



**Joint
Acton & Acton-Boxborough
Regional School Committee Meeting**

February 25, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

followed by Acton Public School Committee Meeting

R.J. Grey Junior High School Library

JOINT
ACTON/ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

February 25, 2010
7:00 pm Joint Executive Session
7:30 pm Joint Open Budget Hearing
Acton Public School Meeting following JT Meeting

AGENDA
OPEN BUDGET HEARING

- I. CALL TO ORDER (7:00)
- II. CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION
- III. JT EXECUTIVE SESSION

JOINT OPEN BUDGET HEARING begins (7:30)

- IV. APPROVAL OF JOINT MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2010 (addendum)
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - 1. FY'10 Acton Public and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools Budget Update - *Steve Mills (7:40)*
 - a. Review of E&D Forecast Estimates
 - b. FY'10 Budget Reductions
 - 2. FY'11 Acton Public and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools Budget Update -
OPEN BUDGET HEARING with Acton & Boxborough Finance Committees - *Steve Mills (7:50)*
 - See 2/6/10 Budget Binder for budget information
 - a. Feb 6, 2010 Presentation Slides
<http://ab.mec.edu/about/scpackets0910/BudgetPresentation2-6-10.pdf>
 - Link to revisions - <http://ab.mec.edu/departments/finance/financebudgets.shtml>
 - Chapter 70 Update from Roger Hatch - *Steve Mills (oral)*
 - Possible Recommendation to Approve Revised FY'11 ABRSD Budget and Assessments - **VOTE** - *Steve Mills*
 - School Committee/FinCom Questions/Responses
 - 3. Health Insurance Trust Report - *John Petersen (oral)*
 - 4. Director of Finance Search Process - *Marie Altieri (oral)*

ADJOURN AB MEETING - APS MEETING CONTINUES (8:45)

- VII. APS APPROVAL OF APS MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2010 AND STATEMENT OF WARRANT

VIII. APS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. ALG Report/ Acton Finance Committee Report – *Xuan Kong/Sharon McManus*
 - a. ALG Packet 2/10/10 and 2/24/10
 - b. ALG Minutes of 2/10/10 meeting
 - c. Draft Spreadsheet for 2/24/10 ALG meeting (created 2/18/10)
2. FY'11 Acton Public Schools Budget Update
 - Recommendation to Approve FY'11 Acton Public Schools' Budget – **VOTE**
– *Steve Mills*

IX. APS NEW BUSINESS (9:00)

1. Recommendation to Accept Gift from Jim Salem and Sue Cunio to Merriam School – **VOTE** – *Steve Mills*
2. Recommendation to Approve Gates Field Trip to Nature's Classroom, April 28-30, 2010 – **VOTE** – *Steve Mills*
3. Minuteman Tech Regional High School Capital Project Feasibility Study – *Xuan Kong*

X. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Youth Risk Behavior Survey Letter to Families
2. "Regionalization Goldmine or Graveyard" – *Christine Lynch, DESE and Mark Abrahams, The Abrahams Group (MASBO) 2/11/10*
3. Acton Town Meeting Report (*see JT packet 2/4/10*)
4. Letters from Conant PTO and Parents in support of elementary principals, 2/4/10
5. Parent Email re COPS funding
6. Parent Emails re Educational Values and Interests Survey
7. Monthly APS Financial Reports (*addendum*)
 - a. Budget Status Summary
 - b. Budget Status Summary – SPED
8. February 1, 2010 Student Enrollment Numbers/Class Size Info
9. ELL Student Enrollment Report, 2/1/10
10. School Newsletters –
 - Acton Public School Preschool: <http://ab.mec.edu/Preschool/index.htm>
 - Conant Crier: <http://conant.ab.mec.edu/pto/newsletter.html>
 - Douglas Digest: <http://douglas.ab.mec.edu/index.html?pto/pto>
 - Gates Gazette: <http://gates.ab.mec.edu/gazette.html>
 - McCarthy-Towne Bulletin: <http://www.mctptso.org/bulletin/>
 - Merriam Community News: <http://merriam.ab.mec.edu/newsletters.html>

XI. ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (*if needed*)

XIII. NEXT MEETINGS –

AB Meeting – March 4 at 7:30pm, JH Library
APS Meeting – March 18 at 7:30pm, Douglas School
Joint Meeting – March 25 at 7:30pm, JH Library (*replaces April meetings*)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT (9:30)

FY '10 Budget Reductions

	1-Oct	January Reductions in spending		
	Level 1 Oct 1	Level 2 (Jan-Jun 2010)		
	AB	APS	AB	K-12 Total
Reduce Central Office Staff /Closing Switchboard	\$35,000	\$5,000		\$40,000
Freeze 5% supplies	\$35,000	\$35,000		\$70,000
Reduction in Custodial Overtime	\$40,000	\$20,000		\$60,000
Elimination of Bus Monitor	\$5,000			\$5,000
Stop printing and mailing lamplighter, publish electronically.	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$10,000
Freezing of payroll position	\$3,000			\$3,000
Utilities	\$10,000			\$10,000
Casualty/liability and work comp insurance	\$41,000	\$10,000		\$51,000
Health Insurance	\$75,000	\$50,000		\$125,000
Soc Sec/OBRA		\$35,000	\$30,000	\$65,000
Reduction in High School Monitors			\$45,883	\$45,883
Special Ed Assistants	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$24,000
Pupil Services Legal			\$11,000	\$11,000
Nursing Health Ins		\$7,000		\$7,000
Additional HS Reductions			\$22,659	\$22,659
Additional JH Reductions			\$15,500	\$15,500
Use of Stimulus for Health Insurance	\$241,400			\$241,400
Total	\$494,400	\$177,000	\$135,042	\$312,042
Cumulative FY '10 Mid-Year Reductions	\$494,400		\$312,042	\$806,442

1/6/2010

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget
Presentation February 6, 2010

School Department Budget Presentation – Agenda

February 6, 2010

- 9:00 Introduction..... Steve Mills
- 9:30 High School..... Alixe Callen
- 10:00 Junior High..... Craig Hardimon
- 10:30 Technology..... Steve Hall & Priscilla Kotyk
- 11:00 Pupil Services..... Liza Huber
- 11:30 Human Resources..... Marie Altieri
- 12:00 Superintendent Steve Mills
- Recommendations for Restorations
 - Regional School Committee Discussion
 - **VOTE** – Regional Assessment for FY'11
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:00 Facilities..... JD Head
- 1:15 Community Education..... Erin Bettez
- 1:45 *Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Adjourns*
- 1:45 APS..... Christine Price
Christopher Whitbeck
Lynne Newman
David Krane
Edward Kaufman
- 2:15 Acton Public Schools Discussion
- 3:00 *Acton Public School Committee Adjourns*

Introduction

As we continue down this road ...

November,

December,

January,

now February

Introduction

Creating Public School District budget must be:

- A) A Statement of Values
- B) Teamwork
- C) Transparent

Impact of Budget Cuts*

FY11 thru FY13

Acton Public Schools

	<i>FY11</i>	<i>FY12</i>	<i>FY13</i>	<i>Total</i>
Social Security/OBRA	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000
Utilities	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 120,000
Out-of-District Tuition	\$ 115,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 345,000
SPED Asst Hours	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 210,000
SPED Assts ret'd from Grant	\$ (143,481)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (143,481)
Technology Eqpt	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000
CASE Assessments	\$ 68,960	\$ 68,960	\$ 68,960	\$ 206,880
Custodial charged to Comm Ed	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000
Health Insurance	\$ 321,450	\$ (321,450)	\$ -	\$ -
Elementary Schools Level 5	\$ 114,905	\$ 114,905	\$ 114,905	\$ 344,715
Systemwide Level 5	\$ 134,000	\$ 134,000	\$ 134,000	\$ 402,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 850,834	\$ 351,415	\$ 672,865	\$ 1,875,114

*does not consider future enrollment, contracts, inflation or payroll.

Impact of Budget Cuts*

FY11 thru FY13

Acton Boxborough RSD

	FY11	FY12	FY13	Total
Social Security/OBRA	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 210,000
Monitors	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 225,000
Athletics - Corp Sponsor	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 225,000
Utilities	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 180,000
SPED Transportation	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000
Out-of-District Tuition	\$ 40,536	\$ 40,536	\$ 40,536	\$ 121,608
SPED Asst Hours	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 240,000
SPED Assts ret'd from Grant	\$ (200,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (200,000)
Technology Eqpt	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 120,000
CASE Assessments	\$ 100,536	\$ 100,536	\$ 100,536	\$ 301,608
Custodial charged to Comm Ed	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 90,000
Health Insurance	\$ 151,121	\$ (151,121)	\$ -	\$ -
High School Level 5	\$ 468,477	\$ 468,477	\$ 468,477	\$ 1,405,431
Junior High Level 5	\$ 256,411	\$ 256,411	\$ 256,411	\$ 769,233
Systemwide Level 5	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 198,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 1,413,081	\$ 1,310,839	\$ 1,461,960	\$ 4,185,880
Grand Total for APS & ABRSD	\$ 2,263,915	\$ 1,662,254	\$ 2,134,825	\$ 6,060,994

*does not consider future enrollment, contracts, inflation or payroll.

Introduction

It is important to keep in mind that this 6 million dollar reduction in costs (or potential savings that could be spent elsewhere) is offset by an approximately 3.7 million dollar increase over three years in contractual obligations.

\$2.2 million, steps, lanes, ERI

+ \$1.5 million in increased health insurance

Total \$3.7 million

(consistent with HR slide #62)

Introduction

Picking up where we left off in January, in your packet, page 21, slide 42 ...

ABRSD/APS Reduced Budgets (in thousands)

	APS	AB	Total
FY10 October 1 Cuts		\$494	\$494
FY11 Revised Levels 3 & 4	\$602	\$622	\$1,224
FY11 Level 5	\$249	\$791	\$1,040
	\$851	\$1,907	\$2,758

FY11

Old Chapter 70*
(In thousands)

AB	APS
\$6,044	\$4,611
Total: \$10,655	

*10% reduction from FY10

FY11

New Chapter 70**
(In thousands)

AB	APS
\$7,362	\$5,481
Total: \$12,843	

**House 1, Governor's Budget

Introduction

What has happened since January...

- A) Regional transportation
- B) Who owns debt service obligation
- C) Governor's announcement of level-funded Chapter 70

Table 6
ACTON-BOXBOROUGH RSD
Analysis of Assessments
Revised Levels 3&4& Level 5 reductions, House 1 State Aid
School Year 2010-2011

	GROSS BUDGET 2010-2011	ACTON 79.23%	BOXBOROUGH 20.77%
INSIDE DEBT LIMIT:			
OPERATING BUDGET	\$33,626,241	\$26,642,071	\$6,984,170
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$1,336,313	\$1,080,409	\$255,904
SPED TRANSPORTATION	\$565,205	\$447,812	\$117,393
TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT	\$35,527,759	\$28,170,292	\$7,357,467
OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT:			
CONST DEBT SERVICE (JHS&SHS/OUTSIDE 2 1/2)			
JH CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION	\$463,049	\$390,026	\$73,023
SH CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION	\$1,429,244	\$1,203,852	\$225,392
TOTAL OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT	\$1,892,293	\$1,593,878	\$298,415
GROSS BUDGET	\$37,420,052	\$29,764,170	\$7,655,882
DEFERRAL OF TEACHER SALARIES	\$47,669	\$37,768	\$9,901
TOTAL BUDGET INCLUDING DEFERRAL	\$37,467,721	\$29,801,938	\$7,665,783
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:			
CHAPTER 70 BASE AID	\$7,362,007	\$5,832,918	\$1,529,089
CHOICE/CHARTER SCHOOL ASSESSMENT	(\$415,767)	(\$329,412)	(\$86,355)
CHARTER SCHOOL AID	\$88,879	\$70,419	\$18,460
TRANSPORTATION (Act 80.85 Box 19.15)	\$605,806	\$489,794	\$116,012
TRANSFER FROM PREMIUM ON LOAN-JHS	\$658 *	\$554	\$104
TRANSFER FROM E&D	\$450,000	\$356,535	\$93,465
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$8,091,583	\$6,420,808	\$1,670,775
ASSESSMENTS	\$29,376,138	\$23,381,130	\$5,995,008
INCREASE OVER FY10 ADJUSTED ASSESSMENT	\$216,244	\$269,273	(\$53,029)
PERCENTAGE INCREASE	0.7%	1.17%	-0.88%
FY10 ADJUSTED ASSESSMENT	\$29,159,894	\$23,111,857	\$6,048,037

*Premium must be used to reduce debt service costs.

Revised Levels 3&4 Reductions include changes in:
 Personnel Changes (ERI, Facilities, SPED)
 Athletics Changes (from Athletic Rev)
 Finance Changes (health ins)

Level 5 Reductions include:
 High School \$468,477
 Junior High \$256,411
 Systemwide \$ 66,000
 Total \$790,888

Introduction

In alignment with ALG Table 6, we have prepared a series of reductions based on the assumption of a 10% cut in State aid.

The directors and principals will speak to that plan in depth today.

Introduction

Question about Central Office cuts...

- A) 1 FTE clerical, .25 FTE Payroll
- B) Level 1 & 2 cuts \$494,000 +
\$312,000 = \$806,000
- C) Curriculum specialist positions -
\$134,000
- D) Professional staff – Central
Office - basic

Introduction

The Work of Today ...

Directors & Principals respond to six questions:
15 minutes presentation, 15 minutes Q&A

AB – Restoration Recommendations/Q&A

APS – Restoration Recommendations/Q&A

What is restored depends greatly on
how much is restored.

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget Presentation

February 6, 2010

High School – Alixe Callen

1. By what number was your budget to be reduced and what percentage of your overall budget does this represent?

■ \$565,000

■ The percentages are variable depending on the various line items.

2. In detail, describe the process you used to arrive at this recommendation.

1. Met individually with each department leader and with the three assistant principals
 - Brainstormed areas for reduction
 - Discussed programs critical to mission
2. Developed confidential draft of reductions.
3. Discussed draft with Administrative Team, RDL's, AEA Building Representatives
4. Based on feedback, draft went through multiple iterations

Values/Goals

Throughout the process, two goals drove our decision-making:

- Preserve direct services to students
- Preserve school's deliberate and distinctive culture

ABRHS Proposed Level 5 Budget Cuts

Administrative Support

Position	Savings	Running Total
English Department Leader Support	\$10,518	\$10,518
Detention Coverage	\$2,500	\$13,018
Studio Manager – summer hours	\$9,021	\$22,039
Language Lab Assistant – reduction	\$5,042	\$27,081
Library Assistant	\$9,062	\$36,143
After-School Fitness Center Staffing	\$2,500	\$38,643
Summer Parking Set-up	\$1,000	\$39,643
Parking fee for Pumphouse Lot	\$5,600	\$45,243
Partially fund registrar from transcript fees	\$26,750	\$71,993
Reduce summer admin/clerical hours	\$9,083	\$81,076

ABRHS Proposed Level 5 Budget Cuts (continued)

Direct Student Support and Instruction

Position	Savings	Running Total
School Business Partnership Liaison	\$14,000	\$95,076
.6 Elective Teacher	\$62,260	\$157,336
.6 Math Teacher	\$64,876	\$222,212
1.0 Social Studies Teacher	\$107,872	\$330,084
1.0 English Teacher	\$106,756	\$436,840
.4 World Language Teacher	\$26,592	\$463,431
.1 Science Teacher	\$5,045	\$468,476

Additional Cuts

- Monitors - \$75,000
- Level 2 FY10 Cuts - \$22,000

3. What other alternatives did you consider?

- Elimination or reduction of world language offerings
- Further reduction in administrative/clerical staff
- Further reduction in teachers
- Elimination of elective programs – child development, industrial technology

4. *What is the educational impact of the budget cuts?*

■ In the classroom:

- 18.5 fewer course sections available to our students
- Class size increases ranging from 5-15%, depending on subject
- Breadth of offerings is reduced

■ In the counseling center:

- Career Education – job shadowing, career breakfasts, senior internships
- Reduced resources for Naviance, professional development for counselors

Educational Impact con't

- Across the school:
 - Reduced student support in library
 - Reduced technological support for students/teachers in language lab
 - Reduced services to students/families during summer

3 Year Impact

- Enrollment Projections
 - 40 additional students next year
 - Some mitigation in subsequent two years
- Funding for high school reduced by nearly \$1.7 million over three years
- Increased class sizes

5. *What factors could reduce the impact?*

- Restructuring of administrative team
 - Increased building coverage for Assistant Principals and Principal's Assistants due to loss of monitors
 - School-to-Work coordinator returns to classroom an additional period
- Restructuring of library coverage
- Reinstatement of cuts

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget
Presentation February 6, 2010

Junior High – Craig Hardimon

1. By what number was your budget to be reduced and what percentage of your overall budget does this represent?

- Level 5, FY'11

- R.J. Grey Reduction: \$256,411
- The percentages are variable depending on the various line items.

2. Decision Making Rubric

Assumptions:

- Preserve the integrity of current team and class sizes for learning and achievement
- Reinstate staff over time
- Maintain in-district special education programs and services
- Ensure a safe and healthy environment for learning

People Involved:

- Leadership Team
- Staff and Faculty
- Collaboration with Principals and Pupil Services
- School Council
- Superintendent's Cabinet

3. What other alternatives did you consider?

In an effort to reach the \$256,411 targeted reduction, we considered:

- Create two half-teams out of 1 full-team
- Eliminate Teaming for Grade 8
- Additional cuts to the Exploratory programs
- Reduce Librarian FTE

4. *What is the educational impact of the budget cuts?*

Level 5 Reductions:	
Position/ Program	Impact of Reductions
1/2 team (3.0 fte) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Math/Sci</i>• <i>Eng/Soc St</i>• <i>PE/Health</i>• <i>World Lang</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Class Size (7th grade) increased by 9% (team size average from 112 to 125)
Mandarin Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elimination of Mandarin Elective

4. *What is the educational impact of the budget cuts – [continued]?*

Level 5 Reductions:	
Position/ Program	Impact of Reductions
Main office support (10 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Front office support to parents, staff, and students will be reduced due to reduced hours during the school year• Front office will be closed during some vacation times• Administrative staff to absorb home/school communication during vacation periods.

