

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

April 7, 2016
7:00 Open Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. Executive Session

AGENDA

1. **Chairman's Introduction** – *Kristina Rychlik*
 - 1.1. FY17 School Committee Leadership (*to be voted at meeting on 5/19/16*)
2. **Statement of Warrant**
3. **Kindergarten Registration Update** – *Marie Altieri*
 - 3.1. Recommendation to Add One Additional Kindergarten Section for FY17
4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
For strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Office Support Association (OSA), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and Acton-Boxborough Education Association (ABEA)
4. **Adjourn**

NEXT MEETINGS:

April 28	ABRSC Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Jr High Library
May 9	Boxborough Town Meeting begins, 7:00 p.m. in the Blanchard Gym
May 16	Boxborough Local Elections
May 19	ABRSC Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Jr High Library



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
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Marie Altieri
Deputy Superintendent

To: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee
From: Marie Altieri, Deputy Superintendent
Date: April 5, 2016
Re: Kindergarten Section Planning

As you know, the District moved to an on-line student registration system in March. This system includes an automated lottery system which will feed directly into Powerschool. The on-line registration opened on March 9th, and to date we have 310 Kindergarten Students plus 7 Pathways Kindergarten students registered for next year.

Kindergarten Enrollment and Class Size

We planned to have a total of 15 Kindergarten classrooms for next year, with two classrooms each at Blanchard, Douglas, and Gates. There will be three classrooms each at Conant, Merriam and McCarthy-Towne. This planning was based on a projected Kindergarten enrollment of 284 (279 Acton and Boxborough students plus 5 staff/choice students). As of today, we have 26 more students than the projection (23 in Acton and 3 in Boxborough). As a result, we are recommending that one Kindergarten section be added, for a total of 16 sections. Based on space availability and school choice selections, we are recommending that the additional section be placed at the Blanchard Memorial School.

The chart below shows the class size projections based on enrollment. We can expect approximately 15 more Kindergarten students to enroll between now and September.

	Students	Classrooms	Class Size
Projected Students	284	15	19
Current Students	310	15	20.7
Current plus 15	325	15	21.7
Current Students with extra section	310	16	19.4
Current plus 15 with extra section*	325	16	20.3

*Current plan and recommendation

Our Mission 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.



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Budget

Since the budget is final, we propose that this section be funded through two possible funding sources. One is that we have some teachers who are leaving the district after the budget process and who will be replaced with lower paid teachers. This provides savings in salaries. We also may have some room in the health insurance budget depending on how many staff enroll in health insurance. We also may have some capacity in the School Choice budget. Adding a section means that the budget would need to pay for a Half Day Kindergarten. If there are enough students to make it an All Day Kindergarten, the fees from ADK will pay for the rest of the cost.

Estimated costs to add a section of kindergarten:

Teacher’s Salary (0.5 FTE)	\$26,000
Teacher’s Health Insurance	\$19,000 (may not be spent)
Kindergarten Assistant’s Salary	\$12,000
Total Cost	\$57,000

Location

Placement of an additional section involves looking at many factors at all schools, including available space, enrollment requests, and home-town guarantee. We look at these factors as part of long term space and enrollment planning. Based on significant space needs, we have had a long term plan to reduce some sections from Gates, Conant and Douglas. This is designed to provide 2-3 classrooms at each of these three schools for programs that have not been located in optimal space.

The attached chart shows how many families selected each school as their first choice. We have enough students to fill a third classroom at either Blanchard or Douglas. It is also important to remember that we need to place additional students at Blanchard who move to Boxborough and request the home-town guarantee. We would like to leave approximately 5 seats available for this possibility. Blanchard also is a much bigger school with available classrooms. Nine Acton families selected Blanchard as their first choice, and 22 selected Blanchard as their second choice. For all of these reasons, we are recommending that we place the additional Kindergarten section at the Blanchard Memorial School.

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Kindergarten Registrations 4/5/2016

	Number of Classrooms	Number of Seats	1 st Choice	Seats Avail/ (Waitlist)	ADK request	ADK Blanchard HTG inc Student placement	1/2 day Requests	Student Services Priority	Sibling Request	Walker Request	Total Priority	2nd choice	3rd Choice
Blanchard	3	53	47	6	40	38	7	3	16	2	38	22	30
Conant	3	58	33	25	22		11	3	18	3	24	30	29
Douglas	2	42	69	-27	51		18	0	29	13	42	55	85
Gates	2	39	31	8	18		13	0	20	1	21	46	42
McCarthy-Towne	3	59	57	2	32		25	7	25	2	34	50	43
Merriam	3	59	73	-14	57		16	4	33	2	39	60	34
	16	310	310		220	38	90	17	141	23	181	263	263

Pathways Students separate classroom at Blanchard- not included in registered

7

Total Students Registered 310

All day kindergarten request

220

71%

Class size with 16 sections

19.38

Half Day request

90

29%

*Class size if we had 15 sections

20.67

*Class size with 16 sections if we have 15 more students

20.31

All Day Planning

Blanchard, Conant

TBD After Lottery

Douglas, Gates

1 All Day, 1 Half Day

McCarthy-Towne

2 Hybrid, 1 Half Day (6 Half day students in hybrid)

Merriam

2 All Day, 1 Half Day