

Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Meeting

December 19, 2019

7:00 p.m.

in the Administration Building Auditorium 15 Charter Road, Acton, MA

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) Revised* AGENDA

Auditorium Administration Building 15 Charter Road, Acton December 19, 2019 7:00 p.m.

- 1. **Call to Order** (7:00)
- 2. **OPEN MEETING Welcome!**
 - 2.1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
 - 2.2. Public Participation
 - 2.3. High School Student Representatives Update
 - 2.4. Superintendent's Update

3. PRESENTATIONS (7:15)

- 3.1. MCAS Report Deborah Bookis
- 3.2. **FY21 Budget Update*** *Peter Light, Dave Verdolino (brought to meeting)*
- 3.3. **FY21 All Day Kindergarten Tuition** <u>VOTE</u> –Deborah Bookis, Dave Verdolino, Marie Altieri
 - 3.3.1. Foundation Budget and Hypothetical Projections under the Student Opportunity Act

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

- 4.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 11/21/19 and 12/5/19 (next meeting) <u>VOTE</u> Tessa McKinley
- 4.2. School Building Committee– Peter Light, Adam Klein 4.2.1. Next Steps
 - 4.2.2. Meeting Minutes
- 4.3. Subcommittee Business
 - 4.3.1. Policy Amy Krishnamurthy
 - 4.3.1.1. Public Participation, File:BEDH First Read
 - 4.3.1.2. Tutoring for Pay, File: GCRD Second Read VOTE
 - 4.3.2. Budget Diane Baum
- 4.4. School Committee Liaison Reports
 - 4.4.1. Acton Leadership Group (ALG), 12/13/19 meeting(addendum)
- 4.5. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 4.5.1.Recommendation to Approve Donation from O'Connor Studio to the Gates School - <u>VOTE</u> - *Peter Light*
 - 4.5.2.Recommendation to Approve Award Donation from the MA Science & Engineering Fair and Sanofi Genzyme Corp. to the ABRHS Science Department – <u>VOTE</u> – *Peter Light*
- 4.6. Statement of Warrants Tessa McKinley
- 5. **FYI**
- 6. Adjourn

FYI

- Thank you to Lueders Environmental Inc. for \$75 donation
- Community Coffees with the Superintendent and School Committee Chairperson
 - Tuesday, Jan 21 at 7:00 p.m. (all in the Administration Building Auditorium)
 - Friday, Feb 7 at 8:00 a.m.
 - Tuesday, Mar 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monthly Enrollment, 12/1/19

Public Participation

Per policy BEDH, members of the public may speak for up to 2 minutes on items not included on this agenda. Comments regarding items on the agenda should be made during that part of the meeting. Typically, the Committee/Administration will not respond to comments during public participation.

Next Meetings:

ABRSC, January 9 at 7:00 pm in the Administration Building Auditorium (packet posted 1/3/19) ABRSC Budget Saturday, January 25 at 9:00 am in the Administration Building Auditorium

> Posted on 12/13/19 at 5:00 p.m. *Reposted on 12/17/19 at 4:30 p.m. to add 3.2 FY21 Budget Update



Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Meeting Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	12.19.19	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	2.4		
AGENDA ITEM TITLE	Superintendent's Update				
PRESENTER(S)	Peter Light				
SUMMARY OF TOPIC	Bi-weekly Superintendent's Update. This is brought to the meeting.				

WHAT	ACTION (if a	any) DO YOU WISH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TAKE?
x	No action re	equested - this is a short update or presentation of information
	Request inp	out and questions from the School Committee, but no vote required
	Request for	mal action with a specific vote:
		If formal action is requested, is this item being presented:
		for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent meeting OR
		with the request that the School Committee take action immediately

If formal action is requested, include a suggested motion or contact Beth Petr.

SUGGESTED MOTION	
FOLLOW-UP	
APPROX. TIME FOR THE AGENDA ITEM (MIN.)	5 min.
ATTACHMENTS	Brought to meeting



Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Meeting Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	12.19.19	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	3.1
AGENDA ITEM TITLE	MCAS Report		
PRESENTER(S)	Deborah Bookis		
SUMMARY OF TOPIC	This presentation will sha highlight some changes	are the most recent MCAS results for o made by the state.	our District and

WHAT	Γ ACTION (if a	any) DO YOU WISH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TAKE?
	No action re	equested - this is a short update or presentation of information
х	Request inp	but and questions from the School Committee, but no vote required
	Request for	mal action with a specific vote:
		If formal action is requested, is this item being presented:
		for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent meeting OR
		with the request that the School Committee take action immediately

If formal action is requested, include a suggested motion or contact Beth Petr.

SUGGESTED MOTION	
FOLLOW-UP	
APPROX. TIME FOR THE AGENDA ITEM (MIN.)	30 min
ATTACHMENTS	Current Slides and FYI:Chart and Previous Slides for referrence



Our **vision** is to provide high-quality educational opportunities that inspire a community of learners

WELLNESS • EQUITY • ENGAGEMENT

Our **mission** is to develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships

MCAS 2019

Deborah Bookis

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning December 19, 2019

Purposes and Types of Assessment

1. Diagnostic and Instructional Purposes Formative, Interim, Summative

2. System Monitoring Purposes (Accountability) NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Practice) MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System)

Accountability

Accountability: Districts

	Districts without required assistance or intervention			-	ng assistance or ention
Meeting or exceeding targets	Substantial progress towards targets	Moderate progress towards targets	Limited or no progress towards targets	Focused/ targeted support	Broad/ comprehensive support
Criterion- referenced target percentage 75-100	Criterion- referenced target percentage 50-74	Criterion- referenced target percentage 25-49	Criterion- referenced target percentage 0-24	 Districts with low graduation rate Districts with low participation 	 Underperforming districts Chronically underperforming districts

Accountability: Schools

Schools without required assistance or intervention (approximately 85%)						ng assistance or proximately 15%)
Schools of recognition	Meeting or exceeding targets	Substantial progress toward targets	Moderate progress toward targets	Limited or no progress toward targets	Focused/ targeted support	Broad/ comprehensive support
Schools demonstrating high achievement, significant improvement, or high growth	Criterion- referenced target percentage 75-100	Criterion- referenced target percentage 50-74	Criterion- referenced target percentage 25-49	Criterion- referenced target percentage 0-24	 Schools with percentiles 1-10 not already identified for broad/ comprehensive support Schools with low graduation rate Schools with low performing subgroups Schools with low participation 	 Underperforming schools Chronically underperforming schools

Accountability

	Progress Towards Improvement Targets Cumulative Criterion Referenced Percentage	Accountability Percentile Normative Component
District	85% Meeting or Exceeding Targets	
ABRHS	86% Meeting or Exceeding Targets	96%
RJ Grey JH	79% Meeting or Exceeding Targets	89%
Blanchard	86% Meeting or Exceeding Targets	97%
Conant	92% Meeting or Exceeding Targets	97%
Douglas	54% Substantial Progress Toward Goals	80%
Gates	96% Meeting or Exceeding Targets	96%
McCarthy-Towne	68% Substantial Progress Toward Goals	68%
Merriam	75% Meeting or Exceeding Targets	83%

District Guidelines

Standardized tests will only be used in concert with a diverse set of measures to capture how well our students are doing at a given time, including but not limited to: educator developed assessments, educator observations and notes, student self-assessments, student work, performances, presentations, and multimedia productions. ~ABRSD Administrative Statement on Standardized Testing, 2015

High School Grade 10

Next Generation MCAS

Interim Passing Standard: Classes 2021 and 2022

	2018	2019 Meets or Exceeds	2019 Partially Meeting
ELA	99%	89%	10%
Math	96%	92%	7%

ELA	472
Mathematics	486

ELA	CD status	Math	CD status	Next-Gen	Achievement Lev
560	Passed	560	Passed (Advanced)	560	Exceeding Expectations
	(Advanced)		() () () () () () () () () () () () () (529	
		504			Meeting Expectations
501		503			
500		303		500	
	Passed		Passed (Proficient)	499	
	(Proficient)	486			Partially
N		485			Meeting Expectations
472			Passed, require EPP (NI)		

High School Legacy (overlap) MCAS Grade 10

	2018 % Proficient and Advanced	2019 % Proficient and Advanced
Science, Technology, Engineering (STE)	95%	98%