4. *What is the educational impact of the budget cuts – [continued]?*

Level 5 Reductions:	
Position/ Program	Impact of Reductions
Quiet Study (0.8 fte) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Therapeutic Time-out space</i>• <i>Detention</i>• <i>In school suspension</i>• <i>Alternative test site</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers will have to add Quiet Study coverage as a duty in addition to their current duties• Reduction in available directed study hall supervision will increase study hall class sizes and reduce individualized and small group support• Assistant Principals to absorb supervision of students

4. *What is the educational impact of the budget cuts – [continued]?*

Level 5 Reductions:	
Position/ Program	Impact of Reductions
<i>Exploratory Teacher (1.0 fte)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploratory Class size (8th grade) increase by 28% (class average from 24 to 31)• Reduction in Exploratory curricular experience for students• Reduction in Grey Block programming for students• Increase in directed study halls• Decreased time for teacher preparation and collaboration

5. *What factors could reduce the impact?*

- Reinstatement of funding
- Additional funding sources

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget Presentation
February 6, 2010

Technology – Steve Hall & Priscilla Kotyk

1. By what number was your budget to be reduced and what percentage of your overall budget does this represent?

- Level 4 reduced the appropriated budget by \$60,000 (8.5%)
- Level 5 reduced the budget by \$52,000 by cutting a 1.0 FTE Technology Support Specialist (16% reduction in IT department staffing)
- Combined, this is a budget reduction of \$112,000
- APS Instructional Technology Specialists were also cut by 1.5 FTE (\$29,363) out of APS Principal's budget.

2. In detail, describe the process you used to arrive at this recommendation.

Assumptions:

- Minimize impact on instructional technology, administrative services, and expected infrastructure uptime
- Preserve outlay/replacement budget
- Reinstate budget cuts and positions over time

People Involved:

- Collaboration with Principals and Pupil Services
- Superintendent's Cabinet and Administrative Council
- High School technology committee

3. What other alternatives did you consider?

- Level 4: Considered cuts primary to outlay accounts, which were added for FY09. After careful consideration, replacement funds were determined to be critical to meet district's instructional needs as well as district-wide infrastructure to support staff and students.
- Level 5: Cuts in outlay accounts were again considered instead of reducing personnel. Determination was that replacement equipment was critical to meet district needs and a cut in personnel could be partially mitigated by reducing service levels.

4a. What is the impact of the level 4 budget cuts?

Infrastructure:

- Budget reductions will impact ability of IT department to respond to infrastructure disruptions in a timely manner
- Significant quantities of equipment are aging and require more maintenance

Professional Development:

- Fewer opportunities to assess instructional technology products and improve teaching and learning
- District-wide technology initiatives will occur less frequently and at a slower pace due to fewer opportunities for IT training and modeling

Staff/Student Equipment:

- Limited access to technology and services impedes ability to meet teacher and student technology standards; Significantly out of compliance with the DESE student-to-computer benchmark ratios
- Staff require daily access to technology to successfully function in their positions; will impact ability of tech department to respond with replacement equipment as needed
- Diminished ability to advance instructional programs, department initiatives, and district needs

4b. What is the impact of the level 5 budget cuts for IT Department?

- 1.0 FTE unfilled position eliminated from FY10 budget
- Tech support specialists reduced from 2.8 to 1.8, a 36% reduction (*53% reduction including eliminated FY10 position*)
- Result in 561 computers per 1.0 FTE tech staff (*DESE recommends 200:1 ratio*)
- Remaining staff will be spread thinner as they take on additional responsibilities and tasks
- When tech outages occur, staff and students will experience longer delays for remediation and repairs
- Staff with failed computers can expect to share computers during periods of high tech support demand

4c. What is the impact of the level 5 budget cuts for TII Department?

- 0.63 FTE unfilled position eliminated from FY10 budget
- Additional impact in total is a 1.5 FTE reduction in APS Instructional Technology Specialists
- ABRSD has 19/hours per week split between HS & JH
- Reduced collaboration with teachers = fewer curriculum integration projects to build student technology skills
- Reduced opportunities for basic technical usage instruction
- Reduced assistance to teachers for locating and obtaining instructional resources

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget
Presentation February 6, 2010

Pupil Services – Liza Huber

1. By what number was your budget to be reduced and what percentage of your overall budget does this represent?

■ Level 4, FY'11

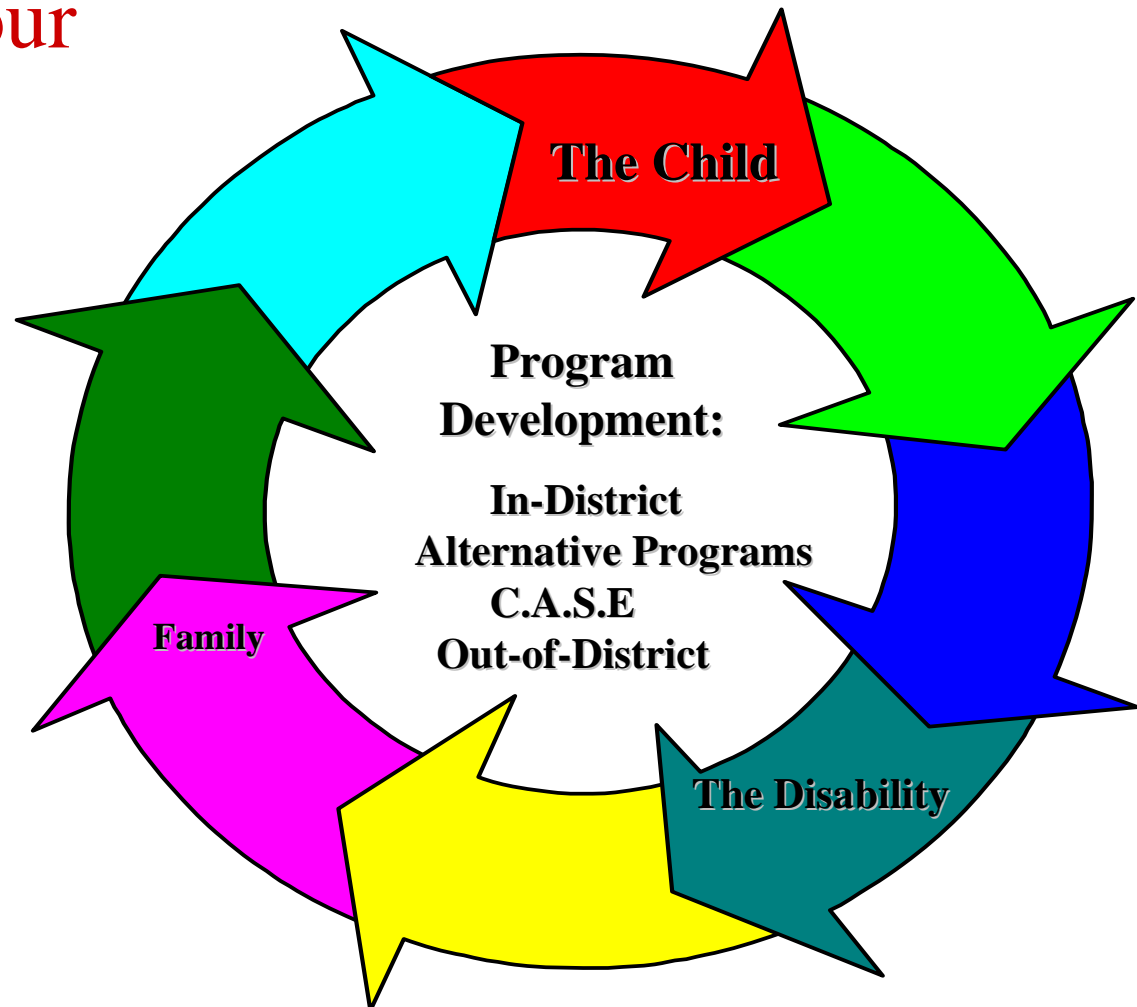
Proposed Budget Reduction: \$575,092

2. Specific Budget Reductions

	APS	AB	K-12
SpEd Transportation		\$100,000	\$100,000
Out of District Tuition	\$115,000	\$40,536	\$155,536
SpEd Assistant Hours	\$90,000	\$60,000	\$150,000
CASE Assessments	\$68,960	\$100,536	\$169,496
TOTAL	\$253,960	\$321,072	\$575,032

3. Decision Making Rubric

What's our
Process?



4. *Consideration of Alternatives*

- Deeper Cuts in Special Education (SpEd) Assistants
- More Abrupt Transitions from Out-of-District to In-District
- Establishment of Referral Cut-off Dates

5. *Educational Impact of Budget Reductions – Level 4 Cuts*

<i>SPED Services</i>	Impact of Reductions	
Sped Transportation (\$100,000)	Pro	Con
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase efficiency through consolidation of transportation routes• Local control of transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition may cause possible interruptions of educational programs• Local vans may not be available• Potential costs

5. *Educational Impact of Budget Reductions – Level 4 Cuts*

<i>SPED Services</i>	Impact of Reductions	
Out-of-District Tuition (\$155,536)	Pro	Con
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development and modification of in-district programs to facilitate the return of students from OOD placements• Acceptance of OOD tuition to in-district programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unanticipated situations• “Stay put” provision may raise litigation costs• Move-in-Law

5. *Educational Impact of Budget Reductions – Level 4 Cuts*

<i>SPED Services</i>	Impact of Reductions	
Sped Assistant Hours (\$150,000)	Pro	Con
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>[None]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less attention and support to individual students• Increased teacher/student ratios

5. *Educational Impact of Budget Reductions – Level 4 Cuts*

<i>SPED Services</i>	Impact of Reductions	
CASE Assessments (\$169,496)	Pro	Con
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programming for low incidence disabilities• Determining assessment rates by Superintendents' Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rate Formula Tuition: 2- year delay Transportation: 1- year delay

6. *Mitigating Impact for Reductions*

■ **Program Development**

- Completion of Hayward Center design

■ **Out-of-District Programming**

- Continued Implementation of the SpEd Financial Task Force Action Plan (#1)

6. *Mitigating Impact for Reductions*

■ **SPED Transportation**

- Feasibility study on using local vans for transportation
- Criteria/Questions
 - *On-time access to educational programs?*
 - *Cost of vehicles for lease or purchase?*
 - *How many drivers are needed?*
 - *Cost of liability insurance?*
 - *Cost of repairs and maintenance?*
 - *Cost of licensing drivers and vehicles?*
 - *Cost of annual training?*

■ **Special Education Assistants**

- Change in service delivery
- Shifts in design to assist all children in the classroom
- Enhancements in preventative strategies and approaches

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget
Presentation February 6, 2010

Human Resources – Marie Altieri

Personnel Budget (in thousands)

	FY '10	FY '11	\$ Incr	% Incr	% of total district budget
AB	\$20,353	\$20,893	\$540	2.64%	55%
APS	\$17,155	\$17,718	\$562	3.18%	68%

AB Object Budget – Salaries (in thousands)

	FY '10	FY '11	\$ Inc	% Inc
Teaching	\$15,377	\$15,987	\$610	3.97%
Principals, Central Admin	\$1,158	\$1,144	(\$14)	(1.2%)
Support Staff	\$2,528	\$2,606	\$78	3.1%
Athletics	\$411	\$411	\$0	\$0
Buildings, Custodians	\$1,101	\$1,038	(\$63)	(5.72%)
Substitutes	\$202	\$204	(\$2)	(1%)
Salaries, Total	\$20,777	\$21,390	\$609	3.0%

Salaries represent 54% of the overall AB budget.

APS Object Budget – Salaries (in thousands)

	FY '10	FY '11	\$ Inc	% Inc
Teaching	\$11,590	\$12,093	\$503	4.34%
Principals, Central Admin	\$943	\$938	(\$5)	(0.5%)
Support Staff	\$2,776	\$2,875	\$99	3.58%
Buildings, Custodians	\$919	\$906	(\$13)	(0.14%)
Substitutes	\$267	\$266	(\$1)	(0.37%)
Salaries, Total	\$16,495	\$17,078	\$583	3.53%

Salaries represent 66% of the total APS budget.

Personnel Budget Assumptions

- Steps and Lanes included
- Health Insurance claims +10%
- No Cost of Living for any employees included.

AB Teaching Salary Increase Drivers (in thousands)

	FY '10	FY '11	Increase	Increase as % of salaries
Teaching Salaries	\$15,377	\$15,987	\$610	3.43%
ERI	\$111	\$315	\$204	.79%
Steps			\$336	2.19%
Lane Changes			\$35	.23%
Other*: Ins/Outs			\$34	.23%

APS Teaching Salary Increase Drivers (in thousands)

	FY '10	FY '11	Increase	Increase as % of salaries
Teaching Salaries	\$11,590	\$12,093	\$503	4.37%
ERI	\$186	\$296	\$110	.97%
Steps			\$265	2.29%
Lanes			\$68	.59%
Other*: Ins/Outs			\$60	.52%

Health Insurance (in thousands)

	FY '10	FY '11	\$ Incr	% Incr	% of total district budget
AB	\$5,244	\$5,530	\$286	5.45%	14.1%
APS	\$3,793	\$3,634	(\$159)	(4.19%)	14.7%

- Health Insurance is based on a 10% increase in claims and actual employees' and retirees' current health insurance enrollment.
- Stimulus monies of \$321,450 at APS and \$151,121 are applied to health insurance in the FY '11 budget resulting in a smaller increase.
- Salaries and Health Insurance combined represent 70.5% of the AB budget and 78% of the APS budget.

Three Year Increases (in thousands)

	FY '11	FY '12	FY '13	Three Year Cumulative
AB Teaching Salaries	\$610	\$336	\$336	\$1,282
AB Health Ins	\$286	\$387	\$414	\$1,087
APS Teaching Salaries	\$265	\$333	\$371	\$969
APS Health Insurance	(\$159)	\$254	\$272	\$367
K-12 Totals	\$1,002	\$1,310	\$1,393	\$3,705

- FY '11 Health Insurance Increases are lower because of stimulus offsets
- Salaries do not include cost of living increases.

Retirement History

	AB Number of Retirees	AB ERI	APS Number of Retirees	APS ERI	Total Certified Retirees K-12	Total ERI K-12
FY '07	4	\$122	5	\$222	9	\$344
FY '08	5.5	\$236	4.5	\$153	10	\$389
FY '09	6	\$348	9	\$263	15	\$611
FY '10	7.5	\$111	4.5	\$186	12	\$298
FY '11 Budget (FY '10 Retirees)	7.5	\$315	6.5	\$295	14	\$610
FY '12 Projection	4	\$180	3	\$135	7	\$315
FY '13 Projection	4	\$180	3	\$135	7	\$315

Personnel Reductions

■ Level 3	ABRHS Monitors	\$75,000	2 FTE
■ Level 4	Special Ed Assistants		
	AB \$80,000		3 FTE
	APS \$70,000		3.5 FTE
■ Level 5	AB \$790,888		11.56 FTE
	APS \$248,905		7.17 FTE
Total Personnel Reductions		\$1.27M	27.23 FTE
Percent of Personnel Budget Reduced:			3.3%

FTEs

- Full Time Equivalent Positions
1 FTE often represents multiple employees
The cost of 1 FTE varies widely
- 1 FTE Academic Teacher could equal \$107,000
Salary and Benefits
- 5 FTE Classroom Assistants could equal \$150,000
Salary with no benefits and could impact 40 people.

FY '11 Enrollment

- Enrollment K-12 is at a peak plateau. APS has been within 25 students of 2500 since 2003. AB remains within 50 students of 2900 from 2007-2013.
- K-6 at peak with 2537 Students Projected. Although APS was projected to begin dropping it hasn't happened yet.
- ABRHS is at peak with 1964 (increase of 58) students.
- RJ Grey enrollment is flat with 972 students.

