

**Acton Public, Acton-Boxborough Regional,
Acton-Boxborough Transitional
School Committees**

March 20, 2014

**7:30 p.m. APSC/ABRSC Executive Session
8:00 p.m. APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC Business Meeting**

in the R.J. Grey Junior High Library

**JOINT ACTON PUBLIC (APSC) and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL (ABRSC)
and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABTSC)
MEETINGS**

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

March 20, 2014
7:30 p.m. Joint ABRSC/APSC Executive Session
8:00 p.m. Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Meeting

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order: APSC and ABRSC (7:30)**

JOINT APSC/ABRSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

“strategy with respect to collective bargaining”

JOINT APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC OPEN MEETING

2. **ABTSC Call to Order (8:00)**
3. **Chairmen’s Introduction**
4. **Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes**
1. Meeting Minutes: 3/6/14, 2/1/14, 1/15/14 and 1/7/14 (*addendum*)
5. **Public Participation**
6. **Policy Subcommittee Update**
1. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #4 - **SECOND READING – APS/ABRSC/ABTSC VOTE** - *Maria Neyland (incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD, see separately posted document)*
i. Section G: Personnel (*selected policies*)
ii. Section I: Instructional Program (*selected policies*)

ABRSC adjourns. APSC is suspended.

ABTSC MEETING

7. **Recommendation to Approve ABRHS French Students’ Field Trip to France – ABTSC VOTE – Steve Mills**
8. **ABRSD FY15 Budget Update – Steve Mills**
1. Recommendation to **REVOTE Table 6** – *Steve Mills (addendum)*
9. **ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization Update – Steve Mills (oral)**
1. Update on Intermunicipal Agreements
10. **FY15 Kindergarten Update – Marie Altieri (oral)**
11. **School Committee Member Reports (oral)**
1. Acton Leadership Group (ALG) – *Dennis Bruce*
i. Draft minutes, 3/6/14

2. Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) – *Maria Neyland*
3. Health Insurance Trust (HIT) – Possible **VOTE** on new rep – *Kim McOsker*
4. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Task Force– *Dennis Bruce*
5. Acton Finance Committee - *Dennis Bruce*
6. Acton Board of Selectmen - *Paul Murphy*
(possible vote on ABRSD FY15 budget at meeting on 3/24/14)
7. Boxborough Finance Committee- *Maria Neyland*
8. Boxborough Board of Selectmen – *Maria Neyland*

12. **Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting Reminder** -*Dennis Bruce & Maria Neyland (Addition of School Committee members per PreK-12 Regional Agreement)*

13. **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

1. Monthly Enrollment 3/1/14
2. Letter to elected officials re concerns, 3/14/14
3. Acton-Boxborough Regional School District #2 Public District in MA,
Boston Business Journal

ABTSC adjourns. APSC reconvenes.

APSC MEETING

14. **FY14 APS 2nd Quarter Report** – *Don Aicardi*

15. **ADJOURN**

NEXT MEETINGS:

- March 20, 7:00 p.m. APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- ~~March 27~~, April 3, 7:30 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- April 7, 7:00 p.m. Acton Town Meeting begins, ABRHS auditorium
- May 1, 7:30 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- May 12, 7:00 p.m. Boxborough Town Meeting begins, Blanchard School gym

Acton Local Election is Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

7.

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

- Name of Teacher(s): **Patricia Braunegg**
- School: **ABRHS**
- # of Students going: **TBD** # of Chaperones (gender): **1; more will be recruited as needed**

Name of Chaperone: **Patricia Braunegg**

- Date(s) of Exchange: **exact dates TBD; students from the Collège Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Montigny-le-Bretonneux, France would be coming to the U.S. in October 2014; participating ABRHS French students would spend 12 days with their host families in France sometime during the period of Saturday, April 11, 2015-Sunday, April 26, 2015; although our travel dates have not yet been confirmed, we are hoping to leave for France the evening of Tuesday, April 14, 2015, and to return on the evening of Saturday, April 25, 2015; School Time Involved: we want to minimize the amount of school time during which our students will be absent; however, since our April 2015 school vacation overlaps with that of our French hosts, our students may need to miss about 3 ABRHS school days, as we feel it is important for our students to be able to experience at least a few days in the life of a French high school**

- Purpose of Trip/Destination: **To further ABRHS French students' knowledge of the language, history, and culture of France; to provide an opportunity for cross-cultural friendships among our students and their French peers**

- Have you taken this trip before? **Not this particular trip. The teacher/chaperone has run student trips to Canada – most recently in April 2013 - and has traveled extensively in Europe.**

- Any special arrangements required (such as extra insurance, ADA accommodations)?
Not at this time.

- Cost per Student: (Please describe how the cost is determined.) **Please see attached. The majority of the cost is determined by the company providing the trip. Additional costs involve bus transportation for our students to and from ABRHS and Logan Airport, as well as the cost of several excursions for our French visitors (who will, likewise, be planning**

excursions for us while we are in France); these costs are determined by the bus company involved, and by the admission/program fees at the sights to be visited.