Grades 3-8

Next Generation ELA MCAS Grades 3-8

Grade	2017 % Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	2018 % Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	2019 % Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	2019 Growth <i>(mean)</i>		
3	57%	65%	79%		SGP	Designation
4	65%	70%	70%	56.3 (on)	60+	above target
					51-59	on target
5	73%	72%	67%	51.5 (on)	41-50	improved but below
6	78%	84%	74%	62.6		target
				(above)	31-40	no change
7	76%	69%	77%	43.1	1-30	declined
				(improved but below target)		
8	73%	76%	78%	50.1 (improved but below target)		

Next Generation ELA MCAS Grades 3-8 Cohort Look

	2017	2018	2019
Class of 2023 (current ninth graders)	78%	69%	78%
Class of 2024	73%	85%	76%
Class of 2025	65%	72%	74%
Class of 2026	57%	70%	67%
Class of 2027		65%	70%
Class of 2028			79%

Mathematics

Grades 3-8

Next Generation Math MCAS Grades 3-8

Grade	2017 % Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	2018 % Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	2019 % Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	2019 Growth <i>(mean)</i>		
					SGP	Designation
3	59%	61%	64%		60+	above target
4	65%	61%	66%	56.8	51-59	on target
				(on)	41-50	improved but below
5	72%	65%	64%	58.4		target
				(on)	31-40	no change
6	83%	82%	76%	64.3 (above)	1-30	declined
7	81%	80%	79%	58.3 (on)		
8	84%	80%	81%	52.7 (on)		

Next Generation Mathematics MCAS Grades 3-8 Cohort Look

	2017	2018	2019
Class of 2023 (current ninth graders)	83%	81%	81%
Class of 2024	72%	82%	79%
Class of 2025	65%	65%	76%
Class of 2026	59%	61%	64%
Class of 2027		61%	66%
Class of 2028			64%

Science, Technology and Engineering (STE)

Grades 3-8

Science, Technology & Engineering (STE) Next Generation MCAS Grades 5 & 8

Grade	2019 % Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
5 (n=428)	65%
8 (n=495)	79%

Grade 5:

- 35% students (n=152) with high needs
- 40% of students with high needs met or exceeded expectations

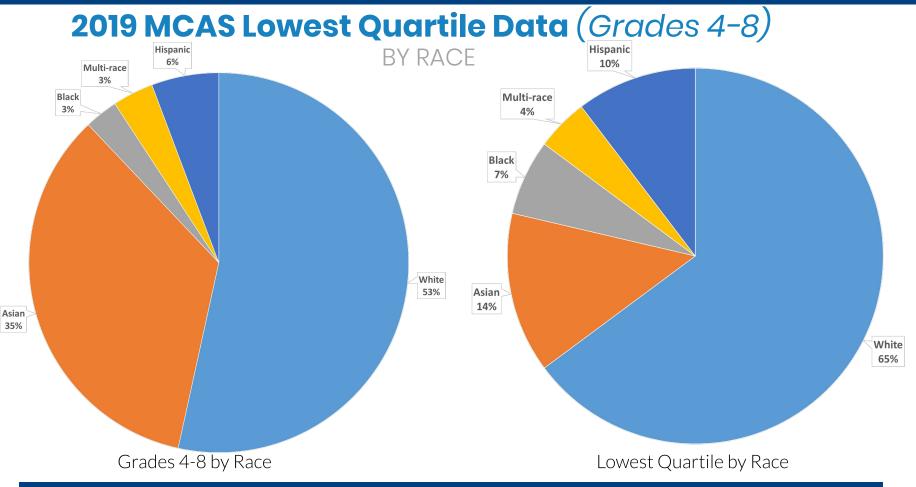
Grade 8:

- 25% of students (n=125) with high needs
- 50% of students with high met or exceeded expectations

MCAS Lowest Quartile Data Grades 4-8

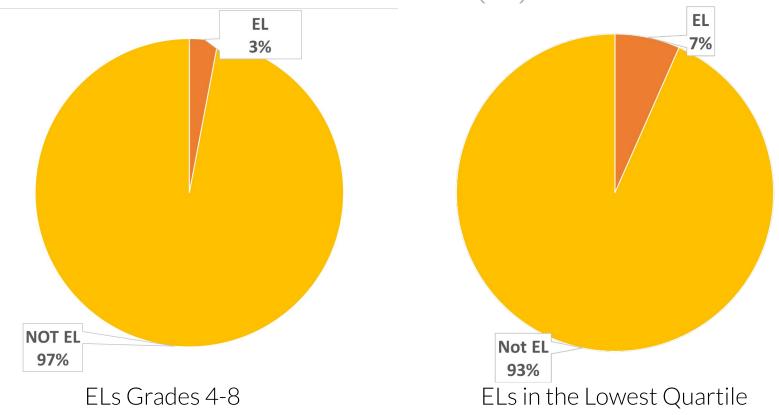
Dr. Dawn Bentley

Assistant Superintendent for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



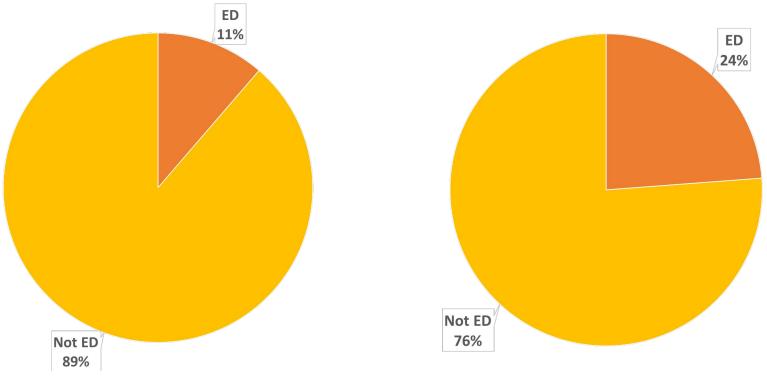
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2019 MCAS Lowest Quartile Data (*Grades 4–8***)** ENGLISH LEARNERS (ELS)



2019 MCAS Lowest Quartile Data (Grades 4-8)

Students who are Economically Disadvantaged

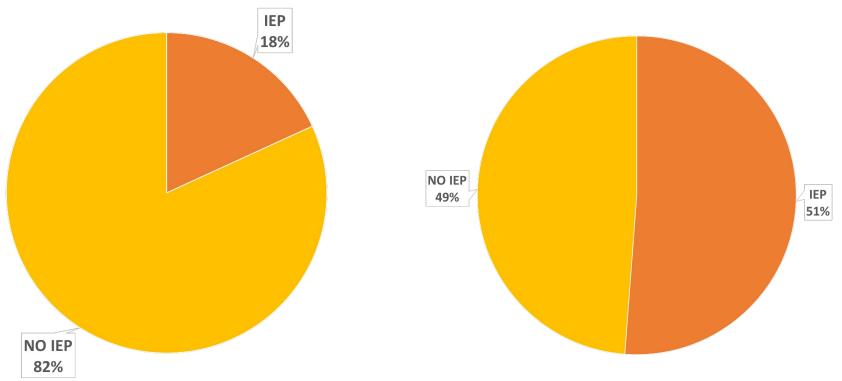


Students who are ED Grades 4-8

Students who are ED in Lowest Quartile

2019 MCAS Lowest Quartile Data (Grades 4-8)





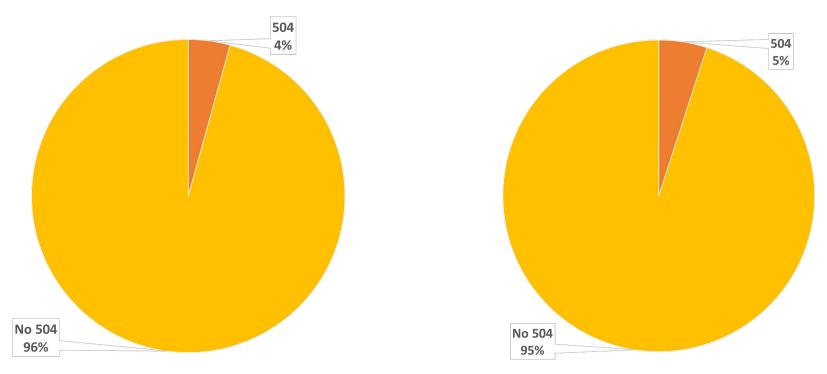
Students with IEPs Grades 4-8

Students with IEPs in Lowest Quartile

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2019 MCAS Lowest Quartile Data (Grades 4-8)