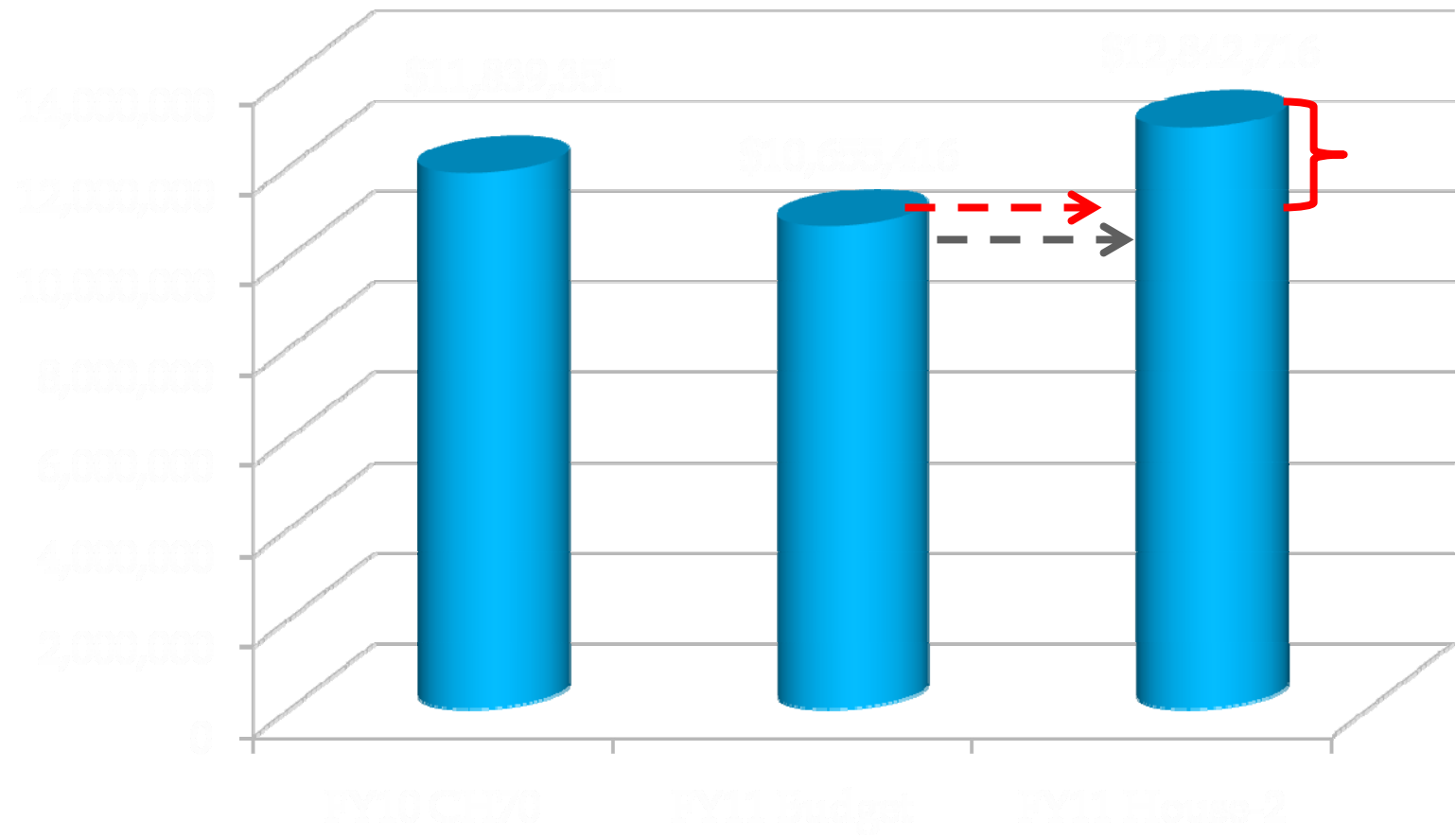
APS Class Sizes

2010-2011						
	Projection	Staff	Total	Sections	Class Size	Year to year change
K	325	6	331	16	20.7	-9
1	364	6	370	16	23.1	30
2	355	3	358	15	23.9	22
3	365	2	367	15	24.5	16
4	365	5	370	15	24.7	7
5	367	2	369	15	24.6	8
6	396	1	397	16	24.8	5
	2537	25	2562	108	23.7	

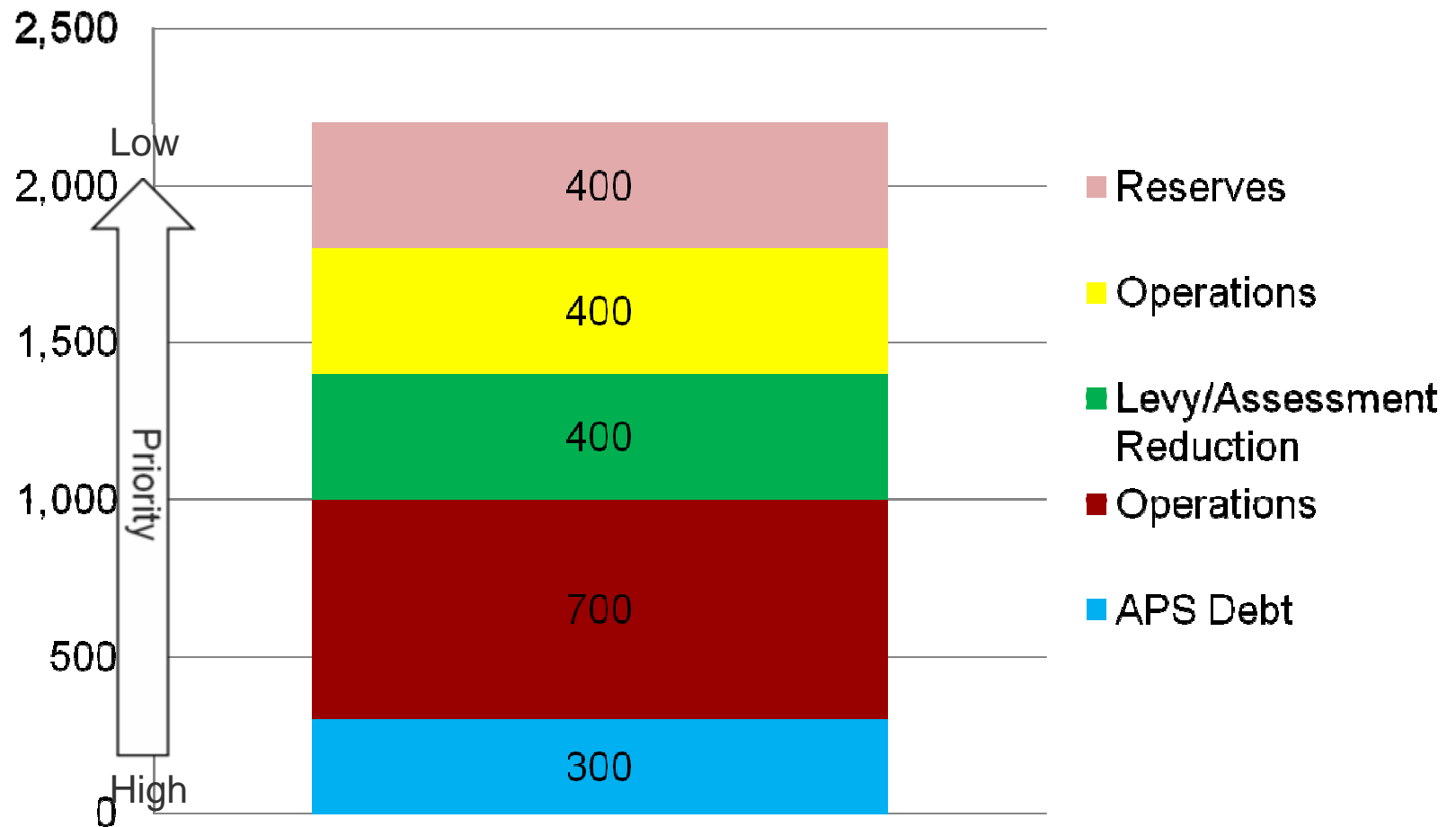
Kindergarten

2010 Kindergarten Through to Sixth Grade				
		14	15	16
K	331	23.6	22.1	20.7
1st	355	25.4	23.7	22.2
2nd	377	26.9	25.1	23.6
3rd	394	28.1	26.3	24.6
4th	401	28.6	26.7	25.1
5th	409	29.2	27.3	25.6
6th	417	29.8	27.8	26.1

FY10 Actuals vs. FY11 Estimates vs. FY11 House-2



The “Waterfall” Proposal (in \$000’s)



Superintendent's Recommendation for Restoration

As you know, the Governor's House One level funds state aid. This could potentially improve our situation by more than two million dollars.

As Superintendent, I submit to you a conservative, cautious recommendation of restoring cuts of one million dollars prioritized in five \$200,000 increments.

Prioritized Restorations

2	A. Elementary Assistants	APS	46,000
	B. Exploratories at JH	AB	55,000
	C. Elementary Technology	APS	29,000
	D. Systemwide IT Support	AB	52,000
	E. High School .4 FTE	AB	20,000
			202,000
3	A. Curriculum Specialist	APS	67,000
	B. Athletics	AB	55,000
	C. High School 1.0 FTE	AB	70,000
			192,000
4	A. HS Registrar & School Business	AB	40,000
	B. Curriculum Specialist	APS	67,000
	C. Special Education Asst	APS	70,000
			177,000
5	A. 3 High School FTE	AB	200,000
6	A. Level 4 Technology Budget	APS	20,000
	Level 4 Technology Budget	AB	40,000
	B. JH Quiet Study Teacher, Summer Hours	AB	40,000
	Mandarin WL		
	C. Special Education Asst	APS	60,000
			160,000

Acton-Boxborough Prioritized Restorations					Acton Public Schools Prioritized Restorations					AB & APS		
										Restoration Totals		
Order of Restoration		What is Being Restored	Total	Running Total	Order of Restoration	What is Being Restored	Total	Running Total	AB & APS	Running Total: AB and APS		
1	JH	Half Team at grade 7	161,000	161,000					161,000			
			161,000									
2	JH	Exploratory Program	55,000	288,000	2	Classroom Assistants	46,000	75,000	202,000	363,000		
	AB	IT TRC Technology Support	52,000			Technology Integration Support Staff	29,000					
	HS	.4 FTE	20,000									
			127,000				75,000					
3	AB	Athletics Includes Basic User Fee @\$190 and 7th grade athletics	55,000	413,000	3	Curriculum Specialist	67,000	142,000	192,000	555,000		
	HS	1.0 FTE	70,000									
			125,000				67,000					
4	HS	Registrar and SBP	40,000	453,000	4	Curriculum Specialist	67,000	279,000	177,000	732,000		
			40,000			Special Education Assistants	70,000					
						137,000						
5	HS	3.0 FTE	200,000	653,000	5				200,000	932,000		
			200,000									
6	AB	Level 4 Technology Supplies	40,000	793,000	6	Level 4 Technology Supplies	20,000	299,000	160,000	1,092,000		
	JH	Quiet Study	40,000									
		Summer Hours for Office Support Mandarin WL										
	AB	Special Education Assistants	60,000									
			140,000				20,000					

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget
Presentation February 6, 2010

Facilities – JD Head

1. By what number was your budget to be reduced and what percentage of your overall budget does this represent?

- \$100,000 System Wide
- 2.3% of System Wide Total Budget
- 3.9% of Utility Budget

2. In detail, describe the process you used to arrive at this recommendation.

Process

- Dr. Mills and I went over the budget line by line to familiarize him with the operation and look for opportunities to cut / save, given upcoming 9c cuts.
- Two areas were identified: Overtime spending and Utilities

Logic

- Utilities are classified as fixed costs but we believe we do have some control over utility consumption which translates into savings.
- Utility costs represent a little more than ½ of the facilities budget.
- Change in how we approach OT coverage can generate savings from historical spending levels (as of Dec we have saved 35K)

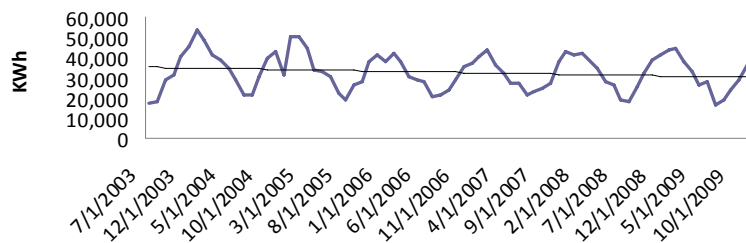
2. In detail, describe the process you used to arrive at this recommendation.

Conservation Measures + Revenue = 100K

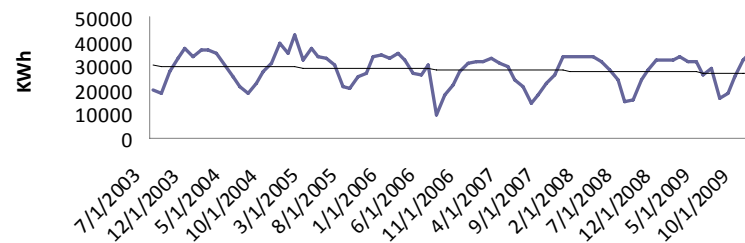
- Our contracts continue through next fiscal year.
- Leveraged electrical consumption into revenue stream via demand response (23K Enernoc).
- Solar projects
- Updated controls Admin and PDB
- Updated HVAC systems Conant / Gates / Douglas

2. *Historical Consumption*

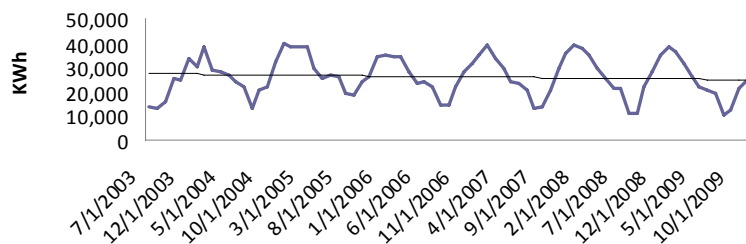
Acton Conant School Electricity Consumption



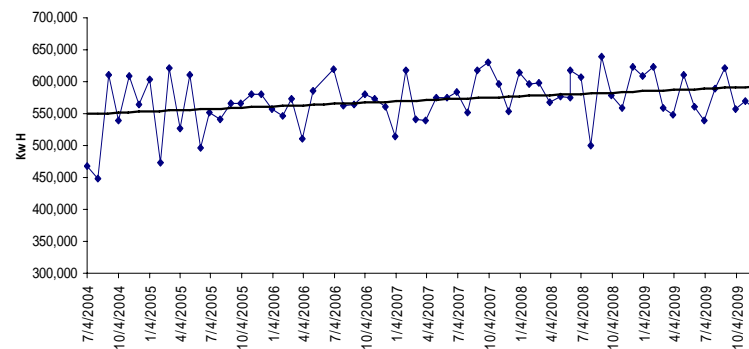
Acton Gates School Electricity Consumption



Acton Douglas School Electricity Consumption



Campus Elec Consumption



3. What other alternatives did you consider?

- Other alternatives were considered and may still exist in other Non-Fixed Cost lines.
- Some mechanical failures will inevitably occur and we will incur costs associated with them. If we are fortunate additional "savings" in other non-fixed line items will occur, but to cut in those areas would be irresponsible.
- Using my discretion to repair only absolute needs, we hopefully will be able to turn additional savings over at the end of the year.

Facilities Fixed Costs vs. Non-Fixed Costs (Does not include Personnel Costs)

	APS	ABRSD	Total
Utilities (Fixed)	\$ 955,314	\$ 1,588,498	\$ 2,543,812
Fixed	\$1,265,591	\$ 2,194,213	\$ 3,459,804
Non-Fixed	\$ 387,430	\$ 415,860	\$ 803,290
Total (F+NF)	\$ 1,653,021	\$ 2,610,073	\$ 4,263,094

- Some examples of Fixed Costs would be Contractual Obligations, Bus Lease, or various Utilities.
- Some Non-Fixed costs include custodial supplies, repairs, bldg mtnc, etc.

4. *What is the educational impact of the budget cuts?*

Utilities

- I don't believe there are any negative impacts associated with utility savings.
- If anything an opportunity exists to educate kids in the areas of energy conservation, benchmarking, and clean energy generation.
- Several conservation projects have been folded into curriculum.

Overtime

- Changing OT coverage methodology has impacted the schools.
- I primarily see it from a staff morale standpoint.
- Quality of the education provided by teachers I assume remains unchanged, however the quality of the work environment for the teachers has been negatively impacted.

5. *What factors could reduce the impact?*

- Utility reduction should be seen as an opportunity not an impact.
- Time may reduce the impact of the change in OT coverage.
- As the culture changes so will the expectations of our constituents.

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget
Presentation February 6, 2010

Community Education – Erin Bettez

Community Education Budget

- FY10 Budget:
 - \$2.585M (Classes, Extended Day, Preschool, All Day Kindergarten)
 - \$173,030 (Use of Facilities)
 - \$93,418 (Driver Education)
 - **TOTAL: \$2.852M**

Sources of Revenue

Community Education is self-sustaining.

- Class registration fees
- Extended Day, Preschool and ADK fees
- Driver Ed fees
- Pool/Field House user fees
- Use of Facilities fees

Community Education Staff

- Erin Bettez, Director
- Teresa Gorman, Coordinator
- Richard Dushanek, Program Administrator
- Nicole Zartarian, Program Administrator
- Bernadette Keegan, Asst. Program Administrator (part-time, 30 hours/week)
- Enid Cortes, Registrar

Additional paid positions

- Extended Day teachers and high school aides
 - Basketball referees – adults and students
 - Summer day program staff
 - A/V staff
 - Lifeguards/swim coaches and instructors
 - Driver ed instructors
 - Evening Assistants and weekend monitors
-
- PLUS 150-200 Instructors each term who sign class-specific contracts and work as Independent Contractors

Community Ed's Key Programs

- Classes for Adults and Children
- Extended Day – at the Administration Building, Conant School, Gates School & McCarthy-Towne School
- All-Day Kindergarten
- Driver Education
- Use of Facilities

Classes

- Current winter term, enrollments are down 15% from previous winter term.
- Across the last four terms our enrollments are down roughly 7% from the previous year.

Extended Day Programs

- **Administration Building** is our largest program (162 children)
- Unique set up - children are grouped in classrooms by grade
- 13-15 staff per day
- We added a second Kindergarten Room this year for before and after school
- Flexible half-day Kindergarten option
- First time in years – **no waiting list**

Extended Day Programs

- **Conant School** – currently in second year and has grown by roughly 20%
- Only program with a waiting list (grades 3-6)
- Second largest of our programs – 84 children, 9-10 teachers per day
- We do offer a half-day kindergarten program
- Last year Conant's share of surplus was \$37,615.54. Could increase to approx. \$62,000 this year.

Extended Day Programs

- **Gates School** – opened this year
- 75 children and 4-5 teachers per day
- No half-day kindergarten option on-site
- Anticipated surplus to Gates approx \$56,000.

Extended Day Programs

- **McCarthy-Towne School** – opened this year
- Smallest program – 47 children, 3-4 staff per day
- No half-day kindergarten on-site
- Currently breaking even

Use of Facilities

- We schedule buildings after school use is done, typically from 5:00 on.
- At Douglas and Damon schools use all spaces until 6:00 PM.
- At Conant and Gates we are able to use the gyms for a few afternoons each term which enables us to run some popular children's classes – fencing, archery, basketball
- On July 31, 2009 we increased rental fees for the first time in over 4 years

Driver Education

- Typically run 2 classes per term (70 students)
- Our program has historically been popular as it costs less than other area programs
- Currently large backlog of students due to Registry's increase in required hours
- Taking steps to respond to customer frustrations/backlog:
 - Seeking to add a third car to our fleet.
 - offering just one class this term

Community Education's Gifts to the Schools and Community

- Since 7/1/09, Community Education has given **\$261,921.87** to our schools and community.
- In November we sponsored the First Annual Acton Turkey Trot which raised **\$5,600** for the Acton Food Pantry.
- As part of Level 4 cuts, Community Education will take on an additional **\$40K** in custodial salaries.