- Who will pay for the trip? **Students and their families.**
- Has any fundraising been done? **No.**
- Are any parents driving? **No.**
- Have you followed the procedure outlined in Policy IJOA? **Yes.**

• Other comments:

Since the French high school with which we used to have an exchange is no longer able to do so, the ABRHS French teachers have spent a significant amount of time researching other exchange possibilities in France. We feel that an exchange would allow our students to gain a deeper, more personal knowledge of France by combining visiting sites of interest with immersing themselves the day-to-day life of a French family. Prométour, which has been helping us organize this exchange, has impressed us with their responsiveness during this initial planning period, and has offered us a reasonably-priced exchange program with a school located close to Paris.

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Claire K. Rix
Department Leader

2-25-14
Date

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved

John Campbell
Principal

Date

☒ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Steph Math
Superintendent

3/11/14
Date

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved

School Committee

Date

Revised 11/15/06

Cost per student

(assuming 16 students and 2 chaperones, based on current exchange rates, taxes, and surcharges):

payable to Prométour: \$2195.00

includes:

- TRAVELGUARD OPTION A: Basic Program covering group dates of travel; includes Emergency Medical and Cancellation
- Roundtrip airfare (Boston-Paris, Paris-Boston)
- associated transportation costs while in Europe
- service of a professional, bilingual Prométour Tour Director with the group on tour
- departure taxes and airline fuel surcharges at \$630.00 per person
- French host family stay (9 nights)
- most meals with the host families
- classes and activities during the exchange program (to be confirmed between the partner schools prior to departure)
- 1 night multiple occupancy (3/4 per room with private bath) in quality 3-star hotel
- 1 hotel breakfast/0 lunches/1 dinner (includes 1 beverage and a vegetarian option)
- all cultural visits, activities, tours and admissions as per itinerary:
Château de Versailles, Notre-Dame de Paris, Sainte-Chapelle, Quartier Latin,
Bateau Mouche excursion, Tour Eiffel

payable, via separate check, to ABRHS or similar: \$250.00

includes:

- tips for Prometour Tour Director while in France: \$10.00
- r-t transport by bus for ABRHS students, ABRHS-Logan Airport, on arrival and return days: estimated cost: \$40.00
- 3 or 4 excursions (admission, transportation, and tips) for French exchange students during their stay in the U.S. (in addition to activities that their Prometour U.S. Tour Guide has planned for them): estimated cost: \$200.00

total: \$2445.00



USA: 1-800-304-9446 CAN: 1-800-657-7754 INFO@PROMETOUR.COM

FRENCH EXCHANGE & PARIS

12 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS

Travel dates: April 14-25, 2015

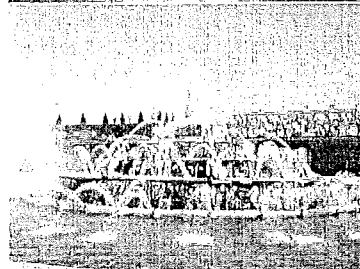
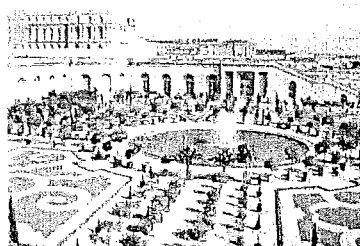
(Travel dates to be confirmed upon flight booking)



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DAY 1: DEPART

Tuesday, April 14

- Fly through the night to Paris, capital of France.

DAY 2: PARIS / MONTIGNY-LE-BRETONNEUX

Wednesday, April 15

- Welcome to Paris! Upon arrival a Prometour Representative will meet you at the airport and help you board your motor coach to **Montigny-le-Bretonneux**, home of your partner school, located 29 miles south-west of Paris.
- Upon arrival at **Collège Lycée Saint-Exupéry**, meet your exchange partner and start your exchange program.
- While living with a host-family, you will find out that French is more than a textbook language. You will eat French food, meet French people and have an excellent opportunity to practice your French in real-life situations.

DAY 3 & 4: EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Thursday & Friday, April 16 & 17

- Today, attend school with your pen pals. Activities and workshops may be organized at the school during your visit (to be confirmed with the French school).
- Enjoy the afternoon with your exchange partner and their families.

DAY 4-5: WEEKEND WITH HOST FAMILIES

Saturday & Sunday, April 18 & 19

- Enjoy the weekend with your pen pals and their families.

DAY 6: VERSAILLES/ MONTIGNY-LE-BRETONNEUX

Monday, April 20

- Today, head to **Saint-Quentin-en-yvelines RER station** and catch the RER train to **Versailles**.
- Visit the **Château de Versailles**. See the opulent Grand Apartments and view the Opera and Royal Bedroom.
- After, discover the elegantly landscaped Park on your **rented bikes**.
- Later in the afternoon, take the RER back to Montigny-le-Bretonneux and meet with your host family.