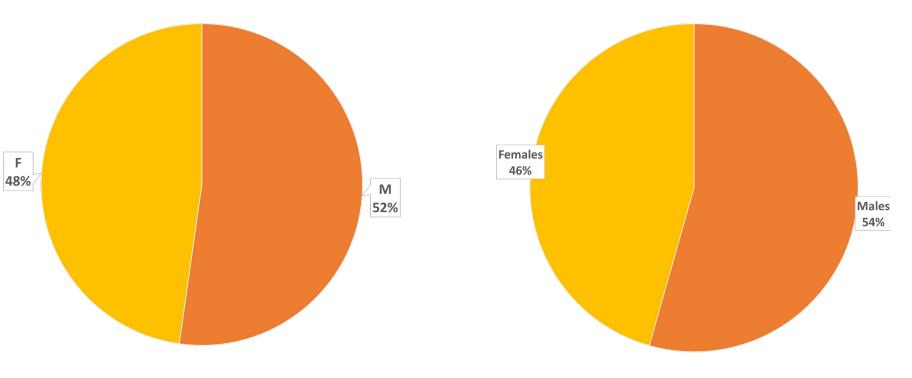
Students with 504 Plans



Students with 504 Plans Grades 4-8

Students with 504 Plans in Lowest Quartile





Males and Females Grades 4-8

Males and Females in Lowest Quartile

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MCAS Disaggregated by Subgroup

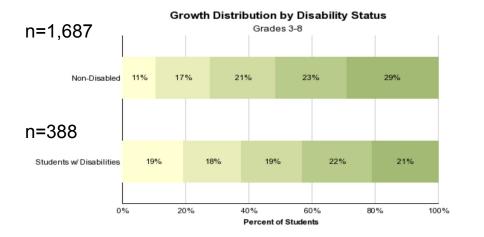
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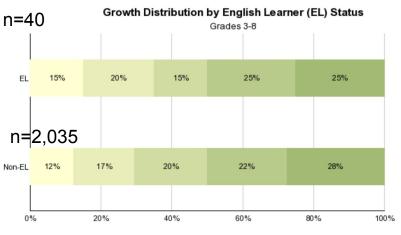
Grades 3-8

Mathematics Grades 3-8

Disaggregated by Disability and English Learner Status



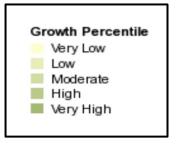


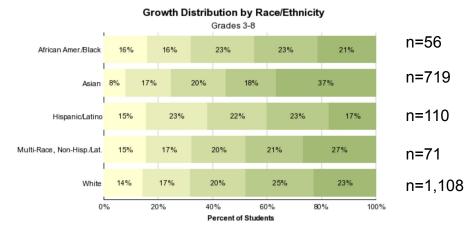


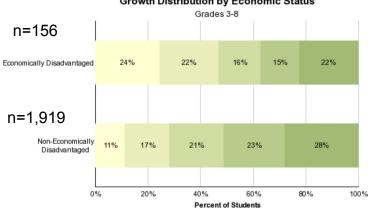
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Mathematics Grades 3-8

Disaggregated by Race and Students who are Economically Disadvantaged





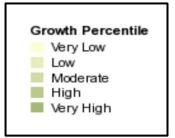


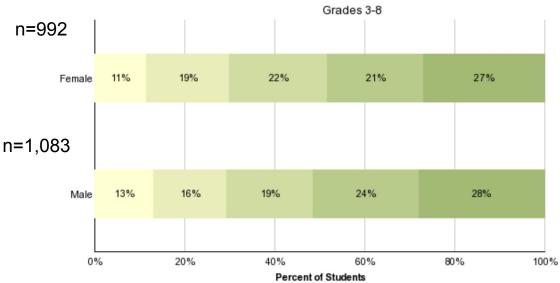
Growth Distribution by Economic Status



Mathematics Grades 3-8

Disaggregated by Gender

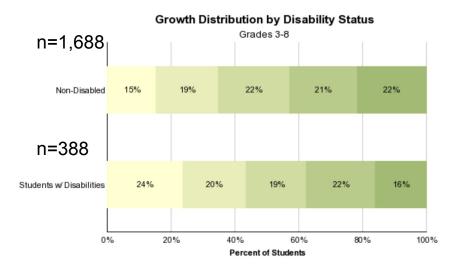


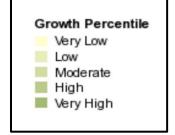


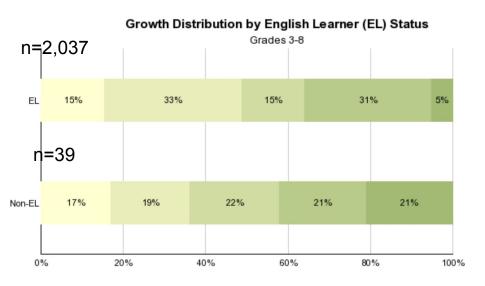
Growth Distribution by Gender

ELA Grades 3-8

Disaggregated by Disability and English Learner Status

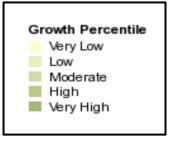




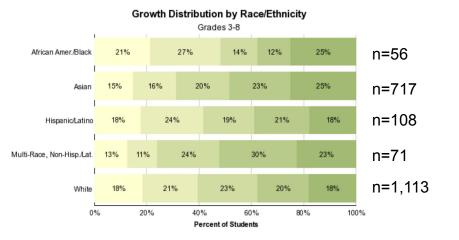


ELA Grades 3-8

Disaggregated by Race and Students who are Economically Disadvantaged



Growth Distribution by Economic Status

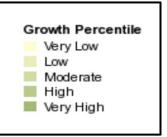


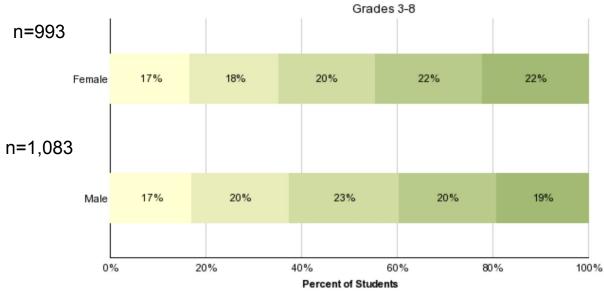
Grades 3-8 n=156 Economically Disadvantaged 21% 21% 22% 20% 17% n=1.920 Non-Economically 17% 19% 22% 21% 21% Disadvantaged 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100% Percent of Students



ELA Grades 3-8

Disaggregated by Gender





Growth Distribution by Gender

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Moving forward

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District and School: All

In General -

- DCAP and UDL
- Inclusive Practices
- Co-teaching
- SEED training
- Neuro-cognitive implications for learning
- Focus on Educator evaluations

District and School: ELA

PK-6

 Literacy Visioning including PK-6 MTSS Framework for Reading

Junior High

 Using released student samples and rubric for calibration of current student writing

High School

• Focus on synthesis and literary analysis, and informational argument writing

District and School: Mathematics

Grade Illustrative Mathematics pilot

2010-21 Beta version grades K-5

Program Features:

- Instructional & language routines
- Problem-based Structure
- Culminating units
- Mathematical Practices
- Supports for EL and SWD
- Formative & Summative Assessments
- Extensions & explorations
- Family Materials

JH additional mathematics educator for FY'21

JH Professional Learning with Better Lesson

we believe that ALL students: Develo an make se mathematic and solve derstanding an problems on anguage capacity their own Must play with Have a unique athematical ideas perspective before formal that's welcomed mes, conventions and needed or processes are introduced

At Illustrative Mathematics.