FY10 Gifts through January 31, 2010

Gifts to Schools/Community

Gift Certificates (6 elementary auctions) EXPECTED	\$300.00
Gift Certificates (Community Groups) EXPECTED	\$100.00
Gift Certificates (School Business Partnership)	\$100.00
Creeley Award – Poetry Reading at Acton Library	\$750.00
CE Donation - \$5 for each multi-class student (to date)	\$28,870.00
Equipment – replacement indoor HS soccer nets (anticipated)	519.00
Equipment – new padding for HS lower gym wall (await estimate)	
New sink in Administration Building	\$4,500.00
Band Surplus gifted to Music Dept.	\$5,891.87
Star Party Custodial coverage (EXPECTED)	
A/V staff for public events (Oktoberfest)	\$311.75
A/V staff for Professional Day	\$65.25
Conant Extended Day Surplus (EXPECTED)	
Gates Extended Day Surplus (EXPECTED)	
McT Extended Day Surplus (EXPECTED)	
Conant Enrichment Classes surplus	\$4,995.00
Scholarships to Extended Day (Admin Building)	\$1,587.00
Scholarships to Extended Day (Conant)	\$2,450.00
Scholarships to Extended Day (McT)	\$4,647.00
Scholarships to Extended Day (Gates)	\$130.00
Scholarships to Summer Day Program (Summer 2009)	<u>\$12,894.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$68,110.87

FY10 Gifts through January 31, 2010

■ **Salaries**

■ Assistant Superintendent	\$71,124.00
■ 2 Saturday Monitors at High School	\$4,900.00
■ Custodians Paid by CE	\$101,584.00
■ JH Audio Visual Stipend	\$2,000.00
■ School to Business Partnership Contracted Services	<u>\$14,203.00</u>
■ TOTAL:	\$193,811.00

■ **GRAND TOTAL AS OF 1/31/10: \$261,921.87**

Looking Ahead

Challenges –

Economy

Increased competition

Space crunch in the after school hours

Our goal is to offer quality programs at good value.

Acton Public Schools Acton-Boxborough RSD

School Department Budget Presentation

February 6, 2010

Acton Public Schools – Christine Price,
Christopher Whitbeck, Lynne Newman,
David Krane, Edward Kaufman

Elementary Level 5 Reductions

Priority	Position	Description	Salary	FTE reduction	% FTE cut	Salary Savings	Benefit Savings	Unemploy impact	Savings
1	Music Retirement		\$40,000			\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
2	Technology Specialist	Decrease from 19 to 10 hrs./bldg	\$41,363	1.50	47%	\$41,363	\$0	\$12,000	\$29,363
3	Classroom Assistants	Decrease from 44 to 22 hrs./bldg	\$67,973	3.67	50%	\$67,963	\$0	\$22,431	\$45,542
Totals:			\$149,336	5.17		\$149,336		\$34,431	\$114,905

1. By what number was your budget to be reduced and what percentage of your overall budget does this represent?

- \$175,000 – before the Media Assistants were removed and brought the number down to \$115,000.
 - Cut in Tech Specialists hours = 47% decrease in program
 - Cut in Classroom Assistant hours = 50% decrease in program

2. In detail, describe the process you used to arrive at this recommendation.

- The 5 principals had extensive discussions with Central Administration, their school staffs, and PTOs regarding budget cuts.
- The 5 principals discussed priorities across the 5 schools, and reached consensus on the reductions list.
- There were few alternatives to consider that were not professional staff positions.

3. *What other alternatives did you consider?*

- Media/Library assistants (all or some portion of their time)
- Greater portions of Technology Specialists' and/or reducing the number of Tech assistants to 2.5, shared among 5 buildings.
- Further cutting or even eliminating Classroom Assistants' time.

4. *What is the educational impact of the budget cuts?*

- Music retirement: Retiring Teacher to be replaced at entry level
- Tech Integration Specialist:
 - Loss of first tier technical support decreases tech specialist priority to keep computers operational for instruction.
 - Decreased support for classroom based technology curriculum projects
 - Decreased in school-based technology professional development for teachers
- Classroom Assistants:
 - Decreased support and direct instruction of reading groups, math groups, science assistance, writing support.
 - Decreased flexibility of support for most at-risk students
 - Decreased support for classroom teachers

5. *What factors could reduce the impact?*

- Full reinstatement of the hours cut would be most beneficial.
- For the Tech. positions we would need to think about how to reorganize the specialists' time in each building, and prioritize how they would use their limited time in buildings most constructively.
- Classroom assistant cuts will affect schools in different ways, and each individual principal will need to work with their staff to think about how it might change services in their building.

Possible Restoration of Positions

- APS Budget cuts = \$115,000
- 25% = \$29K = Restore 14 Classroom. Assist. hours (\$28,000)
- 50% = \$57K = All Classroom Assist. hours (\$45,542) and Tech Int. Assist. to 12 (\$10,440)
- 75% = \$86K = Classroom Assist. (\$45,542) and all Tech Int. Assist. (\$29, 363) = \$74,900⁰⁷

**ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT Minutes**

**Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School**

**January 21, 2010
7:30 pm**

Members Present: Jonathan Chinitz, Michael Coppolino, Xuan Kong, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith
McManus, John Petersen
Others: Marie Altieri, Susan Horn, Liza Huber, Stephen Mills, Beth Petr

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Xuan Kong.

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

Amy Hedison announced that she is running for a School Committee seat.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 17, 2009 were approved as amended (2 modifications).

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #201014 dated 1/12/10 in the amount of \$134,323.05 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for approval.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Approximately 75 people were in the audience. No one spoke publicly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. ALG Report

The merits of covering the APS debt out of reserves were discussed. FinCom wants to see the whole budget plan, including how Minuteman fits into the education plan for our students. What would we do if Minuteman closed for those students? If we take no action at Town Meeting on the Minuteman Capital article, it means we support it. FinCom also wants to see what happens with the meal tax. Jonathan Chinitz noticed in the minutes of ALG a request that the fiscal year actuals be added to the ALG plan. He felt actual to budget should not be used. He has a problem with that because it attempts to diminish and erase any cuts/reductions that the entities have made in their budgets. ALG is a modeling tool that is based on budget to budget and reflects a need in an entity at a point in time for comparison. Jonathan asked that his thoughts be conveyed to those in the public that are asking for this. Marie Altieri said that ALG requested that the FY09 revenue actuals be added in, not the expense numbers being updated with actuals. Xuan Kong will bring that question back to ALG.

2. Acton Finance Committee Report

At the 12/22/09 FinCom meeting, Tom Michelman presented on the stretch code issue – a building code that has a higher requirement on energy efficiency. This may have some financial incentive (up to \$10M annually in grants and loans to qualifying communities). FinCom discussed the possibility of using additional reserve for covering APS debt service for the transition year. FinCom members would like to make a decision on this in the context of overall budget consideration.

At the 1/13/10 FinCom meeting, Bill Mullin expressed disappointment that in the face of budgetary challenges, the districts are obligated to allocating a half million dollars for ERI benefits. Bob Evans commented on the 26+ FTE staff reduction and asked whether the Schools' Director of Finance position should be combined with the Town's similar position. The Finance Committee unanimously adopted a

resolution: “The Chair discuss with the School Superintendent and the Town Manager, working through the Board of Selectmen and School Committee, the consolidation of town and school finance functions and request the posting of the position described as the Director of Finance/ Treasurer and circulated January 6, 2010 be delayed pending these discussions.” A meeting was held this morning (1/21/2010) to discuss the timeline of resolving the inquiry from FinCom.

3. FY’10 Budget Update

Possible cuts were identified and even though the 9C cuts discussed last Fall are not required, Dr. Mills has indicated that some of them (campus monitors) have been made to prepare for next year.

4. FY’11 Budget

Dr. Mills referenced his presentation powerpoint from the 1/7/10 meeting. The House 1 Budget will be announced on Monday. He believes that tomorrow the Governor will announce that he will not make any Chapter 70 cuts. Dr. Mills reiterated that the budget process is a rollercoaster.

a. The COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Program and Survey

Liza Huber shared a memo and chart showing that of 29 local towns, most of their schools’ Police/Youth Officers are funded by the town. After much discussion, Sharon McManus made the motion:

“That we fund the COPS position for this year and work with the Town through the leadership process over the next few years to convince the town that they should pick up the position and fund it.”

Xuan Kong stated that the Committee agreed that they would not vote on the same night that a motion was made. John Petersen did not want to vote on parts of the budget piecemeal. He emphasized the need to look at the totality of the budget and consider the COPS funding as part of the big budget discussion. When asked for a sense of the Committee regarding the vote, Jonathan Chinitz said that the Committee has made their opinion known on the COPS funding. Sharon McManus withdrew the motion.

b. Bus Ridership/Student Transportation and Possible Fees

JD Head and Kim Trahan began by saying that everything starts and ends with safety in their department. 1709 children are transported to and from school every day, making theirs a \$2 million operation. They shared a chart showing that 93 out of 311 districts charge a bus fee, with a lot of variation. 889 of our students live within 2 miles and could be charged a fee. This would involve huge administrative tasks. More families would pick up their children to avoid the fees. Our schools were not designed for this. The carbon footprint would also be a big issue.

Xuan Kong asked if running an after school bus for a fee at a few central locations had been considered. Kim said that 15 years ago there were late buses but they were empty. Kids did not want to wait until 4:30, which is the soonest our buses could get there because they are used for all of the routes. The PTSO has surveyed families in the past and sufficient demand was not there. It was concluded that we are running an efficient transportation system for our students, and it would not be effective to charge for busing within two miles.

BOS member Lauren Rozensweig mentioned that the new Acton shuttle bus program will start soon. Users will call to arrange for pick up and pay a fee.

c. Classroom Assistants in Elementary Schools

Sharon McManus and Jonathan Chinitz removed themselves from the discussion because they both have a family member employed as an assistant in the school system. The new state ethics laws have a strict definition of what is a conflict of interest and this would apply.

Steve Mills said that his last budget presentation had a proposed cut that included instructional assistants that would affect some schools more than others. He is aware that there are differences between the two after school programs at Merriam and Douglas and that this has benefited those schools. He also does not want to punish schools that have worked hard in the past, or to subsidize schools differently based on what they have or what they are doing. It has been proposed that the profits from the after/before school programs run by Community Education be allocated 75% to the school and 25% to Community Education, as opposed to a 50-50 split currently. This will help alleviate some of the funding imbalance.

Dr. Mills was thanked for his thoughtful reflection on the differences in our schools. It was noted that with so much PTO money funding assistants now, it is getting close to the core educational needs. Xuan Kong asked the Principals and education leaders to give the School Committee more quantitative guidelines about appropriate classroom assistant time that is needed to enhance the learning experience in our public schools. The Douglas School PTO was thanked for their letter on the topic.

d. Joint Task Force on Cost Savings Update

Jonathan Chinitz and Xuan Kong shared a memo dated 1/13/10. Next step is to consolidate information from the Town and get staff together to talk about the ideas that have been identified and move forward. Implementation may take time.

4. Health Insurance Trust Report

There was no quorum at this morning's meeting. Rates will not be set until the end of February.

5. School Committee Liaison for each Elementary School

Xuan Kong read the names of the Committee members assigned to each school.

6. Solar Contract re Douglas School

Installation at the Douglas School will be soon. No major hurdles coming up.

7. Reconsideration of 1/7/10 VOTE to Request that Town of Acton Adopt OBRA

Xuan Kong asked for a revote of the 1/7/10 vote because he felt that he did not supply sufficient information to the Committee prior to voting.

Sharon McManus and Jonathan Chinitz recused themselves from the vote for the same reason as the Classroom Assistants discussion. John Petersen's wife does part-time substituting at the High School. Legal counsel advised that he can vote on this local issue, but should not vote on a similar regional one.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: Acton Public School endorses Chapter 29, Section 64D (OBRA) subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

(Vote: YES - Coppolino, Kong, Lindgren, Petersen ABSTAINED: Chinitz, McManus)

The Board of Selectmen will discuss this issue on Monday, January 25.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Communications within the Community – Lamplighter

The Lamplighter is now electronic only. A postcard was not mailed due to cost but may be sent for the March Budget issue. Copies have been left at the local libraries, Town Halls, and school offices. A message may go out in the town's property bill notices per a suggestion at ALG.

2. Kindergarten Information Meeting Report

Registration is March 16 and 17. K Night was very successful last Tuesday. 250 people attended. Many questions were about before and after school care so they did a special section of the meeting at the end and it worked well. In early registration for siblings and walkers - 27 more registered than this time last year.

3. Recommendation to Accept Gift from Community Education to Conant School

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept with gratitude a gift of \$4,995. from Community Education to Conant School, representing surplus from the first three sessions of Enrichment classes run in conjunction with Conant this year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. FY'09 APS School Lunch Report

John Petersen asked that the new Finance Director look at each of our accounts to ensure consistent accounting practices. The goal is that line items can be compared to each other, over time and between departments, and it can be easily determined where particular items are recorded.

NEXT MEETINGS –

Educational Values Meeting - Jan 28, 7:30PM, JH Library (*addendum*)

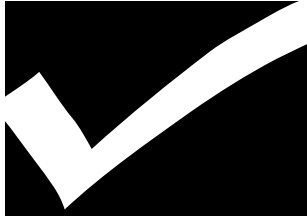
AB Meeting – Feb 4, 7:30PM, JH Library – Open Budget Hearing

Joint SC Budget Presentation, Feb 6, 9:00AM-3:00PM, JH Library

JT/APS Meeting with Acton and Boxborough Finance Committees – Feb 25 7:30PM, JH Lib - Open Budget Hearing

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr



Acton Leadership Group Meeting

February 10, 2010

7:15 AM

Town Hall, Faulkner Hearing Room

Bart Wendell Facilitating

----- Agenda Topics -----

Please Note 7:15 AM Start Time!

1. Approval of Minutes 1/27/10	General Discussion	
2. FY 10 Town/School/State Budget Revenue Update	Steve Ledoux Steve Mills	
3. Review of ALG Spreadsheet	Marie Altieri	
4. Waterfall Concept FY 11	Paulina Knibbe	
5. ALG Spreadsheet Review Assumptions on Three Year Projections	Mary Ann Ashton	
6. Local Meals and Motel Tax, FY 2011 Budget	Group	
7. Minuteman Update	Dore' Hunter	

***The next ALG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

January 27, 2010

ALG Minutes

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator; Paulina Knibbe, Peter Berry (BoS); Sharon McManus, Xuan Kong (SC); Herman Kabakoff, Mary Ann Ashton (FC); Steve Ledoux, Steve Mills John Murray and Marie Altieri (staff)

Audience: Steve Barrett, finance dept., Mike Gowing (BoS) Ruth Kohls, LWV; Clint Seward, Bob Ingram, Dick Calandrella & Charlie Kadlec, AVG.

7. Minuteman's capital project---Dore

1. Minutes were accepted

2. FY 10 Town/School/State budget revenue update—Steve L, Steve M

Steve Ledoux reported that things are quiet on the FY 10 front FY 11 was dependent on House I

Steve Mills reported that things were similar for him. There may be some SPED savings & the Governor said there will be no 9C cuts.

3. Review of ALG Spreadsheet---Marie

Extra info: ALG spreadsheet

Marie: the spreadsheets show the 0% & 3% budgets. The Governor's numbers have not been added, we have no cherry sheets.

There is a column for FY09 actuals on the revenue side—it shows a significant deficit-negative \$826k. We need to show the increase of reserves.

For FY 11 the Governor's numbers would mean \$2M better with a positive position between \$1.6 and \$2.3M

Peter asked about the changes in November column compared with those in the September column.

Marie said that the AB assessment was lowered so the tax bills could be sent.

John Murray noted that the tax (info at the bottom of the sheet) were estimates there would not be new values until December—after new growth numbers

Herman: how much free cash in FY 11 in 0% budget more than \$1.9M, where does it come from?

Steve: NESWC, free cash & E&D. The question is what do we do with the Governor's numbers---higher than anticipated local aid but the State still has a \$2.5b deficit—and the Legislature has to vote his local aid numbers.

Mary Ann: the FC agreed to do nothing & carry on as we are and focus on discussing whether to change the assumptions for FY12 & 13.

Paulina: the BoS discussed the “good News” but it is not money in the bank—it's occurring is slim. We voted to appropriate the 0% budget and not increase the spending plan. We may be much better off but we need to look at the big picture if there is more revenue---what does that do to the meals tax option? —the sense of the BoS is to be conservative. There is still the \$318k hole from COPs & debt.

****Bart: agreement that the numbers remain the same OK? OK

4. ALG spreadsheet FY09 budget vs. actuals---Herman

The FC asked that FY09 show the actuals—it has not been done. The revenues have been changed but not the expenses. We are concerned about the cost side---we now have a “hybrid” I know that this is how we have always done it & that money was held back -- \$826K but this is not what the FC asked for---we wanted every number changed to the actuals---although no vote was taken & the request was not unanimous –I’m bringing it up again to see what we can do—we need some sort of “Solomonic” action. We want to see actual expenditures.

Bart: reactions?

Peter the numbers are included in the turn backs to FC & E&D. The Town Meeting appropriation is the amount of money the taxpayers voted to spend.

Xuan: we could do it through footnotes.

Peter: How does this change affect the budget?

Herman: it doesn’t it is just information to be used for analyses.

MaryAnn: the FC did not look at this sheet last night. The ALG spreadsheet is a planning tool; if we look to the years in the past, we are no longer planning---revenues off the recap sheet, expenditures from TM vote---and then update expenditures with actuals— That will be making it a different kind of tool. The actual expenditures are contained in detail in the budget book.---The ALG spreadsheet serves the purpose for planning.

John: The FC is one year behind: we get the FY09 results in FY 10---from an information point of view the revenues are important for planning. Historically we have revisited the dogma of budget vs. actuals but we do a dynamic review every year—the dynamic approach is budget to budget. Actuals to budget is the wrong way.

Paulina: to shift this planning tool will cause confusion—I do not think there is a compelling reason to change.

