

Acton Public and Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committees

November 3, 2011

**7:00 p.m. Joint APS/AB School Committee Meeting
with Acton Board of Selectmen**

**8:00 p.m. Joint APS/AB Regional SC Meeting
followed by AB Regional SC Meeting**

at the R.J. Grey Junior High Auditorium

**ACTON PUBLIC and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Auditorium

R.J. Grey Junior High

November 3, 2011

7:00 p.m. Joint Board of Selectmen, APS & ABRSC Meeting

8:00 p.m. Joint School Committee Meeting

AB Regional SC Meeting to follow

AGENDA

1.0 JT APS/AB SC CALL TO ORDER (with Acton Board of Selectmen)

2.0 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

3.0 MUNICIPAL HEALTH CARE REFORM PRESENTATION

See separate agenda

BOS ADJOURNS, JOINT SC BUSINESS BEGINS (8:00)

4.0 STATEMENT OF WARRANT

5.0 APPROVAL OF JOINT and ABRSC MINUTES

5.1 Joint SC October 6, 2011 (*addendum*)

5.2 AB SC September 1, 2011 (*addendum*)

6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7.0 LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – *Steve Mills*

7.1 Plan Draft dated 9/28/11

APS SC ADJOURNS, AB SC MEETING CONTINUES

8.0 AB SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

8.1 Lower Fields Project Update – *Steve Mills, JD Head*

8.1.1 Operating Expenses (*addendum*)

8.2 Regional School District Study Committee Update – *Xuan Kong (oral)*

8.3 ALG Report – *Xuan Kong (oral)*

8.4 BLF Report – *Maria Neyland (oral)*

8.5 Budget – *Don Aicardi*

8.5.1 FY'12 First Quarter Financial Status Report (*15 min*)

8.5.1.1 Memo and chart

8.5.1.2 Presentation Slides (*addendum*)

8.5.2 FY'13 (*oral*)

8.6 Policy Subcommittee Update

8.6.1 Use of School Facilities - *Brigid Bieber*

- 8.6.1.1 Revised Policy (approved 10/6/11)
- 8.6.1.2 Draft Use of School Facilities Procedures & Fees (File: KF-R)
- 8.6.2 Advertising in Schools (File: KHB) – **FIRST READING** – *Brigid Bieber*
 - 8.6.2.1 Proposed new policy and procedures
 - 8.6.2.2 Examples from other communities (*addendum*)
- 8.7 Preliminary proposed 2012-2013 School Calendar (*addendum*)
- 8.8 Recommendation to Accept Gift from AB Basketball Boosters – **VOTE** – *Steve Mills*
- 8.9 Recommendation to Accept Gift from the Class of 2011 – **VOTE** – *Steve Mills*

9.0 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- 9.1 ABRHS Info
 - 9.1.1 Discipline Report (*addendum*)
 - 9.1.2 The Spectrum (*distributed at meeting*)
- 9.2 RJ Grey Junior High Info
 - 9.2.1 Discipline Report (*addendum*)
- 9.3 ABRSD ELL Student Population, November 2011 (*addendum*)
- 9.4 Monthly ABRSD Object Summary and SPED Financial Reports (*addendum*)
- 9.5 November 1 Enrollment Report (*addendum*)
- 9.6 NSTAR funding of Energy Consultant position (*addendum*)
- 9.7 Waiver for JH students to participate in Varsity and JV Wrestling
- 9.8 Minute Van Student Ridership
- 9.9 Correspondence from the Community

NEXT MEETINGS:

November 17 - 7:30 p.m. APS SC Meeting at Merriam School Library
December 2 - 7:30 p.m. AB SC Meeting at RJG Jr High Library

ADJOURNMENT

Long Range Strategic Plan
Acton Public Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools

This plan was spearheaded by a committee of stakeholders (educators, parents, citizens of Acton and Boxborough, and school committee members) between the fall of 2010 and the fall of 2011. Significant effort was made to collect input and feedback from the larger school community.

The ultimate plan lays out the districts' mission and values, as defined by our larger community, as well as a series of goals intended to help the districts meet those ideals. Over the next five years, the districts will strive to meet these goals in order to fully prepare our students to be life-long learners, critical thinkers, and productive citizens.

Mission

To prepare all students to attain their full potential as life-long learners, critical thinkers, and productive citizens of our diverse community and global society.

Values

As a community, we value:

- An environment that promotes social development and emotional and physical well-being for the entire community.
- An excellent academic program that prepares all students to achieve their individual potential.
- Diverse extracurricular opportunities accessible to all students that provide for student growth.
- A community that welcomes and respects the differences among us.
- Literacy, communication and technology skills for life long learning.
- Educational policy and resource decisions informed by research and evidence.

Goal 1

Meet the diverse needs of all students by promoting social development and emotional and physical well being through increased student-adult and student-student interactions

Values Addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Strategies:

- Provide students with increased counseling services.
- Create an advisory program at the secondary level that provides every student with a one-on-one relationship with an adult.
- Fully implement social and emotional curricula at the elementary schools.
- Partner with community organizations to expand extra-curricular and intramural offerings for all students.
- Increase communication about community offerings for youth by expanding school and district websites.
- Examine and determine appropriate staffing and funding to provide diverse opportunities for all students.
- Provide increased opportunities for safe and fun activities for adolescent students during off-school hours.
- Maximize use of facilities and grounds to provide additional space for activities.
- Broaden and improve supervision of elementary students during unstructured time (e.g. bus, recess).

Measurable Outcomes:

Year 1

- Determine baseline numbers of student participation in community-based and school-based extracurricular activities.
- Use existing Senior Survey to document baseline satisfaction with school climate.
- Inventory and publish on website community-based opportunities for students.
- Through budgeting process, advocate for additional counseling personnel at the secondary level.
- Develop plan and conduct staff training for implementation of advisory program at the high school in fall 2012.
- Conduct feasibility study of lower fields for expansion of space, including cost.

Year 2

- Implement advisory program at the high school.
- Identify, through building-based approaches, areas of concern in unstructured time at the elementary level.
- Partner with the community to offer additional extra-curricular opportunities for students during after-school and unstructured time.
- Create a matrix of the social/emotional curricula at the elementary schools detailing progress towards full implementation, as defined by each school.

Years 3-5

- Use existing Senior Survey to document satisfaction with school climate after introduction of initiatives.
- Collect data regarding effectiveness of increased after-school activities for students.
- Re-allocate resources to meet school-determined needs regarding unstructured time.