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District and School: STE

- All transitions in place grades 3-6
- STEAM goals
- Continue build out of elementary student-centered coaching with STEAM coach for the PDB in FY'21
- Data Dialogue Process with grade 3-5 educators and 6-8 educators
- Minuteman Tech educators and K-6 Coordinator to JH STE department meetings

MCAS 2020

ELA and Math: Grades 3-8 and 10

Next generation and computer-based

STE: Grades 5 and 8

• Next generation and computer-based

STE:

- Grade 9 Biology: next generation, computer-based, 2016 standards
- Grade 10 Biology: legacy, paper-based, overlapping 2006 and 2016 standards

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New Curriculum Frameworks

History and Social Science Curriculum Framework (2018)

Summer R&Ds; developed implementation plan

Digital Literacy and Computer Science Framework (2016)

Continued adjustment and implementation

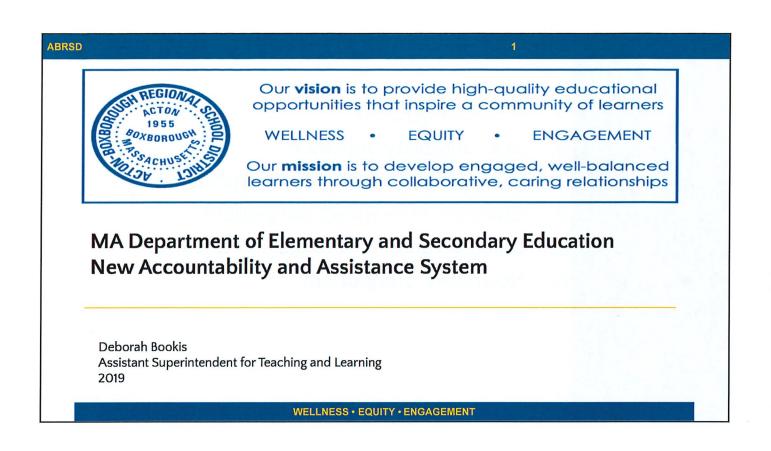
Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum Framework (2019)

• Unpacking new standards

Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework (last 1999)

• Final draft to BESE winter/spring 2020

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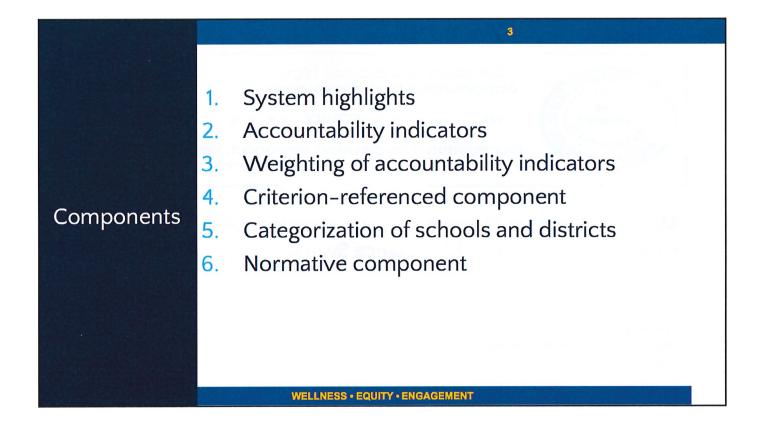


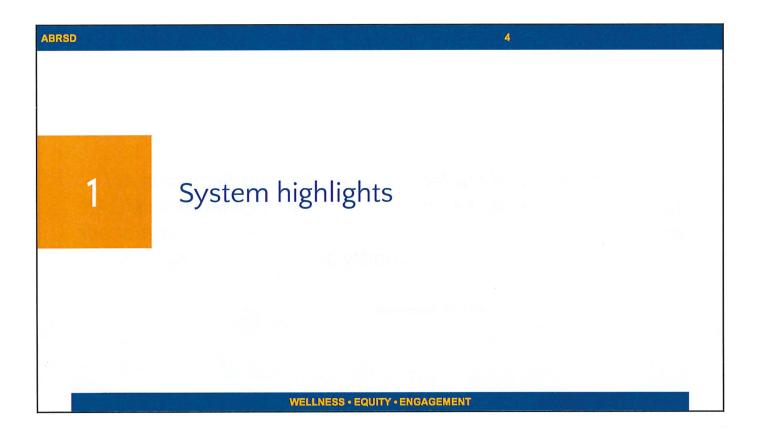
Background

ABRSD

The enactment of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the state's transition to the Next Generation MCAS assessment gave us the opportunity to rethink the design of our district and school accountability and assistance system.

-MA DESE School Leader's Guide to the 2018 Accountability Determinations

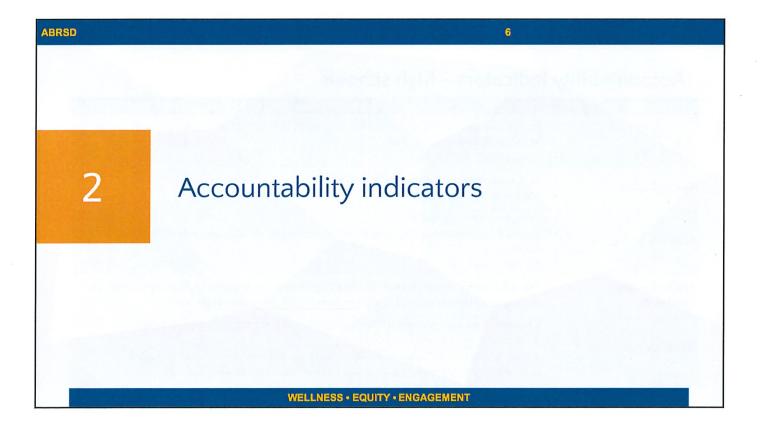




System highlights

- Additional accountability indicators
 - o Provide information about school performance & student opportunities beyond test scores
- Normative & criterion-referenced components
 - o Accountability percentiles & progress toward targets
- Focus on raising the performance of each school's lowest performing students
 - o In addition to the performance of the school as a whole
- Discontinuation of accountability & assistance levels 1–5
 - Replaced with accountability categories that define the progress that schools are making & the type of support they may receive from the Department
- Districts classified based on district-level data
 - o No longer based on the performance of a district's lowest performing school

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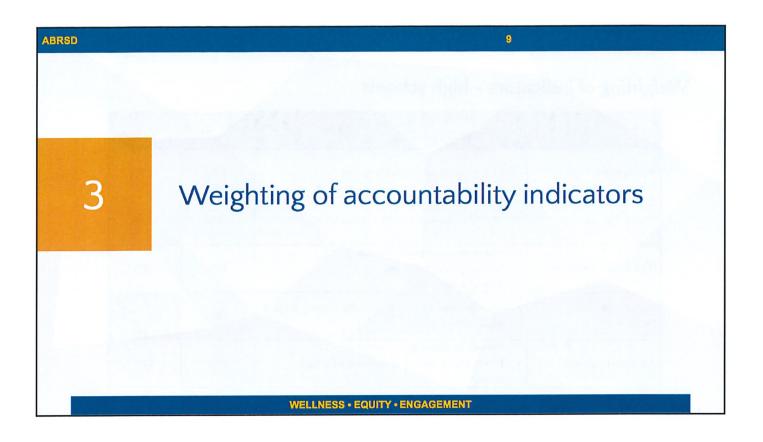
Accountability indicators – grades 3-8

Indicator	Measure
Achievement	 English language arts (ELA) Mathematics Science achievement (Composite Performance Index (CPI))
Student Growth	 ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP) Mathematics mean SGP
English Language Proficiency	• Progress made by students towards attaining English language proficiency (percentage of students meeting annual targets required in order to attain English proficiency in six years)
Additional Indicator(s)	• Chronic absenteeism (percentage of students missing 10 percent or more of their days in membership)

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Accountability indicators - high schools

Indicator	Measure
Achievement Legacy Tests	 English language arts (ELA) achievement (Composite Performance Index (CPI) Mathematics achievement (CPI) Science achievement (CPI)
Student Growth	 ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP) Mathematics mean SGP
High School Completion	 Four-year cohort graduation rate Extended engagement rate (five-year cohort graduation rate plus the percentage of students still enrolled) Annual dropout rate
English Language Proficiency	• Progress made by students towards attaining English language proficiency (percentage of students meeting annual targets required in order to attain English proficiency in six years)
Additional Indicator(s)	 Chronic absenteeism (percentage of students missing 10 percent or more of their days in membership) Percentage of 11th & 12th graders completing advanced coursework (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment courses, &/or other selected rigorous courses)



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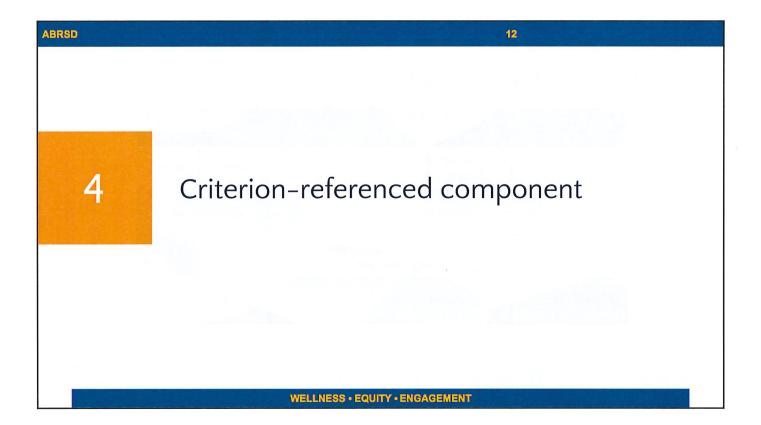
Weighting of indicators - grades 3-8