Bart: those in favor of the FY09 changes? There does not seem to be a ground swell for change.

John: when printed, we need to show that the budget was balanced.

Herman: my point exactly—it’s misleading to have these hybrid numbers.

Bart: there are many years of discussion behind the evolution of this document. That does not rule out changes in the future—it now reflects years of tweaking

******Are we agreed to add an * and note?----nods for yes**

Mary Ann: the problem is with the assumptions for the out years FY 12 & 13 that have not been updated since last year. We need to deal with these now.

Marie: FY 11 a 10% decrease carried forward and state aid, flat.

Mary Ann: I think it is a mismatch to hold state aid flat and plan for a 2.5-3% increase in expenses. We are planning the worst for revenues and the most optimistic for expenses. I think we should bring FY 12 back to FY 09 level---maybe state aid will recover and we should have less than 3% budgets in 12 & 13

Bart: so we should change 12 & 13?

Mary Ann: I propose to bring things back up to FY 10 for state aid---same for regional revenues, leave local receipts where they are---then 2-2.5% budgets. That seems more realistic.

Paulina: looking at the outlying years---seemed to have reached bottom---but it's clearly rhetoric from the state house to restore revenues to cities & towns.

Mary Ann: seems reasonable on revenues but we need to be very conservative both town & schools.

Boards need to discuss support for modifying revenues

Herman: there is still the question of what to do with reserves---we are at a breakeven point for FY 13---can we fill it with increases in reserves or revenues?

FY 13 will change---we need information---data before we can change the assumptions---the data is not available. I'm still comfortable with the assumptions we put together a year ago.

Bart: Speak against?

Mary Ann: proposal: assumptions on reserve use FY 12 & 13 \$21.m: \$900K from NESWC; \$900K from FC & \$331 from E&D.

I think we need to take back to our boards: change state aid assumptions to FY 10; don't change assumptions on local receipts; budgets of 2% increase; leave reserve use as is.

Bart: agreement?

Sharon: I'd like to have the budget increases between 2-2.5%

John: There's no problem with the proposal---we are likely to see a bump in state aid in FY 11 & less in FY 12---it's all politics. I think we should carry an increase in state aid for FY 11.

***Bart: agreed that everyone would discuss the assumption changes with their various boards & report back on Feb 10.

5. Minuteman assessments over the years

Extra info: MM budget info

Mary Ann: I'm not sure why we had to do this. Acton's costs are based on enrollment and the middle school MM program assessment. Current numbers see a 9% drop.

Dore: the budget is done with a "do not exceed number."

6. Local Meals tax---Herman

Herman: the FC did an analysis and agrees that the DOR's numbers for the receipts for a local tax are accurate---\$150K is a reasonable number.

Peter: The BoS controls the warrant & it is a question as to whether or not we put it on the warrant. We received an email saying that we should allow the Town Meeting to decide. It's a political decision---I suspect that there will be a lot of debate.
Herman: the FC discussed it & thinks it should be on the warrant—we will not support it.

Paulina: We have been talking about this for the past six months—right now it is on the warrant. In light of the Governor's new numbers—should we remove it?. My personal sense is that it depends on the budget—it is extremely critical that we get input from the schools

John: I'd like to add that we should make a move to reduce our dependency on state aid—this is a local revenue

Minuteman

Extra info: MM project numbers & feasibility

Dore: the numbers for the renovation of the building are way out of date. Closer study has shown that the full cost of \$750K has decreased to \$370K. MASBA aid is 40%.

Paulina: the BoS had a discussion as to where MM fits into the schools' funding. We were under the impression that there was a possibility that we could switch regions.

Dore: I don't think anyone suggested we switch—if you look at the geography & the transportation costs you will see that MM is the closest.

Do any of you want to meet with MM administration again?

John: is there a clause in the feasibility study that will bar that firm from bidding on the contract?

Dore was not sure

Mary Ann: at last meeting we agreed to add MM to the ALG plan and include a line for the feasibility study in FY 11.

Tasks: Follow-up on FY 12 & 13 assumptions & plans

Public

Mr. Kadlec: I will not rehash the FY 09 actuals---but there is definitely room. None of the tax rate numbers are correct. Once you publish this in the warrant there will be multiple footnotes.

Did you post this meeting since there is a third selectmen present?

Paulina: the new Open Metering Law allows sitting members to attend informational meetings and not participate.

Adjourned 8:35

Next Meeting

February 10, 2010

Ann Chang

Maryjane KenneyAlg 2/8/10
#3

From: Marie Altieri [maltieri@mail.ab.mec.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 9:32 AM
To: Acton Leadership Group
Subject: Fwd(4): Governor Patrick Announces Key Local Aid Numbers

----- Original Message -----

The link below provides FY '11 chapter 70 numbers for each school district. The Acton and Acton-Boxborough Chapter 70 combined revenues are UP a total of one million dollars from FY '10.

	FY '10	FY '11	Increase
APS	\$5,123,578	\$5,480,709	\$357,131
AB	\$6,715,773	\$7,362,007	\$646,234
Total	\$11,839,351	\$12,842,716	\$1,003,365

It also shows that unrestricted general government aid is level funded.

We budgeted for a 10% decrease (\$1.2 million).

----- Original Message -----

FYI

From: DLS_Alerts@dor.state.ma.us
 To: mabashton@aol.com
 Sent: 1/22/2010 12:16:39 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
 Subj: Governor Patrick Announces Key Local Aid Numbers

Dear Local Official,

As we finalize our Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal, I am pleased to inform you of my intention to propose funding local aid at more than \$5.2 billion next fiscal year.

Despite the fiscal challenges the Commonwealth continues to face, I will propose taking

2/9/2010

another step forward in our commitment to education by funding Chapter 70 at the highest level in the history of the Commonwealth at \$4.048 billion. Every district will be fully funded at foundation, all districts will be held harmless to ensure funding is not less than fiscal year 2010 levels, and all Chapter 70 amounts will be funded by the State, not with deferral stimulus funds.

On the non-school, municipal side, I will propose funding unrestricted general government aid at fiscal year 2010 level of \$936 million. I will also propose level funding other key local aid accounts, including payment-in-lieu-of-taxes and regional school transportation.

Chapter 70 and Unrestricted General Government Aid numbers for each community is available at: http://www.mass.gov/Ador/docs/dls/mdmstuf/StateAid/MMA_Sec_3.xls

As is customary, our proposal for all Cherry Sheet accounts will be available when our budget proposal is filed on January 27th.

Through our Fiscal Year 2011 budget, additional filings and submissions to the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, our Administration is also proposing a number of new tools to support local governments, including:

- A local pension funding relief initiative to help local systems address unprecedented asset losses in a fiscally responsible way. Communities could save up to \$200 million statewide in the first year of the proposed new schedule.

- An optional Early Retirement Incentive program for cities and towns.

- A rate freeze on special education private placements that could save \$3.2M .

- Relief from library "maintenance of effort" requirements and decertification rules

- Allowing regional school districts to share superintendents, providing savings and efficiencies.

- Allowing regional school districts greater access to stabilization funds.

- Allowing local government procurement from state energy resource contracts.

- \$250K in a reserve account to study the adequacy of the Chapter 70 foundation budget and formula.

- A local aid study commission to evaluate local aid formulas.

We look forward to working with you during the budget process.

Sincerely,

Maryjane Kenney

From: Paulina Knibbe [p.knibbe@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 9:05 PM
To: Manager Department
Subject: [Fwd: Revised for typos.]

APK 2/8/10
FH

Please use this version instead of the one I sent earlier. Thank-you. (It has been corrected for typos).

Paulina

Hello Friends

I have been thinking about the very sharp reversal of the Ch 70 money projection and quite frankly, the validity of that projection. As such, I had an idea about how to handle both the increased funding potential and the volatility. I call it the "Waterfall Proposal"

I think that no one believes that the Governor's budget will be the final one, so this Waterfall proposal deals with whatever scenario comes up, by prioritizing the waterfall of cash. Thus, we eliminate the debate about who has the best crystal ball, but rather allocates the funds based on our own priorities.

I ran this by Jonathon Chinitz, Paulina Knibbe, Herman and Maryann over the last couple of days and they all said, in general, that they like the idea.

Herman gave me permission to send this off to the rest of the FinCom and that he will put it on the agenda for discussion. Please let me know if you have any clarifying thoughts or questions (obviously without cc'ing the rest of the committee due to OML stuff) and I would be pleased to give my best thoughts.

Thanks,

Bill

The Waterfall Proposal for FY 2011.

The Waterfall Proposal is quite simple and, it sort of ties into why I was struggling so much last fall with the FinCom POV. Remember, when I asked about 2 or 3 times whether we should "scenarioize" the POV? I couldn't put my finger on it at that time, but the fact set right now is what I was getting at.

Any way, here is the Waterfall Proposal.

1. Our budget called for a 10% reduction (roughly \$1.2mm) in Ch 70 money.

2/3/2010

2. The Governor's budget calls for holding education funding even, state wide. For us, this results in an increase of \$1mm or a \$2.2mm swing.
3. Whether or not the Governor's budget ends up being approved or changed and whether or not the Ch 70 money increases, the following "waterfall" will be the protocol for the allocation of those funds:
 - a) The first \$300 +/- of funds, roughly equivalent to the incorrect placement of APS debt service. (In other words, the SC's budget will go up by this amount, with a line item breakout on the ALG spreadsheet, for fy2011 only).
 - b) The next incremental amount of approximately \$700k, up to \$1.0m will be allocated according to the split
 - c) The next incremental amount of approximately \$500k, up to \$1.5m will used to lower the tax rate.
 - d) The next incremental amount of approximately \$400k, up to \$1.9m will be allocated according to the split
 - e) Any additional incremental amount will be used to reduce the amount of reserves used.

Bill Mullin

William C. Mullin
Partner and Chief Operating Officer
Thorndike Development Corporation
7 Barker Lane, Norton, MA 02766
P: 508-285-9814
F: 508-285-9844
E: william.mullin@thorndikedevelopment.com

Please check out our new video "Red Mill Village: It's a Wonderful Life" at
http://www.thorndikedevelopment.com/redmill/our_community.php

February 10, 2010

ALG Minutes

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator; Paulina Knibbe, Peter Berry, BoS; Mary Ann Ashton, Herman Kabakoff, FC; Xuan Kong, Sharon McManus, SC; Steve Ledoux, John Murray Steve Mills, & Marie Altieri, Staff.

Audience: Steve Barrett, Finance director; Mike Gowing, BoS; Ruth Kohls, LWV; Clint Seward, Dick Calandrella, & Bob Ingram, AVG.

8. There was nothing beyond the agenda

Minutes were accepted

2.Revenue Update for FY 10

Steve L said he had nothing to add, nor did the superintendent.

3. Review of Spreadsheet

Extra info L: spreadsheet

Marie: there are no changes on the spreadsheet

Xuan: the APS debt is still “out there” If we get additional revenues [under the Governor’s plan] the debt will be the first thing paid up; if there is no additional money, then the \$300+k will have to come from somewhere else. We need to give direction to the APS.

Paulina: has all the debt been incurred? Answer: yes

Bart: Any response to the debt?

Sharon: there are two choices—use more free cash or make more cuts - I am reluctant to make more cuts. It seems we have turned back enough [in 9c cuts] that we should get some returned now.

Paulina: we have not even talked about use of the overlay surplus. We can ask for a portion.

Xuan: the solution is not on the spreadsheet

Paulina: we need to get the budget ready for the warrant.

Herman: to the printer on March 9th---we should not be making the decisions on March 8th

Paulina: I thought we were going to go back to the boards on this

Herman: we did discuss it and decided that it was a matter to be decided between the two [BoS & SC] personally however you work it out is OK so long as you don’t touch the reserves.

Mary Ann: the concern is that the numbers are not on the spreadsheet—the \$318K in FY 11 also not included is the \$309 & \$90K

does not exist anywhere—if some or all, are not part of this year we will have a bigger problem next.. Just throwing reserves at it [the problem] pushes it off. The P.O.V. says \$2.2m of reserves---it can’t be solved with reserves—there needs to be a compromise between the BoS & the SC.

Sharon: can we do it in two stages---half from the budget; half from reserves?

Marie: \$24,655 includes \$379k I’m sure the number is in the bottom line

John: \$379K is included in \$79,128m; \$24,655m + \$25,745m +28,076m is on the spreadsheet but not in the budgets at this moment.

It was agreed that the municipal was not paying for the debt---we have to go back & verify as to where the numbers are

Steve Barrett: looking at the numbers there is the local school debt but only \$300k

Marie: [reading from the spreadsheet] for regional transportation AB has cut of 10% for FY 10 & 11 not been changed; but currently we have \$150k better. There is a 10% cut in Ch. 70—if we reduce the percentage the bottom line gets better. We have not used any overlay.

Steve L: I've told the assessors we might want to use some of the surplus.

Herman: the \$379K in the Town budget is now out & in the school---that proposal is not reflected in #5 [on the spreadsheet] at issue is the \$318K for discussion

Peter: Due to the 9c cuts the town under spent the budget and made turn-backs does the FC consider the turn-backs?

Herman: the FC position is to use \$1.9m of reserves and we will hold to that.

Mary Ann: The BoS & SC need to talk---there is another \$150K from transportation. The FC meets the night before ALG we will discuss your plan you cannot solve it totally from reserves.

Steve L: the BoS has been discussing the stretch code [possible more revenue?]; met with Sen. Jamie Eldridge & Rep. Jen Benson---they agree that the Governor's numbers are not realistic but that the cut in Ch.70 funds will not be as high as 10%

Steve M; at the superintendents meeting, the cut was 5%

Herman: is there some way to answer these questions—if the cuts will be 10 or 5%

Paulina: can we change [on the spreadsheet] from 10 to 5% and see where we are?

John Murray: are these cuts just for Ch 70? Will the difference be made up from other local aid categories?

Steve L: local aid in general

Bart: the proposal is to change from 10 % to 5 %

Herman: just for Ch.70 be conservative

*****Bart: the proposal is the change from 10-5% just for Ch. 70? Agreed

Task: Marie will make the changes

Mary Ann: I would like to see an update on the debt positions at the bottom of the sheet

Task: Marie will add the debt numbers

4. Waterfall Concept for FY 11

Extra info: Waterfall process planning sheet

Sharon: Jon Chinitz presented the concept and we agree that it sounded like a good plan

Xuan: we talked a bit; the proposal is good---it covers the debt & get some operating needs covered. Only reservation is that any proposal needs numbers attached

Steve M: waterfall proposal has the increments to use \$2.2m with a 5% cut for the

schools—the \$300k is taken off first, then we can restore in \$2,000 increments

Paulina: in general the BoS thought the plan made sense but realized that we would not get to the bottom---we expect a trickle rather than a waterfall. They are not exact levels [for the money]. There was definite agreement on the first two but concern over the third. Herman: There were 10 opinions from 10 people. The majority think the money should go into reserves. I asked everyone to go home & quantify the amounts they are willing to use & come back for a vote at next meeting.

Mary Ann: the FC's biggest area of concern is the reserves. There was an inclination to flip the last two---my personal inclination is that we will not get that far.

In the changing revenue assumptions we [FC] are concerned most about resolving the debt.

Paulina: the debt issue has been resolved---we just have the hole in the budget

Herman: the waterfall started with the extra revenue---\$150k in transportation; \$600k in going from 10%-5%. So that makes \$750k available for the waterfall; \$300k for the hole the other \$300k split 70/30----that's from Bill Mullin's suggestion

Bart: do we have agreement that the waterfall has been turned on?

Marie: the budget keeps changing---all the boards meet---we need to get ready for Town Meeting. E&D may be pushing the cap of \$1.9m—we were certified at \$1.5m. The region will discuss the uses,

John: I do not see how we can start the waterfall when we have not accepted it.

Mary Ann: I don't think you will ever get everyone to agree.

Paulina: if we get broad agreement for the additional numbers with money to close the hole---what's the next step in the waterfall process?

Marie: it's mechanical—make the changes in the spreadsheet is approx. \$450k surplus E&D waterfall started

John: by law when over the cap on E&D the money comes back to the town as a turn-back

5. ALG spreadsheet review assumptions on three-year projections- MA

Mary Ann: we are very close to Town meeting and need to finalize the assumptions, take them back to the committees & then come back here.

Assume: no % cut in State aid---go back to FY10 numbers for FY 12 & 13

Local revenues the same

3% increase for FY 12 & 13

The FC is adamant that there be no change in the revenues for FY 11, 12 & 13 [10% cut] and plan for 2% budget increase

Sharon: for FY12 use FY 11 for FY 13 use FY 10, November number. We agreed that the receipts and revenues should stay the same with a 2% budget increase.

Paulina: in a general sense be conservative in revenues growth coming down to 2.5% in FY 12 & 2.5% in FY 13

Steve L: Looking on to FY 12 & 13 reserves, the DOR is looking at NESWC and the brokerage money going into an enterprise—we have to segregate the \$1m liability

Steve B: we have an ongoing liability with Wheelabrator. DOR will not let the recycle money go into NESWC, recycle needs to go into general fund.

Peter: it's most important to keep the tax rate level and avoid the bumps. Every time we lower the rate, we need to raise it next year. People never remember that it was lowered, they always remember that it was raised.

******Bart: are we close to an agreement: 2%, 2% and 2.5%**

******Mary Ann: we also agree to change the state aid to 5% cut**

Marie: what if we do have a surplus for FY 12 & 13?

Xuan: FY 10 base is too low ---are we being too aggressive for an election year?

Mary Ann: I suggest we back off the use of reserves with a net position of 0 planning for a 2% budget

Bart: do we have an agreement [on cuts] 5% FY 11; 5 %FY 12; 5,% FY 12 with 2% budget & back out of reserves

Paulina: BoS did not discuss this but personally I think it's reasonable.

Bart: so we change the spreadsheet?