- Determine creative approaches to meet counseling needs of students

Connection of Goal to Value:

At the core of students' educational experiences are the relationships they form with adults and with each other. As a school district, it is our responsibility to provide the time and resources to ensure that each student has the opportunity to develop those relationships and be provided with a variety of activities to encourage their overall academic, social, and emotional development.

Goal 2

Prepare students by providing them with the knowledge, and intellectual and reflective skills they will need to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Values Addressed: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Strategies:

- Review and articulate what all students should know and be able to do at each grade level.
- Determine classroom-based authentic assessments of student learning.
- Create opportunities for students to monitor their own progress.
- Expand learning approaches by creatively leveraging resources from students' families and local communities.
- Promote the development of a deep and multifaceted understanding of global issues.

Measurable Outcomes:

Year 1

- Communicate to our community the learning goals specific to disciplines, courses, and grades.
- Develop and/or identify tools to assess students' progress towards learning goals.
- Review present internship program and make recommendations for continued growth of the program to enrich student's learning experience outside classrooms.

Year 2

- Implement assessment tools to inform educators about the progress of individual students.
- Explore possibilities for students to monitor their own progress.
- Broaden internship opportunities for high school students.
- Develop international exchange activities accessible to all students from in-classroom internet-based activities to international field trips.

Year 3

- Assemble expert panels (external to immediate school community) to provide critical feedback to students.
- Review current family and community involvement and recommend activities that continue to build and sustain a comprehensive program of partnerships.
- Refine curriculum to promote better understanding of ourselves and others.

Year 4 and 5

- Implement activities that engage families in nurturing emotional intelligence of students.
- Enable student-led activities to address matters related to ethical global issues.

Connection of Goal to Values:

By achieving this goal, we will provide students with a learning environment that promotes emotional, social and intellectual development. With well-articulated learning goals and authentic assessment of progress, we can realize our value of promoting academic excellence that allows all students to achieve their individual potentials. Refining curriculum to promote better understanding of ourselves and others will further strengthen recognize and honor the differences among us. Partnership with local community and participation in international exchange programs afford our students first-hand knowledge and experience of today's workplace and global society.

Goal 3

Hire and retain high-quality educators and provide supervision, evaluation, and a systemic, focused plan for professional growth that improves student experiences

Values Addressed: 1, 2, 5, 6

Strategies:

- Attract and retain the staff most capable of meeting the needs of our learners.
- Adopt and implement a new educator evaluation system, which provides all educators with valuable feedback to improve practice.
- Create structures for faculty to work together to understand student learning and growth in light of teacher practice.
- Revise professional development program to align with other district goals.

Measurable Outcomes:

Year 1

- Ensure that 100% of our educators are determined to be highly qualified by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Develop rubrics, timelines, and process for teacher and administrator evaluations consistent with Massachusetts Standards for Educator Evaluation.
- Survey staff about the efficacy of principals and administrators. Continue to evaluate administrators annually.
- Identify reasons for teachers leaving and other trends by reviewing five year list of teacher retention rates.
- Develop tools to measure student growth over time in each department/grade level.
- Explore new structures for teachers to meet and collaborate.

Years 2-5

- Ensure that 100% of our educators are determined to be highly qualified by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Maintain 95% or better teacher retention rate (excluding retirements).
- Implement new evaluation system in all schools and departments.
- Incorporate multiple measures of student growth over time into teachers' evaluations.
- Supervisors will see all professional staff in classrooms several times throughout the year.
- Develop individual professional development plans and goals based on system goals and self-reflection for each teacher and administrator.

- Every educator will belong to a collaborative group that meets regularly to review student work and discuss instructional practices.
- Survey faculty to provide data about teacher satisfaction, work load and the efficacy of the new evaluation system and the professional development program.

Connection of Goal to Value:

Hiring and retaining high quality educators will contribute to an environment that promotes social, emotional, and physical well-being, an excellent academic program, literacy and critical thinking skills and researched based decision making about the allocation of resources. A valuable teacher evaluation system and professional development opportunities that provide growth for educators lead to high quality instruction.

Goal 4

Create a teaching and learning environment in which all students use information, technology, and communication tools in sophisticated ways to enhance learning

Values Addressed: 1, 2, 5, 6

Strategies:

- Develop a plan that would allow each student access to technology when educationally appropriate.
- Investigate and address issues that may constrain the participation of students who are economically disadvantaged, have special needs, or have limited English proficiency.
- Integrate technology learning goals with academic goals across the curriculum.
- Identify appropriate staffing levels to provide appropriate technical and instructional support for students and teachers.
- Provide training for teachers to incorporate online interaction into their curricula.

Measurable Outcomes:

- An implemented plan that allows all students access to technology when they need it.
- An articulated set of technology learning goals K-12.
- A professional development plan that ensures teachers can meet K-12 technology learning goals.
- Feedback from Senior Survey that assesses student experience with technology use.
- Faculty Surveys that assess faculty experience with technology use.

Connection of Goal to Value:

In order to fully achieve their potential in the 21st century, all students must have multiple opportunities to develop technological skills.

Goal 5

Adequately resource the two districts with investment budgets that grow beyond level service each of the next four fiscal years to achieve all long-range strategic goals

Value Addressed: 6

Strategies:

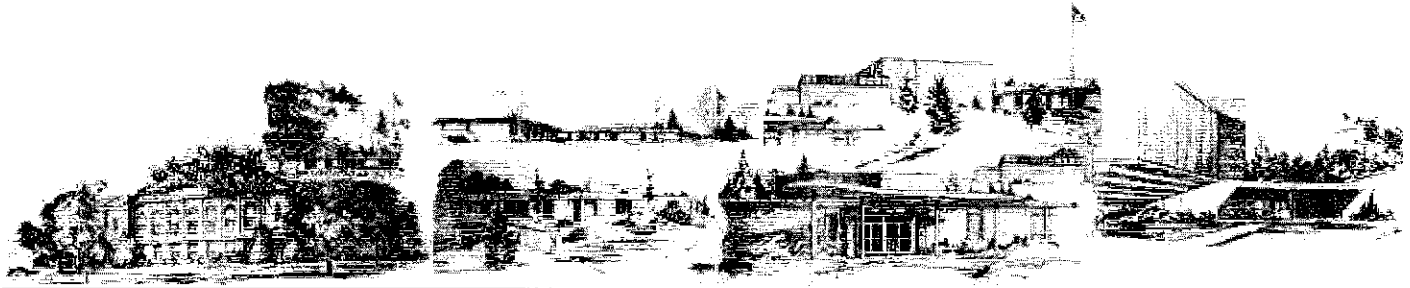
- Examine the costs and benefits associated with regionalization.
- Determine and operationalize staffing required to meet long-range goals.
- Collaborate with town leadership to develop funding strategy to meet goals.
- Examine how funds might be better re-allocated to increase services for students.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Calculate investment growth number and add to budgets for fiscal years 2013-2016.
- Accept biannual report of regionalization study committee.
- Report to School Committee biannually on collaboration with town leadership groups for consensus on investment budget solution.
- Perform external audits every other year to determine additional efficiencies in budgeting.