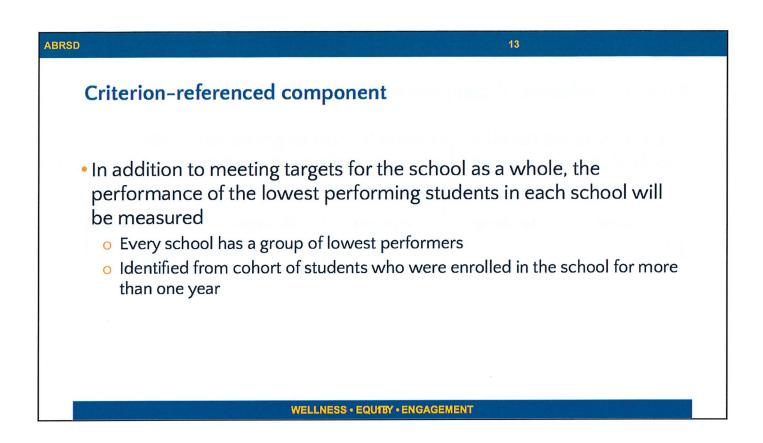
Indicator	Measures	2018 Weighting		
Indicator	initiasui es	With ELL	No ELL	
Achievement	• ELA, math, & science achievement values (based on scaled score)	60%	67.5%	
Student Growth	• ELA/Math Student Growth Percentile (SGP)	20%	22.5%	
English Language Proficiency	 Progress made by students towards attaining English language proficiency 	10%		
Additional Indicators	Chronic absenteeism	10%	10%	

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Weighting of indicators - high schools

Indicator	Measures	2018 Weighting		
mulcator	iviedsures	With ELL	No ELL	
Achievement	• ELA, math, & science achievement	40%	47.5%	
Student Growth	ELA/Math Student Growth Percentile (SGP)	20%	22.5%	
High School Completion	 Four-year cohort graduation rate Extended engagement rate Annual dropout rate 	20%	20%	
English Language Proficiency	Progress made by students towards attaining English language proficiency	10%		
Additional Indicators	 Chronic absenteeism Percentage of students completing advanced coursework 	10%	10%	





Criterion-referenced component

Targets set for each accountability indicator, for the school as a whole & for the lowest performing students in
 each school

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• For 2018 reporting, targets will only be set for one year; Long-term targets will be set in the future

		3-8	High	schools
Indicator	All students	Lowest performing students	All students	Lowest performing students
ELA scaled score	V	✓	\checkmark	V
Math scaled score	V	V	\checkmark	V
Science achievement	V		\checkmark	V
ELA SGP	V	V	\checkmark	V
Math SGP	V	✓	\checkmark	V
Four-year cohort graduation rate	N/A	N/A	\checkmark	
Extended engagement rate	N/A	N/A	V	
Annual dropout rate	N/A	N/A	V	
EL progress	V		V	
Chronic absenteeism	V	V	\checkmark	V
Advanced coursework completion	N/A	N/A	V	

*Minimum group size for each indicator = 20 students

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Criterion-referenced component

• Points assigned based on progress toward target for each indicator, for both the aggregate & the lowest performing students

Declined	No change	Improved	Met target	Exceeded target
0	1	2	3	4

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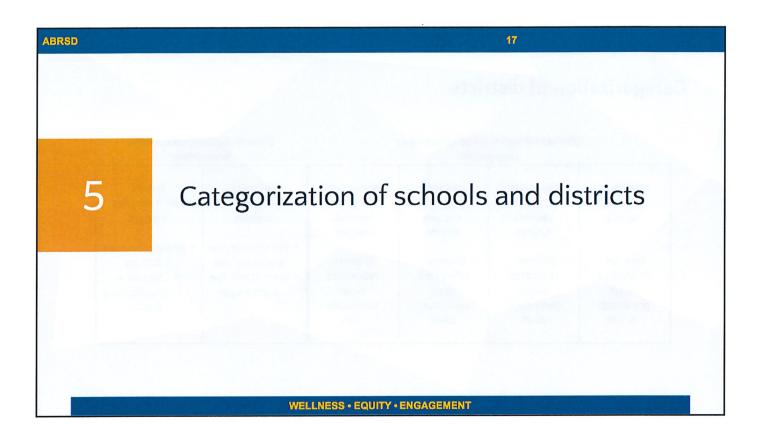
ABRSD

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Criterion-referenced component calculation – grades 3-8

		All students (50%)	Lowest performing students (50%)		
Indicator	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight
ELA scaled score	3	4	-	2	4	-
Math scaled score	2	4	-	2	4	-
Science achievement	2	4	-	-	-	-
Achievement total	7	12	60%	4	8	67.5%
ELA SGP	4	4	-	4	4	-
Math SGP	3	4	-	4	4	-
Growth total	7	8	20%	8	8	22.5%
EL progress	2	4	10%			
Chronic absenteeism	3	4	10%	4	4	10%
Weighted total	6.1	9.6	-	4.9	7.6	-
Percentage of possible points	63	.5%	-	6	4.5%	-
Criterion-referenced target percentage			64	%		

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Categorization of schools

s	Schools without required assistance or intervention (approximately 85%)					ng assistance or proximately 15%)	
Schools of recognition	Meeting or exceeding targets	Substantial progress toward targets	Moderate progress toward targets	Limited or no progress toward targets	Focused/ targeted support	Broad/ comprehensive support	
Schools demonstrating high achievement, significant improvement, or high growth	Criterion- referenced target percentage 75-100	Criterion- referenced target percentage 50-74	Criterion- referenced target percentage 25-49	Criterion- referenced target percentage 0-24	 Schools with percentiles 1-10 not already identified for broad/ comprehensive support Schools with low graduation rate Schools with low performing subgroups Schools with low performing 	 Underperforming schools Chronically underperforming schools 	

WELLNESS · EQUITRY · ENGAGEMENT

Categorization of districts

	Districts without re interv		ng assistance or ention		
Meeting or exceeding targets	Substantial progress towards targets	Moderate progress towards targets	Limited or no progress towards targets	Focused/ targeted support	Broad/ comprehensive support
Criterion- referenced target percentage 75-100	Criterion- referenced target percentage 50-74	Criterion- referenced target percentage 25-49	Criterion- referenced target percentage 0-24	 Districts with low graduation rate Districts with low participation 	 Underperforming districts Chronically underperforming districts

WELLNESS · EQUIDY · ENGAGEMENT



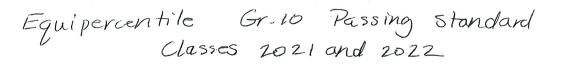
Normative component

 Accountability percentile 1–99, calculated using all available indicators for a school

21

- Compares schools administering *similar* (all next gen or legacy) MCAS statewide assessments
- Used to identify the lowest performing schools in the state
- Same calculation used at the subgroup level to identify low-performing subgroups ("subgroup percentile")

WELLNESS · EQUITY · ENGAGEMENT



	interim passing standard for classes of 2021 and 2022		interim passing standard for classes of 2021 and 2022		
ELA	CD status	Math	CD status	Next-Gen	Achievement Level
560		560		560	
	Passed (Advanced)		Passed (Advanced)	530	Exceeding Expectations
				529	Meeting Expectations
		504			
501		503			
500				500	
			Passed	499	
			(Proficient)		
	Passed (Proficient)	486	-		Partially
		485	_		Meeting Expectations
472			Passed, require		Sec. Sec.
471			EPP (NI)		
				470	to the second second
5. S.		469		469	
	Passed, require	468			
	EPP (NI)				
	_		_		Not Meeting
	_		Failing		Not Meeting Expectations
455					
454					
	Failing		_		
440		440		440	Carl Barris Carlos Carlos



Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Meeting Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	12.19.19	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	3.2			
AGENDA ITEM TITLE	FY21 All Day Kindergarten Tuition					
PRESENTER(S)	PRESENTER(S) Deborah Bookis, David Verdolino, Marie Altieri					
SUMMARY OF TOPIC This will include information about curriculum, Foundation Budget/Student Opportunity Act possibilities and our All Day K Program for next year.						

