office Conf. Room
Thurs., 7/25/13	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session – 7:30 PM
Thurs., 9/12/13	Boxborough School Committee Facility Tour: 7:00 PM Regular Session - 7:30 PM
Thurs., 10/10/13	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session - 7:30 PM
Thurs., 11/14/13	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session - 7:30 PM
Thurs., 12/12/13	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session – 7:30 PM
Thurs., 1/9/14	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session - 7:30 PM
Thurs., 2/13/14	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session - 7:30 PM
Thurs., 3/13/14	Boxborough School Committee Budget Public Hearing - 7:00 PM Regular Session – 7:30 PM
Thurs., 4/10/14	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session - 7:30 PM
Thurs., 5/8/14	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session - 7:30 PM
Thurs., 6/12/14	Boxborough School Committee Regular Session - 7:30 PM

<b>Brigid Bieber</b> - Local/Regional	Chair	2015
<b>Mary Brolin</b> - Local/Regional	Vice Chair	2016
<b>Gary Kushner</b> - Local	Clerk	2016
<b>Maria Neyland</b> - Local/Regional		2014
<b>Kathleen Neville</b> - Local		2015

**Acton Public/Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committees**  
**2013-2014 Committee Assignments**  
(DRAFT – Changes in bold)

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CASE Board Members	Brigid Bieber (AB), Steve Mills (APS)
EDCO School Committee Leadership Liaison	Brigid Bieber (AB)
EDCO Board Member	Brigid Bieber (AB), Steve Mills (APS)
EDCO Advisory Member	Steve Mills (AB), XXX (APS)
Legislative Issues/Ballot Initiative Liaison (for Representative Benson's District)	Maria Neyland (AB)
Legislative Issues/Ballot Initiative Liaison (for Representative Atkins' District)	
Health Insurance Trust Representative	Kim McOsker
<b>Superintendent's Wellness Task Force</b> (Health SAC)	Deanne O'Sullivan
PTSO Liaison	Deanne O'Sullivan
<b>Community Outreach</b>	
SpedPAC Liaison	Paul Murphy
AB Warrant Signature Subcommittee	Brigid Bieber, Mike Coppolino, Kim McOsker
Lower Fields/Corporate Sponsorship	Brigid Bieber, Dennis Bruce
Policy Subcommittee	Brigid Bieber, Maria Neyland, Paul Murphy, Deanne O'Sullivan
AB/APS Negotiations Subcommittee	Maria Neyland, Dennis Bruce, Kim McOsker
Acton Leadership Group (ALG) Representatives	Kim McOsker, <b>Dennis Bruce</b>
Acton Board of Selectmen Liaison	Paul Murphy
Acton Finance Committee Liaison	Dennis Bruce
OPEB Task Force	Dennis Bruce
<b>OPEB Trust Fund Board of Advisors</b>	<b>ABRSC Chair, Maria Neyland</b>
Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) Representatives	Brigid Bieber, Maria Neyland
Regionalization School District Study Committee (RSDSC)	XXX
<b>Regionalization Financial Oversight Committee</b>	