Connection of Goal to Value:

Educational practices and policies must be determined based on the best available research and evidence. However, in these economic times, decisions and policies are often stifled by budgetary considerations. Careful planning, in combination with ongoing measurement of outcomes, allows for educational programming that reflects best practices.



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Donald Aicardi
 Finance Director

TO: Superintendent Stephen Mills
 FROM: Don Aicardi, Director of Finance *DA*
 RE: FY12 Status Report-1st Quarter
 DATE: October 28, 2011

A. Summary

I am happy to report that the Acton-Boxborough School District ended the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2012 with a \$319,881 projected year end fund balance.

B. FY12 Budget Revisions-Reminder

In June, 2011, the ABRSC voted to reallocate the original FY12 budget by transferring \$150,000 in budget authority from the health insurance (\$89,000) and electricity (\$61,000) accounts in order to fund two new positions: one SPED/Testing/Reading Support position at the junior high, and one Special Educator/School Psychologist at the senior high. Those positions have been hired. The financial reallocation between those accounts has been performed and is reflected in this report.

C. Review of FY12 Budget-Highlights

I would like to highlight some of the most interesting observations for the regional school committee:

1. Salaries, Teaching. (\$-59k) The committee will recall that the current FY12 budget was deliberately constructed with significant reductions to account for retirements (\$91k) and staff changes (\$297k) which have had the intended effect of decreasing any potential vacancy factor savings before the beginning of the school year. The decision to anticipate these salary savings was done based on historical trends as well as a desire to make the FY12 budget increase as low as possible. We will be monitoring this decision in the coming months to evaluate whether it should be duplicated in the FY13 budget process.

2. Salaries, Substitute (\$13k) \$40,000 in additional vacancy factor savings were built into the FY12 budget which allow an increase to the substitute account. This was done to reflect the amount of annual spending in this account. To date, this has had the intended effect.

3. Fringes, Unemployment (\$-33k) This account is also projected to be in deficit at year end. We need to build a better internal tracking document to improve our analysis of this account. This will need to be created before the close of the FY13 budget process.

4. Fringes, Pensions (\$+14k) The Middlesex County Retirement Board has annually adopted an optional payment method which, if the annual appropriation is paid for in full by July 1, 2011, allows a 2% reduction in the appropriation to realized. Due to our full payment, we were able to achieve cost savings in this account.

5. Utilities (+\$0k) Due to our conservation efforts, our electricity usage continues to trend downward. We re-evaluated our FY12 usage assumptions and used \$61,000 from those revised, lower assumptions last June to help pay for a portion of the two new positions added to the ABRSD. We remain optimistic that further budgetary savings will be generated from this account; if they occur, those savings will be used to help defray the FY12 engineering costs related to the Lower Field project.

6. Health Insurance (+\$179k) The ABRSD FY12 health insurance was recalculated three times during last year's budget season to reflect evolving enrollment numbers, changes to the rate increases recommended by the Health Insurance Trust Committee, then to reflect the negotiated savings in the employer portion of health insurance. We will continue to monitor this account closely as the enrollment changes throughout the fiscal year.

7. Other, Property/Casualty (\$36k) Property and liability insurance expenses are charged both to this account and the Student Transportation account. This account was closely scrutinized with the help of J.D. Head, Director of Facilities and Transportation. We have concluded that there will be a small surplus at the close of the fiscal year.

8. Other, Sped Tuition (\$285k) The FY12 ABRSD budget was based on an assumption that "circuit breaker" reimbursement from the Commonwealth would remain at 40%. In the end, thanks to the state legislature, the final amount of circuit breaker reimbursement was confirmed in mid-September to be approximately 65%. This means that the final amount of reimbursement will be \$1,146,293, \$434,000 higher than the \$711k estimate used in the FY12 budget. Due to the complexity regarding this budget, regular meetings will be conducted with Liza Huber and her staff to track this account closely throughout FY12.

D. Conclusion. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you.

ACTON/BOXBORO REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FY12 BUDGET STATUS REPORT

	FY12 Budget Original	FY12 Budget Adjustments	FY12 Budget Current	FY12 Year End Projected Expenses	FY12 Year End Projected Balance
Salaries, Teaching 01	\$16,006,402	\$156,000	\$16,162,402	\$16,222,316	(\$59,914)
Salaries, Principals 02	\$741,686	\$0	\$741,686	\$757,046	(\$15,360)
Salaries, Central Administration 03	\$421,151	\$0	\$421,151	\$435,622	(\$14,471)
Salaries, Support Staff 04	\$2,940,641	\$0	\$2,940,641	\$2,939,043	\$1,598
Salaries, Athletics 05	\$415,167	\$0	\$415,167	\$417,802	(\$2,635)
Salaries, Buildings 06	\$280,104	\$0	\$280,104	\$349,821	(\$69,717)
Salaries, Custodial 07	\$798,215	\$0	\$798,215	\$734,380	\$63,835
Salaries, Home Instruction 08	\$7,133	\$0	\$7,133	\$16,594	(\$9,461)
Salaries, Substitute 09	\$252,793	\$0	\$252,793	\$266,651	(\$13,858)
Fringes, Course Reimbursement 10	\$28,000	\$0	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0
Fringes, Health Insurance 11	\$5,213,338	(\$89,000)	\$5,124,338	\$4,944,816	\$179,522
Fringes, Other Ins 12	\$26,110	\$0	\$26,110	\$21,460	\$4,650
Fringes, Unemployment 13	\$27,000	\$0	\$27,000	\$60,000	(\$33,000)
Fringes, Workers Comp 14	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$99,543	(\$9,543)
Fringes, Pensions 15	\$938,823	\$0	\$938,823	\$924,659	\$14,164
Instructional Supplies 16	\$252,892	\$0	\$252,892	\$257,257	(\$4,365)
Instructional Textbooks 17	\$135,167	\$0	\$135,167	\$135,791	(\$624)
Instructional, Library 18	\$29,724	\$0	\$29,724	\$29,724	\$0
Other, Capital Outlay 19	\$317,206	\$0	\$317,206	\$316,430	\$776
Other, Prop/Casualty 22	\$100,865	\$0	\$100,865	\$63,968	\$36,897
Other, Maintenance Buildings 23	\$359,880	\$0	\$359,880	\$361,710	(\$1,830)
Other, Maintenance Outlays 24	\$200,242	\$0	\$200,242	\$214,208	(\$13,966)
Other, Legal Service 26	\$102,776	\$0	\$102,776	\$102,776	\$0
Other, Admin Supplies 27	\$584,087	(\$6,000)	\$578,087	\$587,487	(\$9,400)
Other, Athletic Support 28	\$62,885	\$0	\$62,885	\$65,244	(\$2,359)
Other, Custodial Support 29	\$72,409	\$0	\$72,409	\$72,409	\$0
Other, Sped Transportation 30	\$788,332	\$0	\$788,332	\$789,392	(\$1,060)
Other, Student Transportation 31	\$643,012	\$0	\$643,012	\$648,569	(\$5,557)
Other, Travel 32	\$26,313	\$0	\$26,313	\$26,639	(\$326)
Other, Sped Tuition 33	\$3,236,257	\$0	\$3,236,257	\$2,950,371	\$285,886
Other, Utilities 34	\$1,285,751	(\$61,000)	\$1,224,751	\$1,224,751	\$0
Other, Sewer 35	\$230,006	\$0	\$230,006	\$230,006	\$0
Other, Debt Service 21	\$1,887,984	\$0	\$1,887,984	\$1,887,984	\$0
GRAND TOTAL	\$38,502,351	\$0	\$38,502,351	\$38,182,470	\$319,881