WHAT	WHAT ACTION (if any) DO YOU WISH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TAKE?							
	No action re	equested	d - this is a short update or presentation of information					
	Request input and questions from the School Committee, but no vote required							
x	Request for	mal acti	on with a specific vote:					
		If form	nal action is requested, is this item being presented:					
for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent OR								
	X with the request that the School Committee take action immediately							

If formal action is requested, include a suggested motion or contact Beth Petr.

SUGGESTED MOTIONS	 A: Move to set tuition at \$3,750 with a goal of implementing tuition-free ADK over the next 3-4 years. B: Move to set tuition at \$3,750 but making a decision on tuition-free ADK next year when more information about SOA is available. C: Move to keep tuition at \$4,500 but revisit next year when more information about SOA is available . D: Move to implement tuition-free ADK in September 2021 with an approximate cost of \$1,000,000.
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FOLLOW-UP	
APPROX. TIME FOR THE AGENDA ITEM (MIN.)	30 min.
ATTACHMENTS	Slides



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720 978-264-4700 www.abschools.org

 To: Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee
 From: Peter Light, Superintendent of Schools David Verdolino, Director of Finance
 Date: December 19, 2019
 RE: FY21 Superintendent's Preliminary Budget Update

At the December 5, 2019 School Committee meeting, we received feedback that requested that school administration continue to look for strategies to reduce the school district's budget and assessments to the member communities. Based on this feedback, we are proposing the following adjustments to the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget:

Adjustment	Amount	Comment		
Personnel Costs	- \$275K	Reduced personnel costs due to retirements and salary adjustments		
Capital Improvement Plan	- \$125K	Reduced increase in capital funding. CIP funding will be level with FY20.		
Assabet Valley Collaborative Family Support Partner	- \$42K	Level fund from FY20. We may not be able to take on additional family cases		
CASE Collaborative Transportation Costs	- \$80K	CASE Collaborative has exceeded the total allowable reserves by 3% and per the bylaws, the board voted to refund districts in the form of credits toward FY21. The total amount to AB is yet to be determined, but will be based on the district's percentage of CASE expenses. We are estimating this amount.		

TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS - \$522K

Developing engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships.

Budgetary Impact of Previous Adjustments

The budgetary impact of the above changes below reflect a recommendation that the school committee reduce All Day Kindergarten Tuition by \$750 per student. This recommended reduction in the tuition rate is offset in the budget model below by the use of \$180K from E&D so that this reduction in tuition does not impact the town assessments in FY21.

	FY20	FY21 Level- Service	FY21 Preliminary	FY21 Preliminary Adjusted
Total Budget	\$90,982,111	\$94,673,077	\$94,396,777	\$93,874,777
Increase from prior year	\$2,260,619	\$3,690,966	\$3,414,666	\$2,892,666
Percent Increase from prior year	2.55%	4.06%	3.75%	3.18%
Total Assessments	\$72,757,539	\$76,022,541	\$75,441,241	\$74,919,241
Acton TOTAL	\$61,235,254	\$64,164,927	\$63,674,672	63,234,429
Acton % Change	2.09%	4.78%	3.98%	3.26%
Boxborough TOTAL	\$11,522,285	\$11,857,614	\$11,766,569	11,684,812
Boxborough % Change	1.51%	2.91%	2.12%	1.41%

Additional Impacts of All-Day Kindergarten Tuition Decrease

The table below reflects the various decisions the school committee might consider with respect the All Day Kindergarten Tuition and the impact of these decisions on the operating budget:

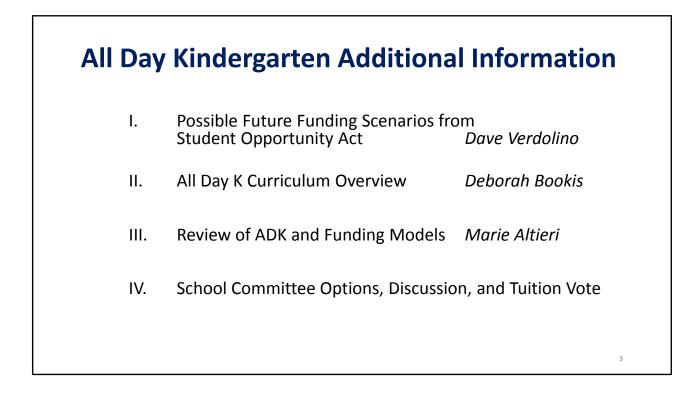
	Set ADK Tuition at \$3750; offset costs with \$180K E&D (rec.)	ADK Tuition \$4,500; <u>do not use</u> \$180k E&D (alt. #1)	ADK \$4,500 (no reduction);Use \$180k E&D (not rec.)
Budget Increase	3.18%	2.98%	2.98%
Acton Assessment	3.26%	3.26%	3.02%
Boxborough Assessment	1.41%	1.41%	1.17%
Total Use of E&D	\$1M	\$820K	\$1M

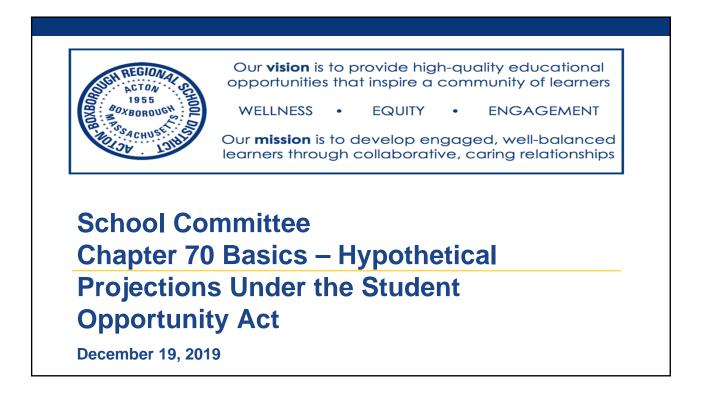


All Day K School Committee Discussions

The School Committee has had several presentations and discussions about the possibility of moving to tuition-free universal All Day K:

 January 10, 2019 	ADK Budget; Recommendation to Explore tuition-free ADK
• March 21, 2019	80% of families chose ADK; Recommendation to develop funding plan to possibly move to tuition-free ADK
• September 19, 2019	87% of Massachusetts Districts have tuition-free ADK. Possible funding models presented
• November 21, 2019	Data and research regarding ADK; Feedback from teachers and parents; further discussion of funding
• December 5, 2019	Superintendent's budget presentation with and without tuition-free ADK
• December 19, 2019	School Committee decision regarding tuition-free ADK and FY21 Budget $_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}$







ABRSD 6	6
The Foundation Budget (F	B)
Minimum \$ required to provide an adequate education	
Eleven cost categories; allocated on a per pupil basis	
Before 1993, some districts spent BELOW their FB	
Now all districts are at or above or well above their FB	
Above FB: Statewide by 31% - A-B by 44%	
➤Two components that fund FB — <u>Statewide %</u>	
Local Contribution (based on relative community wealth 59%)	
Foundation Aid (part of Chapter 70 Aid) 41%	
Since pre-Great Recession, "FB is NOT adequate"	
FB Review Commission (finally) formed in 2014	
SOA (finally) implements FBRC's recommendations	
BUTadd'l Ch70 mitigated by extent of "Hold Harmless"	
ANDinfluences optimal timing to fully elim. FDK tuition	

What Does the SOA Mean for A-B?