John: I'd like to see the numbers first

Sharon: the SC didn't talk about this but on a personal level I do not see how we can cut services, lay off teachers and just add to the reserves---people will not see that in a positive light. I think we are changing too many things at once

Bart: we have a proposal of 5, 5,5, and 2% leave reserves and go back to boards

Xuan: FY 12 revenues will increase \$500k; expense at 2.5% is \$400k

FY 12 \$900k, less reserves

FY 13 \$1m less reserves

Task: take back to boards

6. Meals Tax

It is on the warrant---has it been vetted enough---do we need a public hearing?

Xuan: APS decided that the Town should vote

Paulina: we consider as a piece of the puzzle---if we don't need the money, we will take it off the warrant.

7. Minuteman

Extra Info: list of members on commission to look into the capital expenses for MM expansion

Dore wanted to know if the members wished to hear more budget info from MM personnel. The answer was no.

Agenda for the 24th

The boards need to write something for the Beacon

Adjourned 8:42

Ann Chang

From: Marie Altieri <maltieri@mail.ab.mec.edu> Fri, Feb 19, 2010 2:26:35 PM

Subject: ALG Spreadsheet with Attachment

To: <alg@acton-ma.gov>

Cc: <sbarrett@acton-ma.gov> <mabashton@aol.com>
 tsummers@mail.ab.mec.edu Beth Petr jochinitz@mail.ab.mec.edu
 mcoppolino@mail.ab.mec.edu tlindgren@mail.ab.mec.edu
 xkong@mail.ab.mec.edu smcmanus@mail.ab.mec.edu
 jpetersen@mail.ab.mec.edu bbieber@mail.ab.mec.edu
 mneyland@mail.ab.mec.edu bsabot@mail.ab.mec.edu
 smills@mail.ab.mec.edu

Attachments: Attach0.html 7K
 FY '10 Feb 18 2010 ALG Model.xls 33K

UPDATED ALG SPREADSHEET

Steve Barrett, Mary Ann Ashton and I met yesterday and we made all of the changes that ALG requested. Attached is a DRAFT document. The changes still need to be talked about by all 3 boards and then back at ALG on 2/25. Normally we would not send this out until ALG discussed the changes, but I know there are several meetings over the next few days that will be looking for this info. Please explain to your boards that this is a draft, but it does reflect the items that ALG discussed.

The changes include:

1. Changing chapter 70 from 10% reduction to 5% reduction (pending discussion of all 3 boards)
2. Change FY '12 and FY '13 budget increases to from 3% to 2%
3. Updating local receipts for FY '11 to reflect changes previously made in FY '10:
 - +\$75k excise
 - +\$105k fees
 - +\$25k int inc
 - subtotal = \$205k
4. Added a line that shows total reserve use in each year right under the net position
5. Added Minuteman Feasibility Study

6. Updated valuation/tax rate/Single Family There may still be some changes here in the outyears, as we left in flat valuation.

7. Added line numbers

8. Updated Debt numbers

BOTTOM LINE: Given moving state aid from -10% to -5%, there is now a positive net position of \$280K in FY '11. FY '12 and FY '13 are also showing positive balances, although that is with the use of \$2M in reserves.

	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J
1	DRAFT 2/18/2010 0% Budget Model DRAFT - Has not gone to ALG Yet								
2	5% Cut in State Aid and 0% budget increase in FY '11; 2% Budget Increase in FY12 and FY 13								
3	Multi-Year Model	*All numbers are early projections and are subject to change							
5	Revenues:	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY11 10%	FY11 5%	FY12	FY13
6	Tax Levy:	Actuals	Actuals	Town Meeting	11/16/09	decrease in	decrease in		
7	Base	\$ 54,361	\$ 56,521	\$ 58,969	\$ 58,969	\$ 61,044	\$ 61,044	\$ 63,070	\$ 65,146
8	2 1/2%	\$ 761	\$ 1,413	\$ 1,474	\$ 1,474	\$ 1,526	\$ 1,526	\$ 1,577	\$ 1,629
9	New Growth	\$ 801	\$ 1,035	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
10	Debt Excl.	\$ 3,332	\$ 3,102	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036
11	Overlay	\$ (605)	\$ (846)	\$ (850)	\$ (498)	\$ (600)	\$ (600)	\$ (600)	\$ (600)
12	Total Tax Levy (excl. current yr. ove	\$ 58,650	\$ 61,226	\$ 63,230	\$ 63,582	\$ 65,506	\$ 65,506	\$ 67,582	\$ 69,711
13	Cherry Sheet	\$ 6,183	\$ 6,851	\$ 6,641	\$ 6,270	\$ 5,643	\$ 5,910	\$ 5,910	\$ 5,910
14	SBAB - Twin School	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,009	\$ 1,009
15	Excise Taxes	\$ 2,870	\$ 2,520	\$ 2,730	\$ 2,595	\$ 2,595	\$ 2,595	\$ 2,595	\$ 2,595
16	Fees	\$ 1,056	\$ 833	\$ 833	\$ 940	\$ 940	\$ 940	\$ 940	\$ 940
17	Int. Income	\$ 712	\$ 278	\$ 400	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
18	Regional Revenue	\$ 4,825	\$ 5,787	\$ 5,817	\$ 5,733	\$ 5,160	\$ 5,285	\$ 5,285	\$ 5,285
19	Regional E&D Acton's share	\$ 286	\$ 511	\$ 355	\$ 355	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 331	\$ 331
20	Free Cash	\$ 1,594	\$ 450	\$ 1,142	\$ 1,142	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 900	\$ 900
21	NESWC for capital	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 455	\$ 455	\$ 808	\$ 808	\$ 900	\$ 900
22	Tax Title				\$ 88				
23	Additional Tax Title								
24	Revenues before Overrides	\$ 77,262	\$ 80,292	\$ 82,612	\$ 82,469	\$ 83,060	\$ 83,453	\$ 85,752	\$ 87,881
25	Revenue incl override excluding	\$ 72,844	\$ 76,103	\$ 78,567	\$ 78,424	\$ 79,015	\$ 79,408	\$ 81,707	\$ 83,836
26									
27	Debt Exclusion:								
28	Debt on APS	\$ 517	\$ 527	\$ 607	\$ 607	\$ 607	\$ 607	\$ 607	\$ 607
29	Debt on JHS/SHS	\$ 1,778	\$ 1,612	\$ 1,516	\$ 1,516	\$ 1,516	\$ 1,516	\$ 1,516	\$ 1,516
30	Municipal Debt Incurred	\$ 520	\$ 454	\$ 412	\$ 412	\$ 412	\$ 412	\$ 412	\$ 412
31	Debt on Police station	\$ 517	\$ 509	\$ 501	\$ 501	\$ 501	\$ 501	\$ 501	\$ 501
32	Total Debt Exclusions	\$ 3,332	\$ 3,102	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,036
33									
34	Budgets Excluding Debt:								
35									
36	Municipal Operating Budget	\$ 22,325	\$ 23,614	24,276	24,276	24,276	24,276	24,762	25,257
37	Transfer to Muni for APS Debt		\$ 128			309	309	309	309
38	Transfer to Muni for COPS		\$ 68			70	70	70	70
39	Total Municipal Allocation		\$ 23,810			24,655	24,655	25,141	25,636
40									
41	APS Allocation	\$ 23,310	\$ 23,810	25,754	25,754	26,133	26,133	26,656	27,189
42	Transfer from APS to Muni for Debt		\$ 128			309	309	309	309
43	Transfer from APS to Muni for COPS		\$ 68			70	70	70	70
44	APS Operating Budget		\$ 24,974			25,754	25,754	26,277	26,810
45									
46	ABRSD Budget - Acton Share *	\$ 25,811	\$ 27,374	28,073	27,683	28,073	28,073	28,634	29,207
47	ABRSD Turnbacks		\$ (414)						
48	Net ABRSD Spending - Acton Share		\$ 26,960						
49	MM Assumption	\$ 787	\$ 771	\$ 711	\$ 711	\$ 646	\$ 646	\$ 659	\$ 672
50	Subtotal schools	\$ 49,908	\$ 53,119	\$ 54,538	\$ 54,148	\$ 54,473	\$ 54,473	\$ 55,570	\$ 56,689
51	Minuteman Capital Feasibility Study							\$ 1	\$ 6
52	TOTAL	\$ 72,233	\$ 76,929	\$ 78,814	\$ 78,424	\$ 79,128	\$ 79,128	\$ 80,333	\$ 81,952
53	% increase		6.5%	2.5%	1.9%	0.4%	0.9%	1.5%	2.0%
54	NET POSITION	\$ 611	\$ (826)	\$ (247)	\$ (0)	\$ (113)	\$ 280	\$ 1,375	\$ 1,884
55									
56	Total Use of Reserves	\$ 1,594	\$ 1,711	\$ 1,952	\$ 1,952	\$ 1,908	\$ 1,908	\$ 2,131	\$ 2,131
57									
58	Reserves:								
59	Free Cash	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,455	\$ 737	\$ 2,334	\$ 1,784	\$ 1,784	\$ 1,134	\$ 484
60	NESWC	\$ 4,886	\$ 4,469	\$ 4,014	\$ 4,014	\$ 3,206	\$ 3,206	\$ 2,306	\$ 1,406
61	E&D	\$ 1,100	\$ 971	\$ 766	\$ 1,183	\$ 1,033	\$ 1,033	\$ 852	\$ 671
62									
63	TOTAL	\$ 7,886	\$ 7,895	\$ 5,518	\$ 7,531	\$ 6,023	\$ 6,023	\$ 4,292	\$ 2,561
64									
65	Tax Impact:								
66	Existing Valuation ('000s)	\$ 3,851,376	\$ 3,751,255	\$ 3,741,421	\$ 3,741,421	\$ 3,741,421	\$ 3,741,421	\$ 3,770,615	\$ 3,741,421
67	New Growth value ('000s)					\$ 29,194	\$ 29,553	\$ 29,194	\$ 28,520
68	Total Valuation ('000s)	\$ 3,851,376	\$ 3,751,255	\$ 3,741,421	\$ 3,741,421	\$ 3,770,615	\$ 3,770,974	\$ 3,799,808	\$ 3,769,941
69	Tax Rate	\$ 15.39	\$ 16.53	\$ 17.13	\$ 17.13	\$ 17.53	\$ 17.53	\$ 17.94	\$ 18.65
70									
71	SF Value	\$ 523,109	\$ 507,466	\$ 512,103	\$ 512,103	\$ 512,103	\$ 512,103	\$ 512,103	\$ 512,103
72	SF Tax Bill	\$ 8,051	\$ 8,388	\$ 8,771	\$ 8,771	\$ 8,978	\$ 8,977	\$ 9,189	\$ 9,551
73	% Change	1.29%	4.19%	4.56%	4.56%	2.36%	3.62%	2.35%	3.94%
74	\$ Change	\$ 123	\$ 337	\$ 382	\$ -	\$ 207	\$ 313	\$ 211	\$ 362
75									
76									
77	The FY '09 Turnbacks are \$749K from the Municipal Budget; \$400K APS budget; and \$525K from the Regional Budget (Acton Share = \$414)								
78	The AB Regional Budget was decreased by \$494K (\$390 Acton Dollars) on 10/1/09 to balance FY '10 Revenues.								
79	The FY '11 0% Budget increase is 0% more than the Original Town Meeting approved budgets								



The Feasibility Study is a collaboration between the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to find the most fiscally responsible and educationally appropriate solution to the facility's condition as outlined in the Statement of Interest (SOI) previously submitted by the Minuteman District to MSBA .

The invitation from MSBA to collaborate on a Feasibility Study is not approval of a future project, but is strictly an invitation to the Minuteman District to work with the MSBA to explore solutions to the capital problems that have been identified and outlined in the SOI. Local communities must follow the MSBA's statute and regulations, which require MSBA collaboration and approval at each step of the process.

- The Minuteman School Committee has authorized the amount of debt for the Feasibility Study, but in order to proceed with the Study, and the Minuteman District needs the approval of its sixteen (16) member towns, according to the terms of the District Agreement. If all towns do not approve the article, Minuteman will need to reapply for MSBA funds, will "lose its place in line," and the time line will be extended for any anticipated project.

- Cost of the Feasibility Study: \$725,000., before 40% reimbursement from Massachusetts School Building Authority [MSBA] funds

- Acton's estimated share after 40% MSBA reimbursement is \$23,788., payable over a five-year period, beginning in FY2012

- Before the Feasibility Study can begin, the MSBA requires that:

1. The District must execute an Initial Compliance Certificate;
2. The MSBA must approve the composition of the District's School Building Committee;
3. The District must execute a Feasibility Study Agreement with the MSBA, detailing the scope, schedule, milestones and cost sharing parameters of the Feasibility Study;
4. The MSBA must approve an Owner's Project Manager, which approval will include a review by the MSBA's Owner's Project Manager Review Panel; and
5. The District must select a Feasibility Study Designer through MSBA's Designer Selection Panel.

Regionalization Goldmine or Graveyard

Christine M. Lynch, DESE
Mark D. Abrahams, The Abrahams Group
Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials
February 11, 2010



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Agenda

- The View from the State (Chris)
- The View from the Locals (Mark)

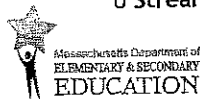


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A View from the State

- 1949 Authorizing Legislation - 60 year history
 - 55 Academic Regions
 - 26 Vocational-Technical Regions
- Current Interest
 - State
 - Governor's Readiness
 - Secretary of Education's
 - MSBA
 - Local
 - Broadening/maintaining educational programming
 - Declining enrollment
 - Financial pressure
 - Streamlining governance



Recent Reports on Regionalization

- School District Consolidation in Massachusetts:
Opportunities and obstacles:
 - Configuration of districts
 - Benefits & Barriers
- Regional Planning Study Results
 - Recent local studies and findings
- A Study of Central Office Capacity in Regional Districts
 - Review of primary functions of Regional central office staff



Consolidation Brief

- Current Configuration of Academic Districts = 299
 - o 1/3 of Academic districts < K-12 - 91 districts
 - o 1/3 of Academic districts < 1,500 students
- K-12 Pathways - from the students' perspective
 - o One Superintendent - one school committee
 - o K-12 Municipal districts - 177
 - o K-12 Regional districts - 31
 - o One Superintendent - multiple school committees
 - o Districts in Supt Unions
 - o Multiple Superintendents - multiple school committees
 - o Towns that tuition
 - o Towns in K-12 groups



K-12 Unions

- 12 Secondary Regional Districts
 - 12 Regional School Committees
 - 12 Union School Committees
 - 37 Elementary School Committees
 - 61 School committee - 30,607 students
- =
- 502 students per current school committee
- 2,551 per student if 12 K-12 districts



Tuition

- Total Towns that tuition = 18 (4 non-op)
 - 18 school committees
 - 5,268 enrollment =
 - 293 students per school committee

K-12 Groups

- 8 Regional School Committees
- 21 Elementary School Committees
- 3 Union School Committees
- 32 school committees serving 30,983 students
 - 968 per school committee
 - 3,873 per student if 8 K-12 districts

Regional Planning Studies

- Academic studies - 15
 - 58 towns
 - 11 regional districts
- Vocational Studies - 2
 - 47 towns
 - 1 Regional Vocational and 1 County Agricultural
- Total State dollars = \$275K



Findings of Regional Studies

- K-12 Districts
 - o Low enrollments
 - o Construction need
 - o Finding Partners
- K-12 Union Districts
 - o Duplication of Administrative effort - Multiple meetings
 - o Articulation of curriculum
- Tuition Districts
 - o No voice in governance
 - o Sharing costs
- K-12 Group Districts
 - o Varying affiliations
 - o Articulation of curriculum
 - o Administrative efficiencies



Obstacles

- Local Control
 - o Perceived loss of focus on elementary education
 - o Closing school buildings - (local decision)
 - o Loss of local school committee/staff/administrators
 - o Sharing Control - Different goals/programs
- Financial Issues
 - o Equalizing Salaries
 - o Chapter 70 assessment formula
 - o Economic Differences
 - o Transition costs
 - o Planning & Legal costs and timelines



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Administrative Efficiencies

- One administration - one school committee
- Eliminate duplicate reporting/record keeping
- Reduction in administrative meetings
- Redirection of time, energy, attention to planning and curriculum



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MARS/ESE Study

- Districts with 50% fewer students have only 30% fewer administrators
- Supt & Clerks have primary responsibility for more functions in smaller districts
- Supt has more primary responsibility for budget, capital projects, curriculum, professional development in smaller districts
- SPED Administrator have primary responsibility for more functions in small districts, e.g. technology and finance
- Transportation handled by clerical staff in small districts, but by professionals in larger districts.



Educational Benefits

- Broadening/maintaining educational programs
- A coordinated K-12 Curriculum
- One budget allowing for flexibility in K-12 spending
- Fuller utilization of teachers and school facilities



Construction Efficiencies

- Sharing of Costs
- Broaden student base & Increase Offerings
- Maximize MSBA reimbursement

Economic Efficiencies

- Economies of scale - centralized budget, coordinated purchasing and transportation
- Transportation reimbursement
- Stability and efficiency for small districts

Misconceptions

- Closing schools - not required
- School vs. District: larger district does not mean larger school
- Tailoring of agreement - local input
 - o Elementary concerns
 - o School Committee membership
 - o Closing schools
 - o Assessment methodologies



State Position

- Voluntary
- No state definition of “small”
- One size does not fit all
- Opportunity for some districts
- Must make sense educationally, financially, organizationally

There is discussion of legislation



How to Begin

- Town forms a Regional Planning Committee
 - Vote at town meeting
 - 3 members appointed by moderator, including a member of school committee
- RSD School Committee may form own Planning Committee to expand the RSD
- Task
 - Study the feasibility of forming or expanding a regional school district
 - Report back findings to town
 - Recommendation only
- Approvals: Member towns & Commissioner, DESE

Where to begin Study

- Educational benefits
- Administration - how structured
- Governance - school committee representation
- Staffing - impact on staff positions and salaries
- School Buildings - reuse, closing, renovation
- Municipal impact - negotiate town indirect costs
- Financing - Impact of various assessment models



State Support

- Review laws, regulations, recent studies, and other information on:

ESE Web site:

<http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/regional/>.