File: KF**USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES***(policy approved by ABRSC 10/6/11, APS vote pending)*

The Acton-Boxborough Regional and Acton Public School Districts are the caretakers of the Districts' properties and facilities for the towns of Acton and Boxborough. The School Committees are pleased to have public facilities enjoyed by Acton and Boxborough community members when the property is not in use by the schools.

The Superintendent's office, through Community Education, shall schedule and manage the use of the Districts' properties according to the procedures attached to this policy as they may be amended from time to time.

File: KF-R

**Proposed: USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES PROCEDURES
(Revised October 3, 2011)**

A variety of school facilities are available for rental by school and community groups and individuals. Acton-Boxborough Community Education will schedule all school facilities week days after 5:00 p.m., on weekends and holidays. Facility usage at other times is based on availability and is at the discretion of the building principal. Applications for facility rental should be made no later than *two weeks* in advance of the requested date. Applications for facility rental may be obtained at the Community Education Office in the Administration Building, 15 Charter Road in Acton. The phone number is (978) 266-2525. The application can be downloaded from the A-B Community Ed. website: <http://comed.ab.mec.edu>.

All in-school groups will have until July 31st to make requests for the next school year. As of August 1st, non-school groups may request rentals on a first come, first served basis. Rentals of school district grass fields occur two times per year. Tennis Court rentals occur once per year. Please see page 4 for more information.

Please note: School activities supersede all non-school rentals. Renters may be bumped at the last minute if the school needs a space that has been rented. Every effort will be made to find the user a similar space or reschedule the event for another date.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Rental fees are based on user classification as follows:

CLASS 1 - School Sponsored Groups

- Events authorized and signed by a school faculty member
- Events for varsity sports and parent booster groups
- Community Education programs
- Recognized School related organizations, such as ABSAF, SADD, etc.

Class 1 users do not pay rental fees, only costs of personnel who work at the event (custodian, A/V, kitchen staff).

CLASS 2 - Community Service Organizations

This class represents Acton-Boxborough groups/individuals whose main purpose is social, educational, cultural or recreational and NOT business related. Examples include social clubs, condo associations and youth and adult sport groups.

FEES: Rental fees will be charged for all events, in accordance with the district's published fees.. A deposit is required at the time of application, and is non-refundable unless the request for school facilities is denied. Class 2 renters will receive an invoice after the event, with the total reduced by the amount of the deposit.

CLASS 3 - Events for Personal or Commercial Benefit of an Organization or Individual

Groups in this category include businesses, private tutors and all others utilizing the buildings for personal or commercial benefit.

FEES: Rental fees will be charged for all events, in accordance with the district's published fees.. A deposit is required at the time of application. and is non-refundable unless the request for school facilities is denied. Class 2 renters will receive an invoice after the event, with the total reduced by the amount of the deposit.

FREQUENT USER DISCOUNT

Rental fees of users who rent school facilities 15-25 times per school year will be reduced by 10%. Rental fees of users who rent school facilities 26+ times per school year will be reduced by 20%.

There are no discounts for personnel costs (custodial/kitchen/AV) associated with rentals.

FACILITY USE AND REGULATION

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

PARKER DAMON BUILDING: You may not bring latex products of any kind into this building (e.g. latex balloons or gloves).

RAYMOND J. GREY JUNIOR HIGH: You may not bring citrus products of any kind into this building.

In order to reduce the risk of allergic reactions, users are asked to not bring any of the following into the school buildings: peanuts, tree nuts, milk, dairy products, eggs, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish.

SUPERVISION

The applicant is held responsible for the preservation of order and the protection of school property. When attendance or other conditions require the use of police, firemen or parking attendants, the user shall assume full responsibility for their assignments and pay for their services.

RESTRICTIONS

Renting groups shall be responsible for enforcing the following restrictions:

- a. Smoking:** Smoking is NOT permitted in any school building or on school grounds.
- b. Intoxicants:** Alcoholic beverages are forbidden on school property at all times.
- c. Food or Beverage:** Food or beverage may not be served in any area outside the cafeteria. Groups of 25 or more serving food in the cafeteria will be required to have a custodian. Community Education, in consultation with Facilities staff, will make the final determination as to the need for a custodian. Groups serving food must obtain a temporary food service permit from the Board of Health

Groups utilizing the kitchen for any reason other than using the sink to draw water, must have a kitchen supervisor.

d. Care of Property/Decorations: The renting organization shall be liable for any damages to school property occurring at the time of rental and as a result of the rental. Plans for mounting decorations must be approved in advance by the building principal. Tape may be used as long as it does not damage school property and that it is removed by the user at the completion of the activity. No scenery or props belonging to the users may be stored in school buildings. Wax is not to be applied to floors. Furniture or equipment may not be removed and should be replaced to its original location at the completion of the activity.

e. Fire Prevention: All local and state fire safety regulations will be observed. No open flames may be used. All materials used for decorations must be approved in advanced by school officials and the fire chief. Electric fixtures, line extensions, equipment, and appliances may be connected under the direct supervision of a custodian only.

