

## ABRSC 2015-16 Goals

### Professional Practice Goal #1

**Participate in and complete the Massachusetts' Association of School Committees' District Governance Program to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our committee.**

*Actions planned:*

*Workshop series throughout first half of 2015-16 school year to focus on development of Committee Operating Protocols, alignment of district's mission/vision/goals with our own Committee goals, and put in place a system to monitor and sustain progress in these areas.*

### District Improvement Goal #1

**Proactively address current and future capital needs of the district to best inform our budget planning process, both for FY '17 and longer-term.**

*Actions planned:*

- *When receive plan in January 2016, "make it ours"*
  - *Read & understand plan*
  - *Share findings at community forums (both towns, both towns' boards)*
  - *Participate in & support Future School Needs Committee*
  - *Support Phase II in FY '17 budget*

### District Improvement Goal #2

**Improve community engagement to help inform SC decision-making while also helping the community understand our issues and the rationale behind decisions made.**

*Actions planned:*

- *Complete updated "demographic survey"*
  - *Plan/change name*
  - *Implement*
  - *Analyze*
  - *Report out*
- *Drive traffic to SC website/district website as appropriate*
- *Specific outreach on issues of interest*
- *Better engage PTO/PTF/School Council groups, Interschool Council*

### Student Learning Goal #1

**Create, support and promote a FY '17 budget that supports the needs of all students, while also beginning the process of engaging in longer-range budget planning to support the district's long-range goals.**

*Actions planned:*

- *Revised budget calendar to improve process leading to town meeting votes*
- *Use AB Connector and other vehicles for community communications*
- *Continue to use Budget Subcommittee to preview budget issues and steer the process of budget development*



**Acton-Boxborough Regional School District**  
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**Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee**

**Operating Protocols**

*voted 9/17/15*

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee recognizes the importance of our work to our students, families, staff and the communities of Acton and Boxborough. We strive to advocate for the Acton-Boxborough Public Schools and the support of public education, and view our roles as ambassadors of the District. Thus, we have formally established the following operating protocols to follow in our dealings with the Superintendent, Staff/Administration, and the general public.

The School Committee has established policies in the areas of School Committee Powers and Duties (BBA), School Committee-Superintendent Relationship (BDD), School Committee-Staff Communications (BHC), School Committee Member Ethics (BCA) and School Committee Member Authority (BBAA)<sup>1</sup>. These outline the expected and appropriate roles of the School Committee and highlight duties, responsibilities and, importantly, the limits of those responsibilities in carrying out our work. All members shall be familiar with these policies and follow them while encouraging their fellow members to do the same.

***The School Committee has high expectations for behavior at its meetings, in order to conduct our business in a professional, respectful, thoughtful and efficient manner.***

We believe that School Committee members should be empowered to freely express their opinions, concerns and ideas in a climate of trust and mutual respect. While we don't expect to always agree, we do expect that we should always acknowledge the value of each individual member's contributions and work to disagree without being disagreeable. Effective yet efficient debate by members will help us to use our meeting time wisely.

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<sup>1</sup> The letters in parentheses reference school committee policies available online at <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee/policies>.

*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.*

We agree that individual School Committee members have no independent authority, only the committee as a whole has authority. When representing the Committee at meetings of other boards or groups, individual members must speak as individuals except when reporting a decision of the majority of the Committee.

The School Committee welcomes respectful, thoughtful input from the public in shaping Committee decisions; however, while our meetings are open to the public; they are not public meetings. Public participation is subject to Chapter 30A section 20g of the Massachusetts General Law and our School Committee Policy BEDH. We expect the public to follow our policy on public participation and allow the Chair the authority to enforce this policy.

Matters of concern by parents and guardians should be addressed by following the Parent Communication Map available at [abschools.org](http://abschools.org). Town or community concerns that are within our purview will be addressed when appropriate and necessary, but not prematurely.

We strive to make our meetings as efficient as possible (beginning no earlier than 7:00 p.m. and ending no later than 10:00 p.m.) in order to be sensitive to the time commitments of staff, committee members and the public. This may entail:

- Adding meetings in order to address topics requiring lengthy discussion;
- Limiting the number of agenda items at a particular meeting;
- Delaying discussion on certain issues;
- Discouraging the use of the addendum to our meeting packets for more than short, routine matters or minor updates.

We aim to avoid surprises at our meetings and will work to maintain focus on our goals and priorities. Questions and concerns should be communicated as early as possible before a meeting. Except in emergency situations, the School Committee will refrain from addressing issues that have not been previously brought to the attention of the Chair and/or Superintendent.

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