DAY 7-10: EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Tuesday to Thursday, April 21-23

- Enjoy the week with your pen pals and their families.
- Activities and workshops may be organized during your visit (to be confirmed with the French school).

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PROMÉTOUR

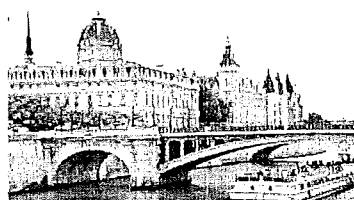
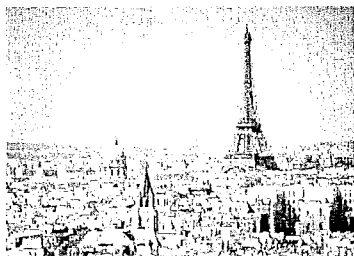
a class of its own



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CAN: 1-800-657-7754

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DAY 11: PARIS

Friday, April 24

- Today, say au revoir to your host family and board your private motor coach to Paris.
- Your French bilingual **Prométour Director** will meet upon arrival in the capital city.
- While in Paris, you will travel as Parisians do, by metro and by foot.
- Visit the gothic **Cathédrale Notre-Dame**, a magnificent religious edifice and one of the supreme masterpieces of French art.
- At a short distance away, enter the **Sainte Chapelle**, a masterpiece of the High Gothic.
- Head to the always-lively **Quartier Latin**, and have some free time for lunch in the area.
- This afternoon, enjoy a relaxing cruise on the River Seine, board a glass-topped **Bateau Mouche**.
- Later, take the elevator to the third floor of the **Tour Eiffel** on Le-Champs-de-Mars Square and see how many of Paris' famous landmarks you can spot.
- Enjoy a farewell dinner with your group in a **French Bistro**.

DAY 12: DEPART

Saturday, April 25

- After breakfast at your hotel, board your motor coach to the airport and catch your flight/s back home.

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PRICE PER PERSON SHEET

This is a privately operated tour - you will not be combined with another group!

PRICE PER PERSON

20 + participants	\$ 2,150
15 to 19 participants	\$ 2,195
12 to 14 participants	\$ 2,250

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

\$500 – May 5, 2014
 \$600 – September 5, 2014
 \$600 – November 5, 2014
 Balance – January 15, 2015
Online options available

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **TRAVELGUARD: OPTION A: Basic Group Program** covering group dates of travel. Includes Emergency Medical and Cancellation
- Roundtrip airfare* (Boston/ Paris/Boston)
- Associated transportation costs while in Europe
- 1 night multiple occupancy (3/4 per room with private bath) in quality 3* hotel – *twin occupancy for teachers*
- 1 hotel Breakfast / 0 Lunches / 1 Dinner (includes one beverage and a vegetarian option)
- All cultural and aforementioned visits, activities, tours and admissions as per itinerary
- Service of a dynamic professional bilingual Prométour Tour Director with the group on tour
- Departure taxes and Airline fuel surcharges at \$630 per person
- **One (1) free trip for every eight (8) full paying participants**

Exchange program organized by
 Collège Lycée Saint-Exupéry:

- French host family stay
- Meals with the host families (exceptions might apply)
- Classes and activities during the exchange program (confirmed between the partner schools prior to departure)

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- **TRAVELGUARD** Optional Individual Insurance Program Upgrade

OPTION B: Individual Deluxe Program

Basic Package + additional benefit and higher coverage

OPTION C: Individual Ultimate program **

Deluxe Package + No-Reason Cancellation & Job Loss Protection

**Ultimate Program is not eligible in NY, PA, IN & WA

Applicable airline baggage charges according to their policies

Recommended tips: Prométour Tour Director

3 Euro per day, per person & Bus Driver (s) 1 Euro per day, per person

Airline fuel surcharge increases: Departure taxes and

Airline fuel surcharges in excess of \$630 per person.

Prométour may be required to revise the final price of your tour 60 days prior to your departure

Exchange rate: Prométour has quoted this package at an exchange of **1 € = 1.35 USD**. In the event of a significant change, Prométour may be required to revise the final price of your tour 60 days prior to your departure.

.....
 Date of quote: January 28, 2014

These prices are valid until: **First payment deadline**
 Your Prométour Tour Project Manager: Sharmila Hall

USA: 1-800-304-9446 CAN: 1-800-657-7754 INFO@PROMETOUR.COM

ALG minutes March 6, 2014

Present: Janet Adachi & Mike Gowing, BoS: Pat Clifford & Steve Noone, FC; Kim McOsker, SC; Steve Ledoux, Steve Mills, Steve Barrett & Don Aicardi, staff. Absent: Bart Wendell, facilitator & Dennis Bruce, SC.

Audience: Paul Murphy, SC; Allen Nitschlem & Charlie Kadlec.

Extra info: Revised ALG Spreadsheet

Minutes were accepted.

2. Spreadsheet

The purpose of the meeting was to check on the spreadsheet prior to its being printed in the Town Meeting warrant and to get a reading for the FYs 16&17.

