

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

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Marie Altieri

Deputy Superintendent

To: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Date: April 9, 2021

Re: School Choice Hearing

The Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools last accepted new school choice students in grades 9-12 about fifteen years ago. Ever since then, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee has only opened up school choice for a limited number of seats at Kindergarten to accept siblings of school choice students. The Boxborough Public Schools accepted school choice students at Blanchard Elementary School for several years before full regionalization in 2014. Since full regionalization, we have only opened up enough school choice seats to accommodate siblings of current school choice students at Blanchard. This is primarily due to space concerns. The school choice law requires that preference to any available school choice seats be given to siblings.

Our current school choice enrollment includes:

- 16 Total Students
- 4 Blanchard
- 4 R. J. Grey Jr. High
- 8 Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

Now that we do not have any siblings of existing school choice students to enroll, we are recommending that Acton-Boxborough Regional School District withdraw from the School Choice program. The School Committee must hold a posted hearing, which has been scheduled for 7:30 on April 15th, 2021 before deciding to withdraw. As you can see, it has taken many years to phase out of participation in the school choice program while accommodating current choice families being able to keep siblings in the our district.

Recommended <u>VOTE</u> for the April 15, 2021 meeting:

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee moves to withdraw from the School Choice program due to class size and space limitations. Existing school choice students will remain through graduation.