f. Use of Facilities: Rental use will be limited to the facilities and equipment specified in the usage agreement and will, under no circumstances, extend to other rooms, areas or use of equipment. Groups using the school facilities will not be permitted to promote or manage any form of chance, gambling, lotteries, raffles, bingo or other unlawful activities. Groups of children or minors shall NOT have access or use of facilities unless accompanied by an adult supervisor. The school system will remain impartial toward programs of a political nature and strive to give equal opportunity for use of school property to all political parties. School building will not be available for private functions such as birthday parties, family events, celebrations, individual recitals, dinners, etc.

g. Keys: Keys will not be issued to any group/individual. A custodian will be assigned (minimum 3 hours) to open and secure the building when the building is not usually open.

h. Concessions: The right of concession and sale of food and drink remains with the school and control rests with school officials. Organizations using the school cafeteria and kitchen facilities for the service or sale of food to the general public must receive a temporary food service permit from the Acton Board of Health.

i. Dances: Dances will be limited to the High School lower gym and to the school cafeterias. Proper footwear must be used for all activities in the gym.

All programs, performances and usage of the school buildings must conclude before 11:00 p.m.

LIABILITY FOR INJURY AND RECOVERY OF DAMAGES

- The user agrees to save and hold harmless the Acton Public Schools and/or the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District and agrees to assume responsibility for all liabilities arising from incident to the use, it being understood and agreed that the School District assumes no obligations respecting the use of such premises. *Depending upon the size and scope of a particular event, the renter(s) will be required to provide Certificates of Insurance affording the following coverages:*

- General Liability of at least \$1,000,000 Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability, Combined Single Limit with a \$3,000,000 Annual Aggregate Limit. The Town should be named as an "Additional Insured"
- Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by law.

Umbrella Liability of at least \$2,000,000/ occurrence, \$2,000,000/aggregate. The Town should be named as an Additional Insured.

USE OF CAFETERIA/KITCHEN

Groups using the kitchen areas for anything more than the acquisition of water, must employ a kitchen manager at the rate of \$40/hour. Kitchen equipment will not be available for use by renting groups.

USE OF GYMNASIUMS

Groups/individuals renting the gymnasiums must wear sneakers and conduct athletic activities in a safe and supervised manner. Due to liability issues, gyms will not be rented to individuals for children's birthday parties.

USE OF THE SWIMMING POOL

The High School pool may be rented to a group of 15 to 50 people. One currently certified lifeguard will be required for each group of 15-25 people. Two lifeguards will be required for groups of 26-50 people. The names(s) and certification(s) (CPR, first aid and lifeguard training) of the lifeguard(s) must be submitted with the application. A custodian will be required for any group using the High School pool.

USE OF GRASS FIELDS

Field requests are submitted to Community Ed. in January for spring and summer use and in July for fall use.

USE OF ED LEARY FIELD

All requests for Ed Leary Field usage must be approved by the Community Education Director. All approved evening events must conclude by 10:00 p.m. and the sound system turned off. Stadium lights must be turned off by 10:30 p.m. and the parking lot cleared at that time. There is a \$30/hour charge for the lights. An event may go beyond that time in the event of overtime.

USE OF TENNIS COURTS

Given the heavy use of district courts by our schools and members of the Acton-Boxborough community, a limited number of rental hours are available. These hours occur for 10 weeks in the spring (from April through mid-June) and the fall (September through mid-November). The schedule of available hours will be posted on the A-B Community Ed. website (<http://comed.ab/mec/edu>). Interested parties should submit a request for use of tennis courts to Community Education by January 15.

USE OF AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT

Renting groups should indicate the need for audiovisual equipment on the application form. For events to be held at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, call Brendan Hearn at (978) 264-4700 x3425. For events to be held at Raymond J. Grey Junior High, call Jeanne Goulet at (978) 264-4700 x3395. The district charges fees for use of audio visual equipment. Fees range from \$10-\$50 per event, based upon the type of equipment needed. For more information, contact Brendan Hearn or Jeanne Goulet.

CANCELLATION OF EVENTS

In the event that school is canceled due to inclement weather or other emergencies, outside rentals will also be canceled. Renters will be notified by the Community Education office if this has occurred,

SPECIAL EVENTS

Occasionally, requests for large group activities or activities of an unusual nature may necessitate specific precautionary measures before permission is granted. In order to protect the health and safety of participants as well as protect school property, activities where attendance is expected to exceed 500 are required to hire a police officer. Proof of adequate insurance may also be required. The following procedure will be followed before the use of facility request is approved where extenuating circumstances would cause danger to persons or property:

- a. A representative of the renting group will submit an application to Community Education. A meeting may be necessary to clarify the request.
- b. The reservation is contingent upon:
 1. Written approval from the Acton Board of Selection that the police and fire protection will be adequate.
 2. The Superintendent is satisfied that the insurance coverage is adequate.
 3. The School Committee approves with a majority vote.

The use of school facilities is a privilege. Acton-Boxborough Community Education, Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committees reserve the right to deny or restrict usage of the school facilities.

PAYMENT OF FEES

Class 2 and Class 3 users will pay a deposit at the time of application. All other costs are billed to the user after the event. Checks should be made payable to: "**Acton-Boxborough Community Education**" and sent to:

Acton-Boxborough Community Education
Administration Building
15 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720

File: KHB

Advertising in Schools

School-business relationships based on sound principles and community input can contribute to high quality education. However, the school districts must also protect the welfare of students and the integrity of the learning environment. Therefore, when working together, schools and businesses must ensure that educational values are not distorted in the process.

The School Committees will allow limited advertising consistent with the criteria and procedures set forth in the Advertising in Schools Procedures KHB-R. Final approval for specific advertising will be the responsibility of the Superintendent.

Advertising in Schools

The School Committee has a policy KHB which allows advertising in schools and on school properties on a limited basis. Such advertising must meet the criteria outlined below.

- a. Advertising is permitted in connection with courses of study which have specific lessons related to advertising. It will be up to each school to decide whether the lessons related to advertising are appropriate.
- b. Advertising is permitted in such supplementary classroom and library materials as newspapers, magazines, television, the Internet, and similar media where they are used in a class such as current events, or where they serve as an appropriate research tool.
- c. Paid advertising is permitted in yearbooks, school newspapers, theatrical productions, and event programs as long as such advertising meets the criteria listed below.
- d. Paid advertising is permitted on athletic fields, scoreboards, tennis courts, the swimming pool, auditoriums and gyms as long as such advertising meets the criteria listed below.