Steve B went over his changes since the 02/27/14 meeting: OPEB was put in one line on summary sheet; property tax levy shows relief at ½%; state aid for the town is increasing by 2.5% while for the region only by 1%; \$1m of NESWC money was moved into reserves. Steve noted that the town wanted to close out this account in \$ 550k increments but the BoS has yet to vote on this; the final assessments were 3% increases for the town and 3.8% and 3.5% for the schools. He noted that it was not unusual to carry deficits at this point in the budget planning.

SB also put in a section on the changes in the value of SF homes. He also had an equation: % change in SF tax bill= % change in tax rate + % change in SF value.

Steve N: said that FY 14 needed to have the APS expenses; he suggested removing the OPEB single purpose line on the summary page because the numbers were in the budgets. There was also a separate warrant article for OPEB. He asked about the reserve turn back

SB: \$200k from the town; \$350k from the region

SN: the FC has talked about tax relief, not a yo-yo from year to year.

SB: ALG gave tax relief of 1% or \$692k. When you have tax relief for one year Prop.2.5 moves untaxed levy into the base for the next year.

SN: but what we are giving away in one year we are taking back in the next.

SB: in order to override the mechanisms of 2.5 we need to have an "under-ride"

Brian Mc Mullen: there has to be a fundamental consensus that the 2.5% will be substituted by 2%. You have to set a permanent decrease of \$692k in the out years.

Pat: we do not have the numbers for the out years ...when can we get them. They were promised by Monday (March 10)

Pat also suggested that the line for federal dollars be removed since there were none lefty and asked that the typo on the front page be fixed.

SN: we need to write the message for the warrant. We can say that we have been here before but this time we cannot tax our way out of the problem and there are "no puddles of money" sitting around.

Janet went around the table asking how the individual members felt.

S. Mills: it is not a good habit to use reserves. I believe when I got here there was only 2x the reserves. I don't know what the future holds. Three years ago we tried to work within the confines of 2.5%. Acton is well-managed and may face the "O" word for another 10-12 years. I have been grateful to Acton with a AAA bond rating and the budget increases. I hope the town will continue to give the schools what they need.

Mike: over the past three years we have voted to use \$2m in reserves (per year). In response we have had an overall increase in reserves. As we go forward to reduce the tax [levy] the replenishment will not happen. We have made the decision to give back [to taxpayers] will have to halt before we go below the 5%---that will mean we will have to go back to the 2.5% level. An override is not a "slam dunk" we need to remain flexible.

SN: \$300k in tax relief will not solve the deficit problem.

Janet: It's tough; there is no crystal ball for the future. Mass Taxpayer people say that the future for state aid is bleak; we will have a constrained recovery. We will be hard pressed to provide the services that our residents demand. I'm not sure how we will make sure which services don't matter.

SN: a lot of multi-year plans are ugly in the out years. It is forums like this where things get worked out. We will devise plans of cuts/overrides/tax changes to keep us from disaster.

Pat: it's good to hear you say that things are where you want them to be. As we go into FY17 & 18 it is better to be looking at a reserve above 5% than below. Once we go below, the decisions on the cuts will be more drastic. The message to the taxpayers is that this is the new normal. We no longer have any federal funds to bail us out.

There was some discussion on the form the report would take for the warrant..

Mike wanted a note made that the next ASLG had to deal with the OPEB split.

Public

Allen wanted to have the reserve amounts tracked as they were in the past. He also said that SB's formula for % of changes in the SF tax bill...." was not correct.

It was decided to leave that out.

***Agreements made on the changes for the spreadsheet: 1. Delete ED Jobs (since it was \$0)2.delete footnote on change in SF tax bill 3. Consolidate school expenses into one line for FY14. 4. On reserve

page change ABRS turn back from \$300k to \$100k. 5. Change FY14 NESWC \$1m to \$500k in FY 14 and \$100k in FY 15-19. 6. Put OPEB in its own box.

SB will have all of these changes ready by Monday. Warrant goes to the publisher on March 14th

Adjourned @ 6:30 [no next meeting scheduled]