ABRSD

Increases District's Foundation Budget (FB) (potentially by \$3.75 million)** over 7 years

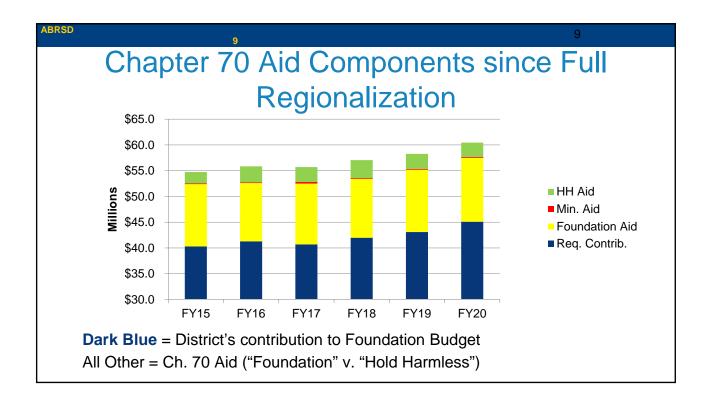
Initially, this will close the District's "Hold Harmless" gap (\$2.8 million in FY20)

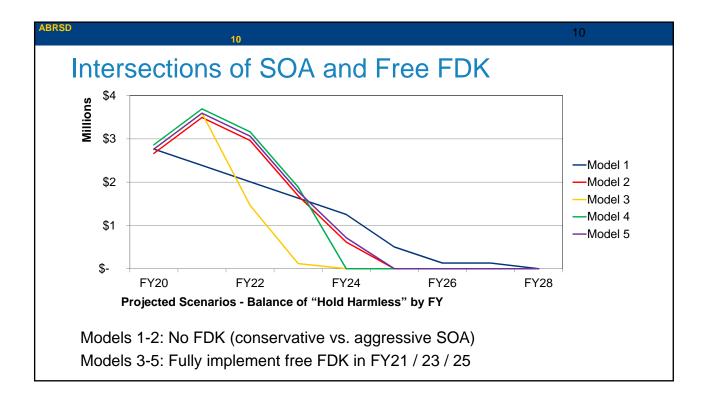
Ultimately, once "Hold Harmless" is zero, FB increases correlate to Chapter 70 Aid

Eliminating FDK Tuition reduces E&D (s-t) increases FB/Ch. 70 (post "Hold Harmless")

** - EVERY number in this presentation is a projection based on estimates of how the SOA may be implemented.

Nhat Does the SO	A Mean	TOL Y-R	(
Projected Impact of SOA at Fu	II Implementa	tion (7 Years)		
	District Foun	dation Budget		
FB Cost Category	FY2020	FY2027*	Difference	<u>%-Diff</u>
Administration	3,007,309	3,077,827	70,518	2.39
Instructional Leadership	4,168,459	4,173,954	5,495	0.19
Classroom and Specialist Teachers	23,004,320	23,153,635	149,315	0.69
Other Teaching Services	5,551,902	5,663,089	111,187	2.09
Professional Development	912,497	919,391	6,894	0.89
Instructional Equipment & Tech	3,192,265	3,200,814	8,550	0.39
Guidance and Psychological	1,826,624	2,241,045	414,420	22.79
Pupil Services	1,923,016	1,922,893	(124)	0.09
Operations and Maintenance	6,029,664	6,077,865	48,202	0.89
Employee Benefits/Fixed Charges	6,454,649	9,088,248	2,633,599	40.89
Special Ed Tuition	1,437,054	1,738,297	301,242	21.09
Total Foundation Budget	57,507,761	61,257,057	3,749,297	6.59

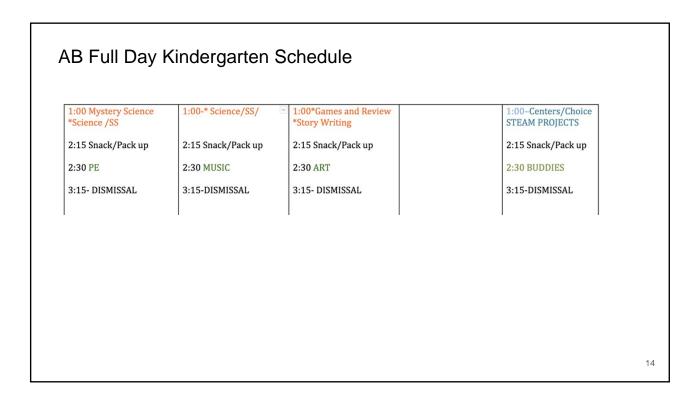




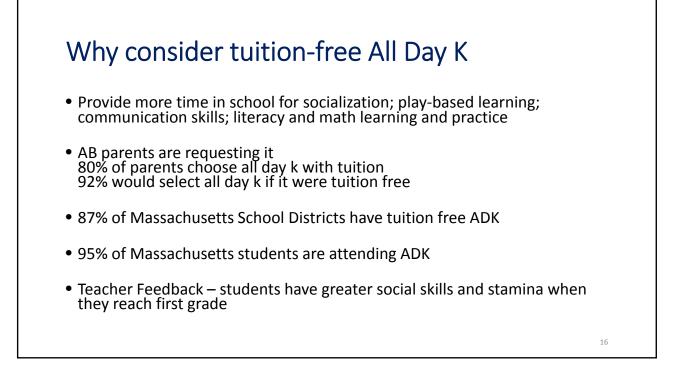


MONDAY TUES	DAY WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:50 routine/choice 8:50 rou	utine/choice 8:50- routine/choice	8:50-routine/choice	9:00 ASM
0:00 Meeting	inack 9:30- Snack ieeting 10:00 Meeting 11:00 Math 10:00-11:00 Math centers/LA Centers Math and LA support	9:30- Snack 9:45- Meeting 10:00- Short Recess/ yoga/movement activity	9:30 Snack/-Buddies 2x month 9:45/10:00 Meeting 10:00/10:15-11:00 Academic/Project STEAM/integration 'Centers/Choice
writing, Writing pport in workshu 5-Readers Workshop 11:40 R	Aloud/SS/Science /Writers academic lesson op poort in 11:40 RECESS	Projects/LA/Math *Centers (Parent Volunteer)	11:00/11:15- Math/LA Lesson 11:40 RECESS 11: 50 DISMISSAL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:50 Meeting	8:50 Meeting	8:50- Meeting	8:50- Mystery Reader	8:50-routine/choice
9:00- Open Circle- *Katie-counselor <i>in</i>	9:00-10:00 Math Workshop Centers	9:00-10:00 Math Workshop Centers	9:00 Meeting 9:15- 10:30	9:00 ASM
9:15 Snack 9:30 Recess	*Brenda in	*Brenda in	Projects, Choice, STEAM Centers	9:30 Meeting
9:45 - Literacy Centers LA- Phonics (Fundations	10:00 Snack 10:30 Recess	10:00 Snack 10:30 Recess	10:00 Snack 10:45 Recess	9:45 Snack
Handwriting, Word work, lit games)		10:45 Writers/Readers	11:00 LIBRARY	10:00 Recess
11:00 Readers Workshop	10:45 Writers Workshop	Workshop	11:45 Science	10:15-11:00 Academic/Projects
11.00 Readers workshop			12:15 Recess	Academic/ Flojects
				11:00 Readers Workshop
11:20 LUNCH 11:45 RECESS	11:20 LUNCH 11:45 RECESS	11:20 LUNCH 11:45 RECESS	12:45 PACK UP/ DISMISSAL	11:20 LUNCH 11:45 RECESS
12:10 STORY	12:10 STORY	12:10 STORY	DISMISSAL	12:10 STORY
12:30 REST	12:30 REST	12:30 REST		12:30 REST
12:55 YOGA	12:55 YOGA	12:55 YOGA		12:55 YOGA



				In addition to the Focus on K2 c	urriculum, the Kindergarten	grade day includes	or may include the following:		
Component	Details	Number of minutes/day	Notes	Content Area	Details	Number of minutes/day	Notes		
Focus on K2 Centers	Intro to Centers	10	mini-lesson for content taught through centers	I WidLi	Investigations [®] or school-selected curriculum	60			
	Centers	60	various content areas, including science and social studies		Number Talks®	10			
	Thinking and Feedback	20		Social Emotional Curriculum	Second Step or other SEL curriculum		varies per school and teacher		
Working on Words: Foundational Skills Block		20			and a second state	CARACTER STREET			
	Shared Reading	10							
	Small Group Literacy Instruction and Literacy Stations	20							
Read Aloud	Interactive Read Aloud and Vocabulary Practice	20							
Writing	SFL-based writing	30				SIL			
Storytelling/Acting	Children tell and act out stories	10	collect children's dictations at another time of day (e.g., arrival or Centers)			A			