Advertising must meet the following criteria:

1. **Consistency with District and School Academic Standards and Goals.** All corporate support or activity shall be consistent with State, District, and school academic standards and goals. Commercial involvement must also be structured to meet identified educational needs, not commercial motives.
2. **Advertising shall not be used as part of the curriculum.** Advertising shall not be included as part of the curriculum, in classrooms or other specific academic settings, unless it is a specific lesson about advertising or in supplemental curricular materials such as magazines, newspapers or the internet.
3. **Consistency with District Policies and Age-Appropriateness.** All corporate support or activity must be consistent with District policies, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, limited English proficient, handicap, or homeless, and must be age-appropriate for the students involved.
4. **Certain Corporate Support or Activity Prohibited.** No corporate support or activity will be permitted in the District or in the schools that:
 - a. Promotes the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms.
 - b. Promotes hostility, violence or disorder

- c. Attacks or demeans any ethnic, racial, or religious group.
- d. Is libelous.
- e. Promotes any specific religion.
- f. Promotes or opposes any particular political view, candidate or ballot question.
- g. Inhibits the functioning of any school.

**PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOLS
(Outside the appropriated budget)**

A. Funds from Friends of the School Systems

Gifts and donations, whether derived from direct contributions or from fundraising activities, are gratefully and generally accepted by the school districts for the benefit of students and of the school systems in their role as providers of educational services.

B. Funds from Friends of Individual Schools

The School Committees hold the position that PTOs and other parents/groups shall not supply funding for certified personnel positions. The same stipulation applies to materials which are considered essential for the health and safety of students.

Funds for other purposes are given to the School Committees which will then purchase or approve those expenditures. The entire amount must be available before the purchase or hire is made. Funds must cover the entire cost as determined by the Superintendent.

C. Other Gifts

An organization may decide to purchase and loan equipment for use by school groups. Such a decision requires prior approval by the Superintendent.

Corporations may give products or services to individual schools or the school districts with prior approval of the Superintendent.

**PROCEDURES FOR PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOLS
(Outside the appropriated budget)**

Any organization wishing to raise funds for individual schools or the school district under policy DDA must follow these procedures:

1. A representative of the fundraising organization must fill out the attached form and present it to the Principal before any targeted fundraising activity can begin.
2. The Principal must approve the request and submit it to the Superintendent for further approval before any such fundraising can begin.
3. Annual fundraising events for targeted purposes or events must be preceded by receipt of approval of the Principal and the Superintendent regarding projected use of the funds.
4. Any school related organization will submit a budget or financial plan to the appropriate principal in order to identify potential gifts which may need Superintendent approval and/or School Committee(s) acceptance.
5. The Superintendent will inform the School Committee(s) of all gifts and acknowledge receipt of these gifts.
6. Funds must cover the entire cost as determined by the Superintendent.
7. Funds are given to the School Committee(s) who will then direct the purchase or hire of the identified items/personnel.
8. The entire amount must be available before the purchase is made.

In addition, there is presently one mechanism (ABSAF) through which donors, gift-givers and fundraisers can contribute funds to be used by the school systems. All such monies will be disbursed for targets approved by the Superintendent.

Tax Deduction Status: All gifts and donations given to the schools, whether contributed individually or through other mechanisms, are eligible for consideration by the IRS for tax deduction.

Fundraising Activities: The School Committees do not place any restrictions on the nature of appropriate fundraising activities.

School Committee Approval: Any direct gifts or donations valued at more than \$500 require acceptance by the School Committee(s). Gifts between \$100 and \$500 must be documented to the Superintendent.

Memo

To: Stephen Mills

From: Steve Desy

RE: Acceptance of a gift, Assistant Basketball Coach

Date: October 12, 2011

The AB Boys Basketball Boosters have offered a gift of \$3,500, to pay for an assistant basketball coach.

I recommend the acceptance of this generous gift of \$3,500, form the Boys Basketball Boosters.

Mr. Steve Desy
Athletic Director
Acton Boxboro High School

October 12, 2011

Dear Mr. Desy,

On behalf of the Acton Boxboro Boys Basketball Team Booster organization, we would like to make a \$3500 donation to the Acton Boxboro High School. We trust that this donation will be used for the benefit of the school athletic department to fund an assistant coach for the 2011/2012 Boys' Varsity Basketball team.

Thank you very much for your support of the Acton Basketball Boys Varsity team and the Boosters organization.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Best Regards,

Joe Flannery
617-283-1539

To: Stephen Mills

cc: Class of 2011 Faculty Advisors:
Abigail Buffum
David Green

From: Alixe Callen

Date: October 20, 2011

Subject: Donation

Please accept a \$2,000 donation from the Class of 2011 to the SHS Library. Funds will be used to enhance library surroundings and offerings.

The check will be deposited into Fund 3412 – SH Library Rev. – Gifts.

MIAA
33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038



TEL: (508) 541-7997
E-mail: miaa@miaa.net
FAX: (508) 541-9888

Application for Waiver of Athletic Eligibility Rule 53

This form must be completed in detail and include all pertinent accompanying documentation in one mailing. This request will be considered only for inclusion of the entire membership of grade(s) requested. The waiver request must be submitted, minimally 60 days prior to the start of each athletic season (i.e., fall, winter, and spring) to the District Athletic Committee Chair of the petitioning school. ***If approved, the waiver approval is ONLY for that season & must be applied for each school year.***

1. Name of Senior High School:

2. Current high school grade structure (e.g. 9-12):

3. High school enrollment (all grades): Boys Girls

4. Name of middle school:

5. Current middle school enrollment:

Grade <input type="text" value="7"/>	Boys <input type="text" value="231"/>	Girls <input type="text" value="237"/>
Grade <input type="text" value="8"/>	Boys <input type="text" value="250"/>	Girls <input type="text" value="238"/>
Grade <input type="text"/>	Boys <input type="text"/>	Girls <input type="text"/>

6. Grade(s), sport(s) and level(s) for which the waiver is requested:

7. Level & number of high school participants in the sport offered the last two years (The most recent year should be recorded second:

A. Varsity <input type="text" value="3"/> / <input type="text" value="14"/>	Junior Varsity <input type="text" value="0"/> / <input type="text" value="0"/>	Freshman <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>
B. Varsity <input type="text" value="4"/> / <input type="text" value="15"/>	Junior Varsity <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Freshman <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>

8. Enclose most recent year roster at all levels and by grade in the sport(s) for which you are requesting a waiver:

9. List by grade the number of students you anticipate will have an interest in participation:

10. Have you requested, or been approved, for a cooperative team? Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, please identify fully those approved sports:

11. Does your school district offer Middle Level participation? If yes please list sports:

PART B

Criteria that must be addressed and submitted with this form:

1. Evidence must be submitted that the rule does not accomplish the purpose for which it was intended. Consideration will not be given if: The request is motivated to provide opportunity for a specific student(s); or, the anticipated high school numbers will support a team.
2. The requested level of athletic participation must be specific and accompany the waiver request. Consideration will be given for only sub-varsity teams, unless the school offers only a varsity level team. No high school student may be "cut" in favor of a middle school student.
3. It must be stated that there is no middle level participation opportunity for that sport. No approval will be granted if a middle level opportunity exists in that sport.
4. Minutes of the League Meeting, including a recorded formal vote of support from all league schools, must be attached to this request.
 - a. A "simple majority" vote is necessary for the request to be advanced to the District Athletic Committee (DAC).
 - b. The "league" is the group of schools against whom the petitioning school will compete in that sport.
5. A "simple majority" of a quorum of the DAC is required for approval.
6. The High School Principal is responsible and accountable for adherence to all MIAA and local standards, and must develop protocols with the Middle School Principal to ensure the integrity of all rules. Further "Supervision" and "Jurisdiction" as defined by MIAA Rule 51 must not be overlooked.

The waiver request must be accompanied by supportive signatures of the following:

Receiving Secondary School Principal _____

Sending Middle Level Principal _____

Superintendent of Schools _____

School Committee Chair _____

Athletic Director _____

Varsity Coach(es) of the Sport Program (s) _____

To: Steve Mills

From: Steve Desy

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District is requesting a waiver of MIAA Rule 53, Grade 7 and 8 students participating on Senior High School Squads.

We are requesting that Junior High School students be allowed to participate in wrestling at the high school.

- Historically, (last ten plus years) the High School wrestling program has drawn between 16-20 participants annually.
- Last year the program had 23 participants, 8 who participated at the JV level only. (1st year with a rule 53 waiver)
- Numerous weight classes have no participants.
- The program has produced successful individual wrestlers, but as a team averages 3-4 victories per year.
- The limited number of participants has made wrestling a program being considered for elimination due to lack of interest and budget concerns.
- Allowing junior high school students to participate in wrestling will allow the program to develop a junior varsity program (almost non-existent currently due to limited numbers). The hope is that within 3-5 years the program will have between 30-40 students involved on the varsity and junior varsity program.
- Junior High School students will not displace High School participants.

Hopefully you can support this waiver of rule 53. The goal of this waiver is stabilize a struggling program and insure that many students continue to have the opportunity to participate.

To: School Committee
From Franny Osman, Transportation Advisory Committee
Re: MinuteVan update

October 28, 2011

I visited you this summer on behalf of Acton's Transportation Advisory Committee, to ask the schools for a financial contribution to the MinuteVan Dial-a-Ride service. I also wrote a letter at the end of August. This letter is a further update on MinuteVan and the schools. I summarize the statistics about student after-school transportation and answer a few questions I heard at the August 2 meeting. The full October ridership information will be out in early November.

How much do students use MinuteVan?

In the first half of October, there were 162 rides, of which 62 were students (38%). This is up from September, when there were 316 rides, of which 48 were students (15%).

Since the beginning of the service, 15% of the *rides* are students while 29% of the *riders* are students. This is because adult riders more often repeat use, so far. Ridership trends continue to change. Publicity was lacking during Year 1, but word is getting out much more now, in Year 2.

As of mid-October, 118 students age 12 to 17 were registered. (Those 18 and over do not require registration.) Fifty-eight of these registered students had used the service.

Twelve student rides were turned away in the first half of October due to overbooking.

See table of student use at the bottom of this memo.

How do students use MinuteVan?

The most common destinations for students are homes, following after-school help, sports, and activities. The van also takes students to extra-curricular activities in other parts of town, such as jobs, music, athletics, and tutoring. These are usually repeating rides for classes, taken by one child each time. Parents have reported that their students with developmental disabilities are enjoying increased independence through MinuteVan. Taking a public van allows those students to develop mobility skills. Parents who are working or unable to drive their kids around for other reasons say this service allows their kids to participate in school life more fully and easily. They have called MinuteVan a "godsend."

I have met with the school bus department to hear about their experience of after-school transportation and to discuss ways MinuteVan might fill some unmet needs. This

conversation is ongoing. I have a meeting on Nov. 3 with Pupil Services to discuss MinuteVan, as well. I am overdue to talk to Danny's Place, where the staff has shared enthusiasm for the service's potential to help students come and go. Acton TV reported that student volunteers use the van to get to the station. Social services coordinator Laura Ducharme reports a great need for the service by the families she works with.

The busiest days in September and October have been Wednesdays and Thursdays, in general and for students. Wednesdays at 3:45 pm and Thursdays at 3:15 and 4:30 pm are the common trips for students when the van is picking up multiple children.

Do we have survey evidence of student need for transportation?

Yes. A 2008 survey of the entire RJ Grey Junior High and ABRHS student population showed that 8% of the students *frequently* have no way to get to activities, and 56% *sometimes* have trouble getting to where they want to go. Asked whether transportation is more of a problem on weekends or weekdays, 45% reported *weekdays* and 13% reported having trouble *both on weekdays and weekends*. Asked if they would use a local bus or van if available, 33% said they would *probably* use it, 34% said *maybe*, and 28% said *unlikely*. Asked whether they prefer Dial-a-Ride or fixed route, 27% preferred *Dial-a-Ride*, and 64% preferred *fixed route*. The student survey results are based on 1495 responses entered randomly of the 3000 or so available. The questionnaires and the data are available to the schools to use at any time; it is a goldmine of sociological data, as it reports what activities kids do after school and the locations of home and activities. It can also be amusing to read, as we asked the students to describe their ideal bus; many of the vehicles sported fantastical amenities.

A 2008 online survey about transportation was completed by 956 "users" of Acton: people who live, work, study, or play here. Of the respondents, admittedly a self-selected group of people who cared enough about transportation issues to fill out a detailed survey about all their weekly trips, 792 were Acton residents and 80 were Boxborough residents. Eighty-four respondents (9%) were students in Acton and 32 (3.3%) were students elsewhere. Of the 956 respondents, 189 (19.8%) reported having difficulty getting where they need to go. Seventeen percent of all respondents (17%) lived in a multi-unit building as opposed to a single family home. This number is important because it indicates opportunity for grouped trips to and from areas of higher density housing. Asked if they would consider using a shuttle service, 78% said *yes* or *maybe*. Asked what type of service they would prefer, 93% said *fixed route*, or a combination, and 7% said *Dial-a-Ride*.