Ann Chang

3/1/2014

MONTHLY ENROLLMENT
ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOLS
2013-2014 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	A	B(1)	C	Tot
K	281	39	7	288	281	39	7	288	281	40	7	288	281	39	7	288	280	40	7	287	278	40	7	285	277	40	7	284				0				0				0
1	302	51	6	308	302	51	6	308	301	52	6	307	298	51	6	304	300	51	6	306	302	52	6	308	302	52	6	308				0				0				0
2	316	60	6	322	316	60	6	322	317	60	6	323	316	60	6	322	315	61	6	321	314	61	6	320	314	61	6	320				0				0				0
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4	373	57	7	380	375	57	7	382	375	57	7	382	374	58	7	381	373	59	7	380	372	58	7	379	372	58	7	379				0				0				0
5	355	71	2	357	355	71	2	357	355	72	2	357	356	72	2	358	358	73	2	360	360	74	2	362	361	74	2	363				0				0				0
6	358	71	2	360	358	69	2	360	359	69	2	361	358	69	2	360	357	70	2	359	356	70	2	358	357	70	2	359				0				0				0
1 D.Pre-sch. Cir	55	22	0	55	41	22	0	41	41	22	0	41	45	22	0	45	46	23	0	46	53	23	0	53	55	26	0	55				0				0				0
In D.Pre-sch. ltr	0	2	0	0	8	2	0	8	8	2	0	8	9	2	0	9	9	2	0	9	9	2	0	9	9	2	0	9				0				0				0
OOD Pre-sch	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	1				0				0				0
O.D. SPED K-6	22	7	0	22	24	7	0	24	25	7	0	25	25	7	0	25	26	7	0	26	26	7	0	26	25	7	0	25				0				0				0
A.P.S. Total	2430	441	38	2468	2425	439	39	2464	2427	443	39	2466	2427	441	39	2466	2430	447	39	2469	2436	448	39	2475	2438	451	39	2477		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
7	391	71	7	469	389	72	7	468	390	72	7	469	390	72	7	469	391	72	7	470	389	71	7	467	389	71	7	467				0				0				0
8	374	77	9	460	376	78	9	463	376	78	9	463	376	79	9	464	373	77	9	459	373	76	9	458	374	76	9	459				0				0				0
J.H.S. Total	765	148	16	929	765	150	16	931	766	150	16	932	766	151	16	933	764	149	16	929	762	147	16	925	763	147	16	926		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
9	398	71	9	478	394	72	9	475	396	72	8	476	396	72	8	476	394	72	7	473	394	72	7	473	394	71	8	473				0				0				0
10	403	72	9	484	404	73	9	486	404	73	9	486	404	73	9	486	403	73	9	485	401	73	9	483	402	73	9	484				0				0				0
11	396	78	8	482	393	81	8	482	393	80	8	481	395	80	8	483	394	81	8	483	396	82	8	486	398	80	8	486				0				0				0
12	411	108	5	524	405	106	6	517	405	107	6	518	403	107	6	516	403	107	6	516	404	106	6	516	404	106	6	516				0				0				0
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
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
H.S. Total	1608	329	31	1968	1596	332	32	1960	1598	332	31	1961	1598	332	31	1961	1594	333	30	1957	1595	333	30	1958	1598	330	31	1959		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
Total JHS & HS	2373	477	47	2897	2361	482	48	2891	2364	482	47	2893	2364	483	47	2894	2358	482	46	2886	2357	480	46	2883	2361	477	47	2885		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
O.D. SPED 7-12	43	8	0	51	43	8	1	52	48	8	0	56	48	8	0	56	51	8	0	59	53	8	0	61	52	9	0	61				0				0				0
Reg. Total	2416	485	47	2948	2404	490	49	2943	2412	490	47	2949	2412	491	47	2950	2409	490	46	2945	2410	488	46	2944	2413	486	47	2946		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
A.P.S. Total	2430	441	38	2468	2425	439	39	2464	2427	443	39	2466	2427	441	39	2466	2430	447	39	2469	2436	448	39	2475	2438	451	39	2477		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
Reg. Total	2416	485	47	2948	2404	490	49	2943	2412	490	47	2949	2412	491	47	2950	2409	490	46	2945	2410	488	46	2944	2413	486	47	2946		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
Grand Total	4846	485	85	5416	4829	490	88	5407	4839	490	86	5415	4839	491	86	5416	4839	490	85	5414	4846	488	85	5419	4851	486	86	5423		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
 D. Bookis
 L. Huber

D. Aicardi
 A. Bisewicz
 K. Nelson
 E. Weiner
 R. Cvitkovich

C. Bates

All Principals (2)