Note Document: *Forming a Regional School District*

- Available to provide help:

o Phone or e-mail

o Christine Lynch (781-338-6520)

clynch@doe.mass.edu



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A View from the Locals

- Somerset Berkley
- Ayer, Lunenburg, Shirley
- Ayer, Shirley
- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District
- Dennis Yarmouth
- Dighton Rehoboth
- Provincetown Nauset
- Westfield Vocational Voc Programs
- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
- UP ISLAND Region



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Mark Oleson from here ...

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Big Picture

- Creating a new school district from one or more existing school districts
 - Somerset Berkley two existing K - 12s
 - Creating three districts, two K-9 and one 9 -12
- Consolidating a number of districts into one region (Ayer, Lunenburg, Shirley into one district)
- Adding to an existing region (Peabody joining Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District)
- Expanding to encompass all grade levels of an existing district



Challenges

- Regional budgets
- Diverse communities
- Learning curve
- Resistance to Change
- Lack of incentives
- Lack of model



Development of District Budget: *71:16B and 603 CMR 41.05*

- Administration of the district
- Responsibilities and hiring
- Coordination of budgets, technology systems, reporting
- Staff
- Continuation of rights



Development of District Budget: *71:16B and 603 CMR 41.05*

- Assessment Methodology
- Reallocation of Chapter 70 and local required contribution
- Transitional Period
- Interim School Committee
- Union contracts
- State Aid



Regional Budgets

- Intra district revenues
- Current resources - Schedule 19
- Savings Vs. reprogramming

Diverse Communities

- Dennis Yarmouth
 - Enrollment Yarmouth 65% Dennis 35%
 - Wealth Yarmouth wealthier EQV and Income
 - Dennis significantly above Yarmouth historically below effort

Diverse Communities

- Dighton Rehoboth
 - Enrollment Rehoboth 75% Dighton 25%
 - Wealth Rehoboth wealthier EQV and Income
 - Dighton above Rehoboth significantly below effort



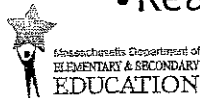
Diverse Communities

- Somerset Berkley
 - Enrollment Somerset 75% Berkley 25%
 - Wealth Somerset wealthier EQV and Income
 - Somerset significantly above Berkley significantly below effort



Learning Curve

- Limited Understanding of Chapter 70 and NSS
 - Regional Planning Boards and the public must first become informed and learn how the state and towns fund the schools
 - Chapter 70 and net school spending
 - Reallocation of local contribution
 - Reallocation of Chapter 70 aid



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Simulated Somerset Local District Contributions to SB Region

Somerset Apportionment of FY10 contribution among community's districts						
		Somerset	Greater Fall River	Bristol County	District 4	All Districts
6	FY10 total unapportioned required contribution					\$ 17,577,562
7	FY10 foundation enrollment	2,502	109	9		2,620
8	FY10 Foundation budget	\$ 21,570,952	\$ 1,564,948	\$ 128,114		\$ 23,264,014
9	Each district's share of municipality's total FY10 foundation	82.72%	6.73%	0.55%	0.00%	100.00%
10	FY10 required contribution apportioned using row 8 percentages	\$ 16,298,337	\$ 1,182,426	\$ 96,799	-	\$ 17,577,562
	Simulated FY10 Foundation Budget	\$ 21,514,457				
	SB Region Foundation Share	32.5%				
Somerset Simulated Apportionment of FY10 contribution						
		Somerset	Greater Fall River	Bristol County	SB Region	All Districts
6	FY10 total unapportioned required contribution					\$ 17,577,562
7	FY10 foundation enrollment	1,773	109	9	729	2,620
8	FY10 Foundation budget	\$ 14,519,000	\$ 1,564,948	\$ 128,114	\$ 6,995,457	\$ 23,207,519
9	Each district's share of municipality's total FY10 foundation	62.6%	6.7%	0.6%	30.1%	100.00%
10	FY10 required contribution apportioned using row 8 percentages	\$ 10,996,808	\$ 1,185,304	\$ 97,035	\$ 5,298,416	\$ 17,577,562
		60.7%	14.6%	2.6%	21.8%	100.0%
	Simulated Difference	\$ (5,301,530)	\$ 2,878	\$ 236	\$ 5,298,416	\$ -



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Peabody's Simulated Local District Contribution and Ch 70

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of School Finance									
Simulated Impact of sending 210* vocational pupils to North Shore/Essex in FY10									
A. Impact on local contribution									
	current enrollment	current foundation	simulated enrollment	simulated foundation	foundation shares	current required contribution	simulated required contribution	Difference	
district									
Peabody	6,311	\$ 59,750,141	6,161	\$ 57,581,737	95.8%	\$ 40,112,756	\$ 38,727,034	\$	(1,385,762)
at NS/Essex	25	\$ 355,270	175	\$ 2,522,710	4.2%	\$ 311,578	\$ 1,697,340	\$	1,385,762
total	6,336	\$ 60,105,447	6,336	\$ 60,105,447	100.0%	\$ 40,424,374	\$ 40,424,374	\$	-
			150	\$ 2,168,440	85.8%				
			25	\$ 355,270	14.1%				
			175	\$ 2,522,710	100.0%				
B. Impact on aid to Peabody									
	current enrollment	current foundation	simulated enrollment	simulated foundation	foundation shares	current aid to Peabody	aid apportioned between Peabody and NS/Essex	Difference	
district									
Peabody	6,311	\$ 59,750,141	6,161	\$ 57,581,737	95.4%	\$ 19,715,530	\$ 19,000,018	\$	(715,512)
shift to NS/Essex		\$ -	150	\$ 2,168,440	3.6%	\$ -	\$ 715,512	\$	715,512
total	6,311	\$ 59,750,141	6,311	\$ 59,750,177	100.0%	\$ 19,715,530	\$ 19,715,530	\$	-



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Learning Curve

- The most challenging aspect of regionalization has been educating the decision makers.
- Since the RPB has very little experience in public school system financial management, and none in regional school systems, the learning curve has been steep.



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Learning Curve

- They are expected to know and disseminate information to the public without any formal training on school finances and school operations
- One of their primary responsibilities is to write the actual contract for the newly formed region. Yet the only assistance they are provided with are the existing regional contacts from other districts.



Learning Curve

- They must also recommend an assessment methodology and become experts in statutory and alternative assessments including looking at and understanding the various options under each.
- The process is extremely iterative and heavily spreadsheet based



Resistant to Change

- Generally people are resistant to change
- Some towns have long-standing attitudes toward each other that support resistance to change.
- Resistance to change, or general unwillingness to change, is dominant in communities with strong independent identity around their schools.



Structural/Change

- The way the law is structured to require appointed volunteers does assure engagement of the public and the school committees
- Actual work requires the support of the superintendent.
- Since the superintendent works for the school committee, this is a potential source of friction and the superintendent can be caught in the middle.



Structural/Change

- Establishing positive views of each others' communities and modeling positive relationships is extremely important for success.
- Resistance to change will be a major factor to address in managing the process from start to end, and the press will feed controversy at every opportunity.

Structure/Change

- Recognize that there are two parts to the process: the part required by the statute, and the political campaign.
- There must be community members working on the campaign; the Board can not do it alone. These people should be identified and cultivated early.

\$ Incentives

- MSBA \$

- Regional assessment criteria points, 3 - 6 points
- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School, almost \$100 million of \$133 million, 74%
- Somerset Berkley - \$46.2 m of \$70 m HS, 66%



MSBA Recoupment Rules

- State may recover its investment in any facility that is no longer being used as a K-12 facility (70B:15)
- Statute offers guidelines on the recoupment of investment in the case where a district may sell or lease a school facility funded in part by the MSBA
- No guideline when a district may remove a building from service as a school for other general municipal use or closure and that school received a MSBA significant investment
- MSBA has recently agreed to avoid recoupment if the district submits a 2-year reuse plan for PK or other educational programs



\$ Incentives

- Transportation is a cost directly attributable to regionalization that has no educational benefit. If it is not reimbursed at 100% then this regionalization expense diverts valuable and limited local educational funding resources away from educational services to students and presents a strong argument not to regionalize schools.

\$ Incentives

- The lack of transitional aid for ALS was a key contributor for the demise of that effort
- There is a need to set up a transitional central office 15 to 21 months before the region would operate, and the associated financial assistance required.

\$ Incentives

- The commonwealth needs to incentivize regionalization opportunities to the extent that this option becomes both appealing and advantageous for local municipalities to participate.



71:16g

- Regional bonus aid shall be payable in an amount equal to fifty dollars per foundation enrollment, in the first fiscal year following the establishment of said regional school district
 - \$40 in the 2nd FY, \$30 in the 3rd FY
 - \$20 in the 4th FY and \$10 in the 5th FY
- ALS targeted \$179,000 for the first year
- No region has received regional bonus aid since Ed Reform began



A Needed Model

- These efforts lack a successful model to follow beyond the finances
- If in the future, a framework were provided to RPB's, with the addition of legal, financial and educational resources, then they would be in position to make an appropriate recommendation.

Goldmine or Graveyard?

Graveyard

- Time, 1 - 3 years
- Lack of incentives
 - Transportation reimbursement
 - Transitional funding
 - Regional bonus aid
 - MSBA regionalization incentives

Goldmine or Graveyard?

Graveyard

- Learning curve
 - Educational financing
 - Reallocation of Ch 70 and local contributions
 - Regional budgets and governance
- Cost reductions? - many of the regionalization studies determined that the educational advantages would not outweigh the additional financial investment

(not true on every study)



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Goldmine or Graveyard?

Goldmine

- Economies of scale
- MSBA capital financing/construction efficiencies
- More efficient use of school buildings may eliminate overcrowding
- Enhanced educational programming



Massachusetts Department of
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION

50

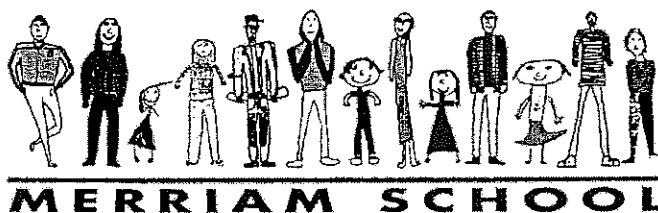
Remember the Kids

- The process requires persistent focus on the best interests of the children; it is easy to get sidetracked in the complexity of the project especially the finances
- If it doesn't work for the students, it won't work at all. Everything should be focused on driving resources to them.

For Further Information

Christine M. Lynch
Governance and Facilities
Program Manager
Department of
Elementary and
Secondary Education
781 338-6520
clynch@doe.mass.edu

Mark D. Abrahams, CPA
President, The Abrahams
Group
508 788-9172
Bettergov@aol.com
www.theabrahamsgroup.com



11 Charter Road, Acton, MA 01720 (978) 264-4700, Ext. 3751

February 10, 2010

Dear Tess:

Merriam School received a five hundred dollar check from Jim Salem and Sue Cunio Salem, who are Merriam parents. This was sent through their Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund. We would like to deposit this check in the Merriam Gift Account (Open Circle) that was set up last year when we received a similar donation. The funds will be used to help train more of our staff in the Open Circle program.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks so much for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Kaufman".

Ed Kaufman

Merriam Principal

Acton Public Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Acton, MA

**OVERNIGHT, INTERNATIONAL and/or OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM**

Submit for Superintendent and School Committee approval

Please file at least four (4) weeks in advance for 1-3 day trips

Please file at least three (3) months in advance trips longer than 3 days and/or trips with per student cost greater than \$500.00

Please TYPE or use COMPUTER FORM

• Name of Teacher(s): Jennie Granado, June Montepeluso, Sara Wilcox

• School: Gates

• # of Students going: 72 # of Chaperones (gender): 7 (at least 3 female)

Names of Chaperones: Jennie Granado, June Montepeluso, Sara Wilcox, Dana Roeselle (more to be determined closer to trip date when cabin arrangements are made)

• Date(s) of Trip: April 28-April 30 School Time Involved: April 28-April 30

• Destination / Purpose of Trip: Nature's Classroom @ Grottonwoods; teambuilding and science enrichment

• Have you taken this trip before? Yes, June 2009

• Any special arrangements required (such as extra insurance, ADA accommodations)? no

• Cost per Student: (Please describe how the cost is determined.) \$255 (cost per child for camp, bus cost, and EMT cost)

• Who will pay for the trip? Students/parents

• Has any fundraising been done? No If so, what?

• Are any parents driving? no

If so, have appropriate insurance forms been filled out? n/a

• Have you followed the procedure outlined in Policy IJOA? yes

• Other comments:

✓ Approved

_____ Not Approved

Lynne Newman
Principal

2/1/10
Date

✓ Approved

_____ Not Approved

Superintendent

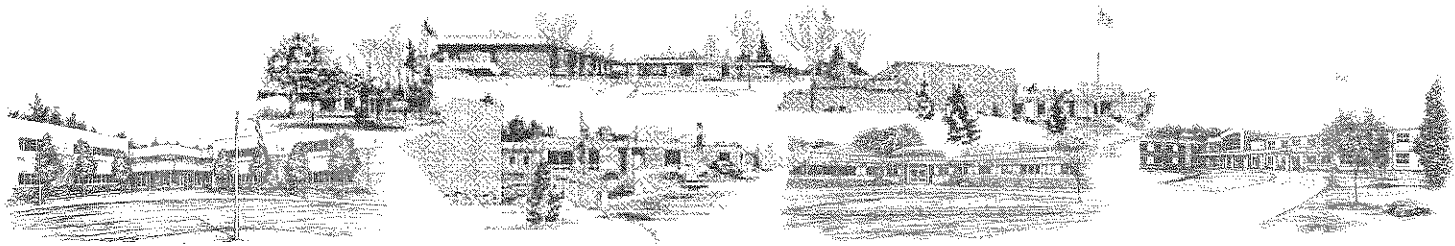
2/8/10
Date

Approved

_____ Not Approved

School Committee

Date



ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ❖ ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720-2995 Phone: 978-264-4700 x3211 Fax: 978-264-3340 Email: smills@mail.ab.mec.edu

Stephen E. Mills, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

February 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Department of Education requires towns to engage in local Needs Assessments to assist in identifying targets for health education curriculum and instruction. Through collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Education, Emerson Hospital, and selected surrounding communities, our district will be administering the Emerson Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to all sixth grade students, all eighth grade students, and all high school students in grades nine through 12 on March 9th.

The survey, which is conducted anonymously, takes forty-five to sixty minutes to complete. The Emerson YRBS collects information regarding students' alcohol and drug use, sexual activity, and other at-risk behavior. Data from the survey will be compiled to assist the Acton and Acton-Boxborough schools in planning for future adolescent health initiatives.

While this data is significant in meeting our health education needs and in complying with state requirements for future grant funding opportunities, parents may withdraw their children from participation by calling their building principal. If you have any questions, you can email Carolyn Imperato at cimperato@mail.ab.mec.edu. Thank you for your support in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Mills
Superintendent

Acton Public Schools/ Acton-Boxborough Regional School District



Luther Conant School

PTO

<http://conant.ab.mec.edu/pto>

80 Taylor Road, Acton, Massachusetts 01720



X.4

February 4, 2010

Dear School Committee Members:

As you are by now aware, our principal, Christine Price, let us know that she is considering other opportunities for the next school year. While many of us believe that her current role at Conant is still in consideration, we are devastated by the possibility that we could be losing such an incredible asset to our community and the district at large.

From the moment the search committee met her, it was evident that she was a dynamic educator and a perfect fit for our school. We have benefited from her leadership and even more, her care and commitment to our students. After transitioning three different principals in 7 years, we were excited to have such a talented person in place.

It is unfathomable that we may have to launch another principal search. Please consider how our elementary principals are being supported during the budget review process. We are at risk of losing talent at all levels of our school system if we are not mindful of the full impact of each proposed cut.

Sincerely,

Kim McOsker
Co-chair

Rebecca Oddsund
Co-Chair

Date: Fri, 12 Feb 2010 09:53:34 -0500

From: Joanne Wu

Subject: Support for Christine Price

To:

ssmcmanus@ mills@mail.ab.mec.edu, <apsc@acton-ma.gov>, <xuankongsc@

Cc: cprice@mail.ab.mec.edu,

Dear Dr. Mills and Acton Public School Committee,


We are parents of two children at Conant, and our third child will start at Conant in the Fall. We are nearly 6 years into our 13 year affiliation with Conant. Overall, we have had a mostly positive experience at Conant, and it is undeniably clear to us that Dr. Price has raised the level of Conant in the short 3 years she has been there. Like others, we were saddened to hear of her plans to look for alternative employment, and we cannot fathom that for nearly 3/4 of our 13 year relationship with Conant, we will have had principals in transition. (Assume next year is a transitional principal, the following year a "star" principal is hired. We know it takes at least a year or two for a principal to come up to speed.)

While we are not well versed in the details of what is driving our principal to look elsewhere, we do know that she does not have enough support/resources at her level to do her job. We also know that it is unlikely that an assistant principal will be hired tomorrow for all 5 of the Acton Elementary Schools. However, we are writing because we hope you are taking the likely departure of Christine Price seriously. We have heard that you are addressing it (not sure how), but at a minimum, I would hope that a Special Task Force has been put in place to examine the resource shortage issues that face Dr. Price, as well as the other elementary school principals, compare this to other towns, etc.

I am sure we are not telling you anything you already don't know, and you are probably already on top of it. We understand this is a large issue and will not get fixed overnight. We are simply writing because we wanted you to hear our voice as we have a vested interest in the outcome of the future leadership at Conant.

Sincerely,

Art & Joanne Wu

From:  Xuan Kong <xuankongsc@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 16, 2010 3:14:58 AM 

Subject: Re: better assistance to the principals of the elementary schools of Acton

To:  John Pathrose

Cc:  smills@mail.ab.mec.edu

Attachments:  Attach0.html

2K

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pathrose:

Thank you very much for writing to APS School Committee expressing your thoughts on the need of supporting elementary school principals. As the Chair of the School Committee, I will work with the Superintendent Mills to provide the needed support for our principals while balancing other educational needs of our students within the financial constraints.

Thank you again for writing to us. The School Committee appreciates the feedback and suggestions from parents and community.