The best evidence for the need is the growing use of the service as more families learn about it. The best way to understand the need is to use the service and talk to fellow passengers.

How has MinuteVan been funded?

In short, we started with a three-year federal funding program, matched by Town funds that were voted in at Town Meeting, but the Dial-a-Ride funding ended after a year. We found out in March that the Dial-a-Ride might not have the federal funding for Year 2, which began in September, 2011. In June this was confirmed. The Town Manager convened a team in May that included the Health Director and the Finance Director, to study MinuteVan's operation and funding. This team has recently determined that there are enough funds to cover the Dial-a-Ride through January, 2011. We would like to keep the Dial-a-Ride funded until Town Meeting when we can revisit MinuteVan together.

The longer funding story is: We started the service with a three-year startup funding program called Suburban Mobility—supported by matching funds, which Town Meeting unanimously supported for three years in a row-- which disbursed "Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality" federal and state funds. As soon as we submitted our first year application, in 2009, the program expanded to include more types of projects and more towns, including urban cities and the MBTA. The new program is called "Clean Air and Mobility." (see www.bostonmpo.org) As a result of the changes, Acton's little program was competing for limited funds against the likes of MBTA locomotive repairs and Boston Bike Share—all worthy causes but bigger fish.

Because of re-organization at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the contract did not get signed and MinuteVan did not launch Year 1 until September, 2010. The funders took a year off our three-year startup schedule and didn't look at whether they would fund Acton's "Year 2" until March, 2011. The decision was made based on the first six months of service, when MinuteVan had hardly gotten off the ground and publicity was insufficient (lesson learned). The Clean Air and Mobility Committee recommended funding the Rail Shuttle portion of MinuteVan for Year 2 but not the Dial-a-Ride. Going into Town Meeting, 2011, we knew of that recommendation and hoped that the final decision would be otherwise, but alas, by June the big committee (the board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization) voted in the docket of projects and the Dial-a-Ride was still out and the Rail Shuttle in.

The summer was a time to look for alternative funding sources; I have given presentations at the Rotary Club and the Lions Club, asked for funding help from other private sources, and spoken to businesses about public-private partnerships. TAC continues to look for ways to bridge the gap between the end of the Town's funds and Town Meeting. As of this writing, the Town has found a way to stretch its dollars until Feb. 1—an improvement since I spoke to the School Committee in August.

Dial-a-Ride Student Usage data through Mid-October is below:

MinuteVan Dial-a-Ride Student Usage

Month	Number of different Students	# of trips	Total Trips for Dial-a-Ride	
December	2	8	120	
January	10	28	130	
February	9	25	143	
March	10	53	199	
April	7	37	203	
May	10	57	199	
June	21	85	268	
July	18	111	335	
Aug	9	70	393	
Sep	24	46	316	
Through 10/18	22	62	162	Partial month
		582	2468	Total trips

58 of our 118 registered students have used the service.

Total users including students has been 198 different riders

29% of our riders are students

Thank you very much. Please feel free to ask questions of me, Franny Osman (978-621-7330, frannyola@aol.com) or of the whole Transportation Advisory Committee (tac@acton-ma.gov). The Transportation Coordinator, who works for the company the town hires to run the service, Transaction Associates, can be reached at coordinator@minutevan.net.

MinuteVan info is at www.minutevan.net and 978-844-6809.

9.9

From: [REDACTED] Amy Hedison <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Oct 23, 2011 10:44:06 AM



Subject: Saturday night activities at the high school

To: [REDACTED] <bos@acton-ma.gov> [REDACTED] <abrsc@acton-ma.gov>

Attachments: [REDACTED] Attach0.html

6K

I thought you all would be interested in seeing what a great job our high school administration has done in pulling together safe, substance-free and FUN activities for our high school students, basically entirely on its own initiative. None of the members of the school administration, who are giving so much of their free time on a Saturday night, is being compensated in any way for this - -they are just doing the right thing. We are extraordinarily lucky in Acton to have teachers and high school administrators who care so much about the safety and well-being of our children.

In my opinion, it also underscores the need we have for a community center - - a place where Acton residents of all ages can come for safe, healthy activities.

Thank you,

Amy Hedison

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

"Good afternoon -

I wanted to fill you in on the latest regarding our Saturday night activities program.

We got off to a great start last week. We had over 170 kids here - and by all appearances, they had a blast - playing basketball, watching a movie, playing Twister, drinking hot chocolate, dancing. It was a really fun night! Many, many thanks to all of the parents who chaperoned.

And we've got more going on this week...

- 6-10 Open Gym (Lower Gym)
- 6-10 Intramural Basketball Games (Upper Gym) - spectators are welcome!
- 6:30 Coffeehouse (cafeteria)
- 7:00 Movie - Ferris Buehler's Day Off (Student Center South)

Please remind students that they must enter through the front or upper gym entrances. No backpacks or water bottles allowed. We hope to see lots of them here!

Have a great weekend!

Alixé

PS - The field hockey team is also 'playing for the cure' on Saturday night. In addition to a great game, there will be lots of opportunities to support breast cancer awareness and contribute to this important cause. Students who want to attend the game are welcome at the high school afterwards, but please note that once students

enter the high school, they will not be allowed to leave and return."

AND FROM THE ACTON PATCH:

" . . .Meanwhile, **fall Saturday night activities** at ABRHS started last weekend, with students participating in events that included intramural basketball at the upper and lower gyms, a movie at Student Center West and games, music and hot chocolate in the common area.

Initiated in response to a forum on teen drinking at ABRHS in which teen panelists said providing more school- and community-based activities could help alleviate the temptation to experiment with alcohol, the activities will run through Saturday, Nov. 19, and will include basketball and movies every week as well as special programs and some already-existing school events like the fall play and Cabaret Night, said ABRHS principal Alixe Callen.

"It's a pilot program for what we hope could really be like a teen center right here," said Callen.

On its inaugural night on Saturday, more than 170 students attended the activities, said PTSO co-chair Chris Renzi, who called the evening "a great success."

Callen, who attended the event with several other ABRHS staff, agreed, saying, "I think (the students) had a really nice time. It was great to have various activities so students could choose what interested them."

In addition to ABRHS staff, twelve parents chaperoned the events and organizers are looking for several more for the remaining five weeks. Any parents interested in volunteering should contact Renzi through the PTSO website."