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

Actual
Acton Public Schools
2013-2014

3/4/2014
11:28 AM

March 1, 2014

Grade YO	Conant				Total	Douglas				Total	Gates				Total	McCarthy-Towne				Total	Merriam				Total	#Sec.	Avg. Siz	
	Rm	CAD	CAM	CPM	2#	DAD1	DAD2	DAM			GAD	GAM	I#		TAD1	TAD2	TAM	[1]3#		MAD	MAM	MPM	I#	7#				
														Case	21	20	21	62										
K-26	20	20	19	59		20	21	20	61		21	21	42		20	20	21	61		20	20	21	61	284	14	20.3		
	Rm	3	4	5	1#	3	4	5	2#		3	5			310	311	312	[1]2#		133	231	334	1#	6#				
														Case	23	22	22	67										
Gr. 1-2	22	22	22	66		22	22	22	66		22	22	44		22	22	22	66		22	22	22	66	308	14	22.0		
	Rm	6	7	8		6	7	8		6	8	10	3#		301	302	303	{1}1#		224	234	323	2#	6#				
														Case	22	23	22	67										
Gr. 2-2	21	21	21	63		22	20	22	64		21	21	22	64		22	22	22	66		21	21	21	63	320	15	21.3	
	Rm	9	10	20		9	10	11		17	7	9	3#		313	314	315	[4]2#	230	324	330	331	4#	9#				
														Case	23	25	26	74										
Gr. 3-2	23	24	23	70		23	24	24	71		23	24	24	71		23	24	23	70		23	23	23	23	92	374	16	23.4
	Rm	17	18	19	1#	12	13	14	2#	18	19	20	1#		213	214	215	[3]3#	233	321	322	332		7#				
														Case	26	23	24	73										
Gr. 4-2	23	24	24	71		25	24	23	72		24	24	24	72		23	23	24	70		23	23	24	24	94	379	16	23.7
	Rm	14	15	16		19	20	21		13	15	16	1#		210	211	212	[3]		135	232	333	1#	2#				
														Case	24	27	24	75										
Gr. 5-2	24	25	24	73		23	25	25	73		24	24	25	73		24	24	24	72		24	24	24	72	363	15	24.2	
	Rm	11	12	13		15	16	17		11	12	14			113	114	115	1#		223	235	335	1#	2#				
Gr. 6-2	24	24	24	72		24	24	24	72		24	24	24	72		24	24	24	72		23	24	24	71	359	15	23.9	
Total Staff				4#				4#				9#						12#					10#	39#				
														Case+	[13]	Average	23.5	494										
Total	21 Sec	Average	22.6	474	21 Sec	Average	22.8	479	19 Sec	Average	23.1	438		21 Sec	Average	22.7	477		23 Sec	Average	22.6	519	2387	105	22.7			
Range	19	25			20	25			21	25				20	24					20	24				19	25		

ALL DAY K - CAD, DAD1, DAD2, GAD, TAD1, TAD2, and MAD

Acton Public School Committee
Acton-Boxborough Regional and Transitional School Committees
16 Charter Road
Acton, Massachusetts
ab.mec.edu
[978-264-3306](tel:978-264-3306)

March 14, 2014

State Senator James Eldridge
James.Eldridge@masenate.gov

Representative Jennifer Benson
Jennifer.Benson@mahouse.gov

Representative Cory Atkins
Cory.Atkins@mahouse.gov

Dear Senator Eldridge, Representative Benson and Representative Atkins,

We would like to call your attention to five issues that are of concern to our districts:

- the health and safety of our students,
- the cost of implementing the Educator Evaluation System,
- the increasing cost of special education (Chapter 71B),
- special education transportation costs, and,
- OPEB.

These issues are summarized briefly below.

Health and Safety of Our Students

From Newtown to Newton, safety and health have never been so urgent as now. Our concern impels us to act to implement safety plans and prevention programs that previous school committees never had to contemplate. In only a few years, bullying issues have doubled the time demands on administrators. And with the increasing complexity of technology, the issues can escalate quickly as soon as the students enter the school. With the new anti-bullying legislation, and other serious safety concerns, we are finding the need to add administrative staff. Because the impetus for these programs originated with the Commonwealth, we feel it is appropriate that Chapter 70 reimbursements reflect these costs.

Educator Evaluation

Due to the complexity of administering the new teacher evaluation program, we are finding the need to add administrative staff to properly implement this new program. Again, because the impetus for this program originated with the Commonwealth, we believe that state aid should be increased to help compensate districts for the costs associated with this program.

Chapter 71

In the past two years, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District has experienced a 17 percent increase in the number of children who must be placed out of district (from 77 to 90 students). This has resulted in an increase in the District's budget of over \$1.2 million for that cohort alone. We take seriously our responsibility to meet the educational needs of all of our students. But the cost of meeting these responsibilities is becoming ever more difficult for the taxpayer to bear. These increased needs account for approximately 50% of the increase in our FY '14 to FY'15 budget, and we are finding it difficult to gain support for these costs among our member towns.

SPED Transportation

As the number of our out of district placements increases, the cost of transporting these students also increases and we believe this cost should qualify for state reimbursement.

OPEB

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District has established an OPEB Trust and has been contributing to this Trust for the past two years out of the operating budget. However, this responsibility for retirees now competes with our current responsibility in meeting the needs of today's children. We would like to see the Commonwealth step in to offer financial support to communities to meet the responsibilities for OPEB.