Regards,

Xuan

Xuan Kong, PhD
Chair, Acton Public School Committee [2009-2010]
XuanKongSC@gmail.com

On Mon, Feb 15, 2010 at 9:17 AM, John Pathrose <

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have two daughters Christina and Michelle attending Conant elementary school and I support providing better assistance to the principals of the elementary schools of Acton.

Thank you

Johnson and Binu Pathrose

Date: Thu, 4 Feb 2010 10:34:19 -0500

From: "Heather and Jim Harer"

Subject: Developing and maintaining strong staff/leaders

To: "McManus, Sharon", "xuan kong"

School Committee Members,

Throughout the past 5 years the Acton Public Schools has had significant turnover in our leadership due to retirements within our elementary Schools. Through hard work our personnel department combined with Principal Search Committees, have hired a leadership team that we are proud of. The ability to hire, develop and maintain strong and successful leaders takes work and continued support.

With the recent news of one of our reputable and talented principals becoming a finalist at a competitive school district we need to focus on how we maintain these valuable members in our community.

This is a very difficult economy and although many conversations revolve around cuts and efficiencies, it is important to revisit our programs within our elementary schools and make sure we are supporting our Principals the best we can. As we all know, elementary schools house different programs to provide support to our entire community and throughout the years some increase and decrease in population due to our student's needs.

We are proud in Acton and Boxborough of our high achieving schools, and the talent and success of all of our students. Our teachers, principals, staff and Administrators are key to the continuation of that success. Taking for granted that we can continue to depend on these success would be unwise without the support of our leaders. Our efficiency depends on our staff and in turn we need to support them and their responsibilities.

Whether it is this meeting or any other, please keep in the front of your thoughts and conversations our dedicated staff, teacher and principals when we are making difficult decisions.

As always, thanks for the work that you each do for our schools.

Heather Harer

Date: Fri, 05 Feb 2010 12:08:35 -0500

Subject: FW: Supporting our Principal - Christine Price at Conant School

To: <apsc@acton-ma.gov>

Cc: smills@mail.ab.mec.edu, cprice@mail.ab.mec.edu,

Dear School Committee Members,

It is my understanding the parents, teachers and students of Conant school face another search for a school principal, in part because we provide little support to our elementary school principals. We will be heartbroken if Dr. Price leaves. She has done a wonderful job for the community of Conant and there is no better person to find. The job continues to hold challenges for her and she enjoys the community, but it is an overwhelming position without an assistant principal, a challenge faced by all elementary principals who have more than 500 children under their care. It's a travesty to provide so little support to our principals. The price is borne by the teachers, the taxpayers, parents and most importantly, the students. I support providing better assistance to the principals of the elementary schools of Acton and would appreciate improving support of Christine Price in her future role as principal of Conant.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Testarmata, MD

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 11:42 AM

To: smills@mail.ab.mec.edu

Subject: FW: Supporting our Principal - Christine Price

Dear Dr. Mills

Below is a letter that I wrote to Dr. Price this week after having a conversation with her regarding her plans for the future. We will be heartbroken if she leaves. As I understand, the job continues to hold challenges for her but it is an overwhelming position without an assistant principal, a challenge faced by all elementary principals who have more than 500 children to care for. I have called your office and left my thoughts with your administrative assistant. Below are my words. It's a travesty to provide so little support to our principals and the price is borne by the teachers, the taxpayers, parents and most importantly, the students. I support providing better assistance to the principals of the elementary schools of Acton and would appreciate your support of Christine Price in her future role as principal of Conant.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Testarmata, MD

From: Ann Marie Testarmata
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 11:08 AM
To: 'Christine Price'
Subject: Supporting our Principal

Dear Dr. Price,


Thank you for the conversation the other day. I am sure I am not alone in my sentiment that you are a wonderful school principal who will be truly missed if you move on from Conant. My eldest daughter, a sixth grader, who won't even be in Conant next year was very upset to hear that you might be leaving and her sister in second grade, is equally attached to you. Just the work that you have done on their behalf, taking on the challenges of their speech, language and cultural transitions and appreciating the uniqueness of their situations, is truly commendable, but for the entire school community, you have brought a wonderful life and enthusiasm, a direction, and a value system beyond compare. This is translated to your teachers and staff, which seems happy in their roles. You are responsive to parents and students needs and no problem or person has been too small for you. Conant school is the top choice on the kindergarten tour for good reason and that reason has a lot to do with you. I respect that you will have to make the best decision for your life, family and health. I understand that the job continues to hold challenges for you, you are very attached to the Conant Community, but it is an overwhelming position without an assistant principal.


What upsets me most is my own ignorance to this situation. We've come to enjoy and expect you there without giving thought to the job you do or the support you have. As I walked out the door the other day, I thought, well what other 600 + company operates without an assistant vice president - certainly no hospital, group practice or small business that I know. So how is it that we in Acton expect the principles to operate entire small school systems, that care for and educate the most precious things in our lives, without support in that role. What happens? A great principal, like yourself, comes full of creative energy and in three years is triaging and firefighting on a daily basis. There are no changes, no plan for the future support. A great talent moves on without a future and onward moves the school to the next search. What's the cost of all this loss of talent, searches, interims and staff? The school again goes through a search for a principle with its cost and challenges, perhaps another transition year with its cost and challenges, all creating uncertainty in a great teaching and support staff and most importantly in the students themselves.

This is the second search I will see for Conant in 4 years and of note almost every elementary school system has had a change in principle in the past 4 years. Is this because life changes and change is good or is this because the burden and expectations we place on our staff is too great without additional support. If this is the case, then, we need to, as a school system, address this issue.

I am writing you this letter to let you know that I support you in your role and your decision, but enlightened by our conversation, I've taken the time to call Dr. Mills office and leave my thoughts regarding this matter and with your permission would like to forward this email to him and the PTO. I think we all need a little enlightenment.

Ann Marie Testarmata, MD

From:  Xuan Kong
Subject: Re: COPS program funding
To:  Tom Wolf
Cc:  Acton School Committee <apsc@acton-ma.gov>
Bcc:  Beth Petr
Attachments:  Attach0.html

Thu, Jan 21, 2010 11:39:46 PM 

9K

Hi Tom,

Thank you for attending the SC meeting tonight and writing to us to share your thoughts on COPS in School program.

You asked very good questions. Officer Campbell (working with APS) is a town employee and reports to police chief. The police chief made a comment in an early meeting that the officer is made available to schools full time when asked about how much time officer actually spent at APS school.

The COPS In School grant that started this partnership is from federal DOJ. It stated the goal of the program/grant as [from DOJ website]

The COPS in Schools (CIS) grant program is designed to help law enforcement agencies hire new, additional school resource officers (SROs) to engage in community policing in and around primary and secondary schools. CIS provides an incentive for law enforcement agencies to build collaborative partnerships with the school community and to use community policing efforts to combat school violence.

Thanks!

Xuan

Xuan Kong, PhD
Chair, Acton Public School Committee [2009-2010]
XuanKongSC@gmail.com

On Thu, Jan 21, 2010 at 11:01 PM, Tom Wolf <tom.wolf@acton-ma.gov> wrote:

wrote:

I heard the discussion tonight about funding one officer for the elementary schools in the COPS program. I'm sure the program is valuable and I would like to see the position continued.

But, I have some questions about funding it through the school budget.

First, who does this officer report to or take direction from? Who evaluates his

performance? I believe he reports to the chief of police and not to anyone in the school district staff (although he certainly serves the schools). In that sense he is not a school employee and should not be paid from school funds.

Second, when Liza listed the hours and functions of this officer, I heard a lot of "investigates" this or that. I would hope that if a crime was committed at school or involved a student, those crimes would be investigated by a police officer regardless if his salary is paid by the school or not. There are advantages in building a relationship with the citizens he serves, but the school should not have to pay for services commonly expected of law enforcement.

I agree with Mr. Chinitz's compromise, to potentially fund the position this year and plan to migrate this funding to the town budgets in the future.

Thanks for listening

Tom Wolf

Date: Mon, 01 Feb 2010 08:13:48 -0500

From: Jo-Ann Berry

Subject: survey

To: ssmcmanus@rcn.com, <abrsc@acton-ma.gov>

Cc: chardimon@mail.ab.mec.edu, lhuber@mail.ab.mec.edu, ashen@mail.ab.mec.edu

School Committee Members:

Thank you for the time and effort that has been put into the Educational Values and Interest survey. I feel that the discussion of the issues raised are important ones for the community and I appreciate that Acton-Boxborough is willing to face it head-on and discuss how the values and interests of the community may affect public education in our community.

I attended the presentation given at the School Committee meeting and have some thoughts to add.

- 1) I believe that this is valuable work and should not be rushed. Setting a 6 month period for the working group to report to you is reasonable and expecting something tangible each time is also reasonable. Expecting that a topic of such depth that is so important to educational quality should be held to a rigid schedule of outcomes and deliverables is unreasonable. It will shortchange the potential benefit of the exercise and just as, I believe, that standardized testing does not tell the whole story, neither will a quick completion of this process. Learning does not take place on a straight line for students, nor will it in this process. As long as progress is being made, it will not be wasted effort.
- 2) I think that there could be value in trying to understand the difference in attitudes toward race and ethnicity, or any other factors of "diversity," between adults and teens. Parents and school staff participated in this survey and reported things from their own perspective that may have involved some interpretation of what students may be experiencing or thinking. Certainly the students in our community reflect our values, but they are also influenced by so much more and it would be instructive to know what their perceptions and attitudes toward others of different cultures is in relation to those of their elders.
- 3) The questions on stress are tied to academic values and it was amply pointed out that everyone involved wants students to be well adjusted emotionally and socially. It would be interesting to know, especially in light of recent vandalism events and events in other communities, what other stresses students feel that lead to such destructive behavior, how prevalent it may be in our community, and how close to the surface it may be. I think that the questions about students who are considered mediocre at AB but would be at the top of the class elsewhere should be considered as a lead in to trying to understand the underserved, middle-of-the-pack groups that the School Committee has been expressing concern over since at least my days on the committee. We should not think that such things as bullying leading to suicide or other such destructive behaviors by our students could not happen here. We are every community and a student who is bullied or under the impression that they don't rate at AB will not be able to perform to their best level if that is happening. And we cannot be so naive as to think that it won't ever happen here - whatever "it" may be.

I urge you to continue this process in a manner that reflects the excellence of our schools: with thoroughness, intellectual curiosity and rigor, and transparency. There is nothing to be gained by brushing aside what we don't want to know and everything to be gained by being open to where the information will lead us and then taking appropriate actions to ensure that our school can continue to be the example of excellence we have built over many years.

Thank you,
Jo-Ann Berry

Date: Fri, 29 Jan 2010 15:10:16 -0500

From: "Heather and Jim Harer"

Subject: Presentation last night

To: ssmcmanus@rcn.com,"Sharon Smith McManus"

<smcmanus@mail.ab.mec.edu>,xkong@mail.ab.mec.edu,lhuber@mail.ab.mec.edu,char
dimon@mail.ab.mec.edu,smills@mail.ab.mec.edu,<achen@mail.ab.mec.edu>

Liza, Craig and Andrew,

I wanted to thank you and commend you on a job well done last night. The presentation was thoughtful, insightful and informative.

At the end of the conversation Andrew asked if this effort should start with the parents or the school (Administration, teachers and staff).

Your hard work and effort was a great first start; it now will take the direction of our leaders and the input from our parents to successfully continue this dialog to advance positive change that will benefit our students. This cannot be accomplished with only one side working. It takes all of us to come together with the support of our District to achieve successful change.

The key is that we are all talking; the more parent forums along the way will help support the need to have this issue discussed in homes. Your leadership will provide a base to open dialog and promote discussion, and with that parents will feel supported.

I appreciate all the work you are putting into this very important topic.

If there is anything I can do to help facilitate conversation, please let me know.

Have a nice weekend.

Heather Harer

Feb-10

MONTHLY ENROLLMENT
ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOLS
2009- 2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

	Sept. 1				Oct. 1				Nov. 1				Dec. 1				Jan. 1				Feb. 1				Mar. 1				Apr. 1				May 1				Jun 1			
Levels	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot	A	B (1)	C	Tot				
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3	354	69	5	359	358	69	5	363	359	69	5	364	362	69	5	367	360	69	5	365	359	69	5	364	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
4	360	81	2	362	359	81	2	361	358	81	2	360	359	81	2	361	360	80	2	362	361	81	2	363	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
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K-6 Ungr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
In D.Pre-sch.	48	4	0	48	49	4	0	49	49	4	0	49	51	4	0	51	52	6	0	52	55	6	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
O.D. Pre-sch.	8	4	0	8	9	4	0	9	8	4	0	8	8	4	0	8	8	4	0	8	8	4	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
O.D. SPED K-6	14	5	0	14	14	5	0	14	15	4	0	15	14	4	0	14	14	4	0	14	14	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
A.P.S. Total	2599	494	20	2619	2603	495	20	2623	2605	496	20	2625	2611	498	20	2631	2608	500	20	2628	2611	502	20	2631	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
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J.H.S. Total	797	177	10	984	795	177	7	979	794	177	7	978	795	178	7	980	795	179	7	981	795	179	7	981	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
9	406	93	6	505	402	97	6	505	402	97	6	505	401	98	6	505	401	98	6	505	398	98	6	502	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
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9-12 Ungr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
P.G.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
H.S. Total	1519	397	45	1961	1504	402	47	1953	1503	402	45	1950	1505	404	45	1954	1503	403	45	1951	1499	403	45	1947	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Total JHS & HS	2316	574	55	2945	2299	579	54	2932	2297	579	52	2928	2300	582	52	2934	2298	582	52	2932	2294	582	52	2928	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
O.D. SPED 7-12	44	14	0	58	44	14	0	58	44	15	0	59	44	15	0	59	44	15	0	59	43	15	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Reg. Total	2360	588	55	3003	2343	593	54	2990	2341	594	52	2987	2344	597	52	2993	2342	597	52	2991	2337	597	52	2986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
A.P.S. Total	2599	494	20	2619	2603	495	20	2623	2605	496	20	2625	2611	498	20	2631	2608	500	20	2628	2611	502	20	2631	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Reg. Total	2360	588	55	3003	2343	593	54	2990	2341	594	52	2987	2344	597	52	2993	2342	597	52	2991	2337	597	52	2986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Grand Total	4959	588	75	5622	4946	593	74	5613	4946	594	72	5612	4955	597	72	5624	4950	597	72	5619	4948	597	72	5617	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

A = ACTON
 B = BOXBOROUGH
 C = Choice/Staff/Tuition In

Pre-School = SPED
 P.G. = Post Graduates
 Ungr. = Ungraded
 O.D. = SPED Out of District

In D. = In District

Distribution:

S. Mills
 M. Altieri
 S. Horn
 L. Huber

T. Summers
 S. Hall
 K. Nelson
 K. Trahan

C. Bates

All Principals (2)

Students other than Choice counted under column C:
 Staff Students -
 Tuition In Students -
 Sped Tuition in Students

18

Staff Children
Case []
CAD, DAD, GAD, TAD, and MAD - ALL DAY PROGRAMS

Actual
Acton Public Schools
2009-2010
February 1, 2010

2/2/10
3:46 PM

Grade YOG	Conant			Total	Douglas			Total	Gates			Total	McCarthy-Towne			Total	Merriam				Total	#Sec.	Avg. Size		
Rm	CAD	CB	CC		DAD	DB	DC	1#	GAD	GB	GC	1#	TAD	TB	TC	2#(1)	MAD	MB	MC	MC2	2#	5#			
K-22	21	22	21	64	22	21	22	65	22	20	22	64	Case +	23	20	21	64	22	21	21	22	86	342	16	21.4
Rm 3	4	5			3	4	5		1	3	8	2#	113	311	312	(1)	135	231	321	1#	3#				
Gr. 1-21	23	23	24	70	22	23	22	67	23	23	23	69	Case +	24	23	23	70	22	23	23	23	68	343	15	22.9
Rm 6	7	8			6	7	8		5	6	10		114	301	302	(2) 1#	322	323	234	1#	2#				
Gr. 2-20	24	23	25	72	22	23	23	68	23	23	22	68	Case +	24	24	24	72	22	23	24	69	347	15	23.1	
Rm 9	10	17			9	10	11		7	9	17	1#	212	213	314	(2)	230	330	224	4#	5#				
Gr. 3-19	24	24	24	72	25	23	24	72	25	25	24	74	Case +	24	24	27	75	24	24	25	73	364	15	24.3	
Rm 18	19	20			12	13	14	1#	18	19	20	no boys	115	210	310	(3)	331	233	222	1#	2#				
Gr. 4-18	24	24	25	73	25	24	24	73	24	24	25	73	Case +	27	23	24	74	24	24	25	73	363	15	24.2	
Rm 14	15	16			19	20	21		14	15	16		211	303	313	(4)	333	324	334	232	1#	1#			
Gr. 5-17	26	25	25	76	24	24	24	72	24	24	25	73	Case +	24	29	25	78	24	24	24	24	96	391	16	24.4
Rm 11	12	13			15	16	17		11	12	13	no boys	112	214	215		325	335	332	323	1#	1#			
Gr. 6-16	25	25	26	76	26	26	26	78	23	25	24	72	26	26	26	78	25	26	25	24	100	404	16	25.3	
Total Staff	0#				2#				4#				3#				11#				20#				
Total	21 Sec. Average 24.0	503			21 Sec. Average 23.6	495			21 Sec. Average 23.5	493			Case+ [13] Average 24.3 511	21 Sec. Average 23.7	498			24 Sec. Average 23.5	565			2554	108	23.6	
Range	21	26			21	26			20	25			20	26			21	26				20	26		

**MONTHLY REPORTING OF
ELL STUDENT POPULATION**

Acton Public Schools

February 1, 2010

Category	Total as of 1/1/2010	Additions	Subtractions	Total as of 2/1/2010
Conant	21	0	0	21
Douglas	22	0	0	22
McCarthy-Towne	15	0	0	15
Merriam	22	0	0	22
APS TOTAL	80	0	0	80