If our district is experiencing these burdens, we must believe that other districts feel the same strain. We appreciate your efforts to take action on these important issues.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Dennis Bruce

Chairperson, Acton Public School Committee



Maria Neyland

Chairperson, Acton-Boxborough Regional and Transitional School Committees

Cc: Acton Public School Committee

Acton-Boxborough Regional and Transitional School Committees










3/6/14



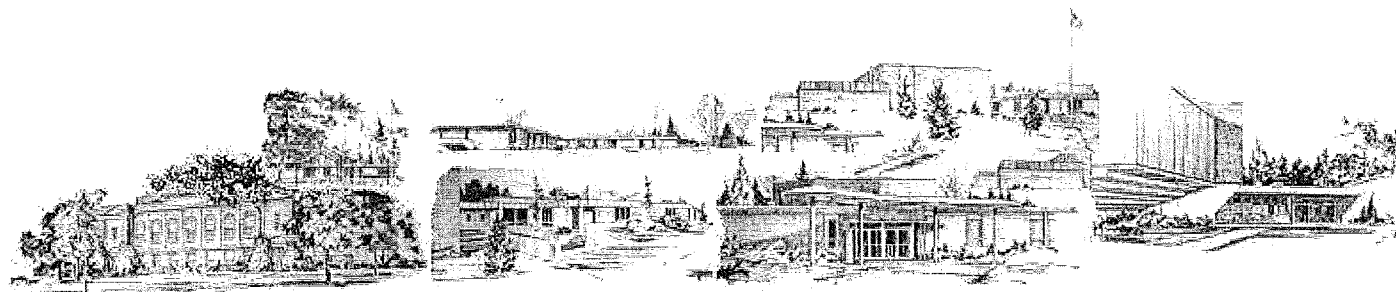
Compiled by Craig Douglas and Sean McFadden
cdouglas@bizjournals.com

THE TOP PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

RANKED BY STATEWIDE RESULTS FOR THE MCAS, PSAT AND SAT EXAMS IN 2013, EXCLUDING SCORES AT CHARTER AND TRADE SCHOOLS

School District/URL	Address/Phone	MCAS, Avg. Cumulative Score ***	MCAS Statewide Rank	SAT, Avg. Cumulative Score	SAT, Statewide Rank	PSAT, Avg. Cumulative Score	PSAT Statewide Rank	School Superintendent
 Lexington http://tps.lexingtonma.org	146 Maple St., Lexington, MA 02420 781-861-2580	95.75	18	1903	2	179	2	Paul Ash, Superintendent, Lexington Public Schools
 Acton-Boxborough http://ab.mec.edu	16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720 978-264-4700	95.85	17	1876	3	176	5	Stephen Mills, Superintendent, Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
 Dover-Sherborn http://www.doversherborn.org	157 Farm St., Dover, MA 02030 508-785-0036	95.45	19	1843	6	178	4	Steven Bliss, Superintendent, Dover-Sherborn Public Schools
 Carlisle* http://www.carlisle.k12.ma.us	83 School St., Carlisle, MA 01741 978-369-6550	96.35	13	1807	11	168	14	Joan Wickman, Superintendent, Carlisle Public Schools
 Newton** http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us	100 Walnut St., Newton, MA 02460 617-559-6000	93.6	42	1849	5	174	7	David Fleishman, Superintendent, Newton Public Schools
 Weston http://westonschools.org	89 Wellesley St., Weston, MA 02493 781-786-5210	94.75	27	1839	7	168	15	Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent, Weston Public Schools
 Northborough-Southborough http://www.nsbora.k12.ma.us	53 Parkerville Road, Southborough, MA 01772 508-486-5115	99	3	1713	27	159	37	Charles Gobron, Superintendent, Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough
 Harvard http://www.psharvard.org	39 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard, MA 01451 978-456-4140	94.8	26	1824	8	166	19	Joseph Connelly, Interim superintendent, Harvard Public Schools
 Belmont http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps	644 Pleasant St., Belmont, MA 02478 617-993-5400	94.7	28	1765	18	173	8	Thomas Kingston, Superintendent, Belmont Public Schools

13.3



Acton Public Schools ☞ Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720 Phone: 978-264-4700 Ext. 3205 Fax: 978-264-3340
E-mail: daicardi@abschools.org

Donald Aicardi
Finance Director

TO: Superintendent Stephen Mills
FROM: Don Aicardi, Director of Finance
RE: FY14 Status Report-2nd Quarter
DATE: March 20, 2014

A. Summary

I am happy to report that the Acton Public School District ended the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2014 with a \$2,033 projected year end fund balance.

B. Review of FY14 Budget-Highlights

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

1. Salaries, Teaching. (+\$104k) I noted in the first quarter report that projections for teachers are notoriously unreliable due to the lack of "real payrolls" to project in addition to corrections that occur at the beginning of the fiscal year until things get settled. Now that we have progressed further into the fiscal year, we believe that this estimate is more accurate of what is transpiring this year. It is important to note that there was \$225,000 in 'anticipated vacancy factor' savings applied to this account before the school year began, which artificially and automatically lowered this positive balance.

2. Fringes, Health Insurance (-\$94k) This account has been difficult to budget traditionally due to the fluidity of the open enrollment period, the timing of when rates are actually finalized, and the timing of new hires. Even so, this complex account has often led to considerable surpluses by the close of the fiscal year. Just like in the ABRSD, we are not seeing the same amount of surpluses this year. First, the budget estimated the larger accounts at a 9% increase; the larger accounts actually increased by 10%. Second, we are seeing a shift in the counts estimated for retirees from HMOs to Medex. Third, due to traditional surpluses in this account, a vacancy calculation was applied to these accounts. We will continue to evaluate the amount of employees actually charging to health insurance versus the assumptions used last spring in order to fine tune this estimate.

3. Salaries, Substitute (-\$4k) These accounts were traditionally overspent based on the assumption that sufficient vacancy factor savings from other salary accounts would offset any deficit. In order to more accurately budget for these expenses, these accounts were increased in FY12 and maintained at that level for FY13 and FY14. So far this year, we are slightly below the budgeted number. Due to the unpredictable nature of how substitutes are used, however, we will continue to closely monitor this account throughout FY14.

4. Legal Services (-\$20k) This projected year end deficit is still very preliminary due to the timing of the fiscal year and the billing cycle.

5. Other, Utilities (+\$190k) This projection is very close to what the district spent on utilities last fiscal year. The efforts of our students and staff towards reducing expenses continues to bear fruit. Due to the severity of this winter, this projected surplus will likely evolve as bills continue to be paid.

6. Other, SPED Tuition (\$-150K) Still too early in the fiscal year for any definitive call. We will continue to monitor these complex accounts in cooperation with Liza Huber, Director of Pupil Services.

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

ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY14 BUDGET STATUS REPORT

	FY14 Budget Original	FY14 Budget Adjustments	FY14 Budget Current	FY14 Year End Projected Expenses	% Committed	FY14 Year End Projected Balance	Transportation Reimbursement to ABRSD Projected Balance	FY14 Year End Projected Balance Without Transportation
Salaries, Teaching 01	\$12,612,183	\$900	\$12,613,083	\$12,508,335	99.2%	\$104,748		\$104,748
Salaries, Principals 02	\$798,755	\$0	\$798,755	\$799,717	100.1%	(\$962)		(\$962)
Salaries, Central Administration 03	\$496,000	\$2,500	\$498,500	\$469,009	94.1%	\$29,491	\$33,546	(\$4,055)
Salaries, Support Staff 04	\$3,721,850	\$0	\$3,721,850	\$3,274,342	88.0%	\$447,508	\$471,054	(\$23,546)
Salaries, Buildings 06	\$286,031	\$0	\$286,031	\$262,663	91.8%	\$23,368	\$32,245	(\$8,877)
Salaries, Custodial 07	\$685,598	\$0	\$685,598	\$669,815	97.7%	\$15,783		\$15,783
Salaries, Home Instruction 08	\$1,044	\$0	\$1,044	\$715	68.4%	\$329		\$329
Salaries, Substitute 09	\$320,453	(\$3,900)	\$316,553	\$321,355	101.5%	(\$4,802)		(\$4,802)
Fringes, Course Reimbursement 10	\$13,000	\$0	\$13,000	\$14,560	112.0%	(\$1,560)		(\$1,560)
Fringes, Health Insurance 11	\$3,366,501	\$0	\$3,366,501	\$3,461,427	102.8%	(\$94,926)		(\$94,926)
Instructional Supplies 16	\$243,347	\$500	\$243,847	\$248,269	101.8%	(\$4,422)		(\$4,422)
Instructional Textbooks 17	\$95,170	\$1,000	\$96,170	\$99,377	103.3%	(\$3,207)		(\$3,207)
Instructional, Library 18	\$16,625	\$0	\$16,625	\$16,656	100.2%	(\$31)		(\$31)
Other, Capital Outlay 19	\$285,797	(\$2,000)	\$283,797	\$293,708	103.5%	(\$9,911)		(\$9,911)
Other, Maintenance Buildings 23	\$194,864	\$0	\$194,864	\$194,147	99.6%	\$717		\$717
Other, Maintenance Outlays 24	\$105,943	\$0	\$105,943	\$95,582	90.2%	\$10,361		\$10,361
Other, Legal Service 26	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$55,994	160.0%	(\$20,994)		(\$20,994)
Other, Admin Supplies 27	\$231,960	(\$794)	\$231,166	\$208,936	90.4%	\$22,230		\$22,230
Other, Custodial Supplies 29	\$46,700	\$0	\$46,700	\$53,037	113.6%	(\$6,337)		(\$6,337)
Other, Sped Transportation 30	\$462,712	\$0	\$462,712	\$462,712	100.0%	\$0		\$0
Other, Student Transportation 31	\$375,521	\$0	\$375,521	\$30,948	8.2%	\$344,573	\$344,573	\$0
Other, Travel 32	\$14,197	\$1,794	\$15,991	\$24,026	150.2%	(\$8,035)	\$207	(\$8,242)
Other, Sped Tuition/ 33	\$1,764,053	\$0	\$1,764,053	\$1,914,405	108.5%	(\$150,352)		(\$150,352)
Other, Utilities 34	\$787,421	\$0	\$787,421	\$597,333	75.9%	\$190,088		\$190,088
GRAND TOTAL	\$26,960,725	\$0	\$26,960,725	\$26,077,068	96.7%	\$883,657	\$881,624	\$2,033

3-14-14