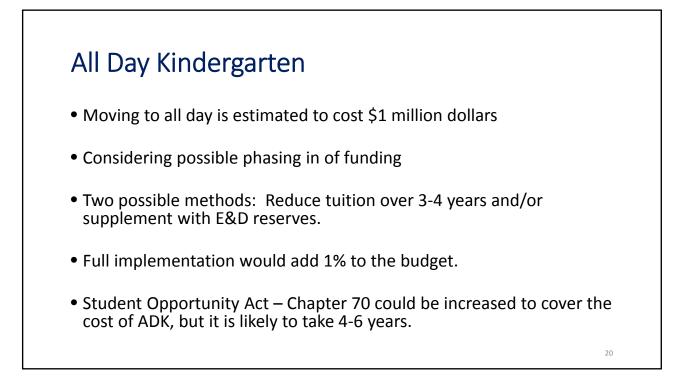
-	20 Budget Estimates ollment and Hybrid K's	
FY19 starting Balance		\$346,157
FY20 Projected Revenue		
F	Actual # Students	
Blanchard (2 ADK)	35	\$157,500
Conant (3 Hybrid)	44	\$198,000
Douglas (3 Hybrid)	43	\$193,500
Gates 2 Hybrid)	26	\$117,000
McT (3 Hybrid)	45	\$202,500
Merriam (3 Hybrid)	47	\$211,500
EstimatedRevenue	240	\$1,080,000
	Scholarships/Services Total	
Scholarships	22 Full and Partial	\$72,020
	Additional Scholarships	
Projected revenue		\$1,008,000
Total Projected Expenses		\$1,080,316
FY20 Projected Profit/Loss		-\$72,316
Projected Fund Balance June 2019		\$273,841

AB All Day Budget

				19-Dec-19		
	ADK Budget					
		Original FY20	FY20 with Hybrids	FY21 with Hybrids		
Salaries - Teachers and Assistants		\$788,598	\$939,549	\$976,465		
Supplies		\$28,900	\$37,400	\$37,400		
Admin Costs		\$40,546	\$40,546	\$41,154		
Health Costs		\$52,821	\$52,821	\$54,934		
Software		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000		
Total Expenses		\$920,865	\$1,080,316	\$1,119,953		
E&D						
Revenues		\$940,500	\$1,008,000	\$1,008,000		
Profit Loss		\$19,635	-\$72,316	-\$111,953		
Fund balance	\$346,157	\$365,792	\$273,841	\$161,889		

Moving to all ADK would save approx. \$80,000 in transportation (state reimburses 72%), district savings = \$22,400). Salaries would increase between FY21 and the year of implementation.

		19-Dec-19
	FY21	
Expenses	\$1,119,953	
Move 1 More Half-Day K to ADK	\$48,051	
Transportation Savings	-\$80,000	
Reduction in supplies budget	-\$10,000	
Total Cost	\$1,078,004	

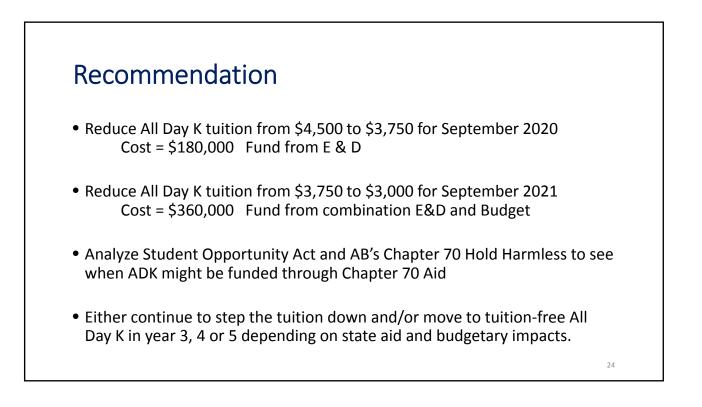


Possible Funding Model 1 – Four year phase in						
	Tuition	Reduced Revenue	Additional Expenses	Budget Increase	Use of ADK Fund	Use of E&D
FY20 (Hybrids)	\$4,500					
FY21	\$3,500	\$240,000	\$120,000	\$150,000	\$210,000	
FY22	\$2,500	\$240,000		\$190,000	\$50,000	\$210,000
FY23	\$1,500	\$240,000		\$200,000		\$300,000
FY24	Free	\$360,000		\$200,000		\$460,000
FY25				\$200,000		\$260,000
FY26				\$260,000		
Total E&D						\$1,230,000

Possible Funding Model 2 – Two year phase in

	Tuition	Reduced Revenue	Increased Expenses	Budget Increase	Use of ADK Fund	Use of E&D
FY20 (Hybrids)	\$4,500					
FY21	\$2,500	\$480,000	\$120,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
FY22	Free	\$600,000		\$200,000	\$110,000	\$740,000
FY23				\$200,000		\$650,000
FY24				\$200,000		\$450,000
FY25				\$200,000		\$250,000
FY26				\$250,000		
Total E&D						\$2,390,000
						22

Possible Funding Model 3 – Immediate						
	Tuition	Reduced Revenue	Increased Expenses	Budget Increase	Use of ADK Fund	Use of E&D
FY20 (Hybrids)	\$4,500					
FY21	Free	\$1,080,000	\$120,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$800,000
FY22				\$200,000	\$60,000	\$740,000
FY23				\$200,000		\$600,000
FY24				\$200,000		\$400,000
FY25				\$200,000		\$200,000
FY26				\$200,000		
Total E&D						\$2,740,000



	Tuition	Reduced Revenue	Budget Increase	Use of ADK Fund	Use of E&D	Student Opportunity Act	
FY20 (Hybrids)	\$4,500						
FY21	\$3,750	\$180,000			\$180,000		
FY22	\$3,000	\$360,000	\$180,000		\$180,000		
FY23	\$2,250 or Free	\$540,000				TBD	
FY24	\$1,500 or Free					TBD	

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	ADK Tuition \$3,750 Offset by \$180k E&D	ADK Tuition \$4,500 No use of E&D	ADK \$4,500 Still Use \$180k E&D	Full Implementation of Free ADK Offset by \$1M E&D
Budget Increase	3.18%	2.98%	2.98%	4.06%
Acton Assessment	3.26%	3.26%	3.02%	3.26%
Boxborough Assessment	1.41%	1.41%	1.17%	1.41%
Use of E&D For ADK	\$180k	0	0	\$1M
Total Use of E&D	\$1M	\$820K	\$1M	\$1.8M
Remaining E&D Balance Estimate*	\$3.6M 3.9%	\$3.6M 4.1%	\$3.6M 3.9%	\$2.8M 3%

*Assumes \$1M replenishment of E&D



Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Meeting Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	12.19.19	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	4.1
AGENDA ITEM TITLE	Approval of Minutes of	School Committee meeting	
PRESENTER(S)	Tessa McKinley		
SUMMARY OF TOPIC	Please review the draft r	ninutes in the packet	

WHAT	WHAT ACTION (if any) DO YOU WISH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TAKE?			
	No action requested - this is a short update or presentation of information			
	Request input and questions from the School Committee, but no vote required			
x	Request formal action with a specific vote:			
	If formal action is requested, is this item being presented:			
	for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent meeting OR			
		x	with the request that the School Committee take action immediately	

If formal action is requested, include a suggested motion or contact Beth Petr.

SUGGESTED MOTION	"Move to approve the meeting minutes of XXX as presented/amended"
FOLLOW-UP	
APPROX. TIME FOR THE AGENDA ITEM (MIN.)	5 min.
ATTACHMENTS	Draft minutes of 11/21/19 - minutes of 12/5/19 to be in Tuesday's addendum

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) DRAFT MINUTES

Auditorium Administration Build	November 21, 2019 6:00 p.m. Executive Session
15 Charter Road, Act	U
Members Present:	Diane Baum (7:00 p.m.), Michael Bo (7:00 p.m.), Amy Krishnamurthy, Adam Klein, Ginny Kremer (6:06 p.m.), Maya Minkin (7:00 p.m.), Paul Murphy, John Petersen, Nora Shine, Angie Tso
Members Absent: Others:	Tessa McKinley Marie Altieri, Dawn Bentley (7:00 p.m.), Deborah Bookis (7:00 p.m.), Peter Light, Beth Petr, Dave Verdolino (7:00 p.m.)

Vice Chairperson Adam Klein called the ABRSC to order at 6:01 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Amy Krishnamurthy moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED by roll call: to enter **EXECUTIVE SESSION under**:

MGL Ch 30A, sec. 21(a) purpose (3): to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee AND MGL Ch 30A, sec. 21(a) purpose 7: to comply with or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements - MGL Ch 30A, section 22(f) to consider approval of executive session minutes of the meeting on October 3, 2019. (YES: Krishnamurthy, Klein, Murphy, Petersen, Shine, Tso)

Adam stated that the Committee would return to Open Meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m..

The Committee returned to <u>OPEN MEETING</u> at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Welcome! Vice Chair Adam Klein welcomed everyone in Tessa's absence.
 - 1.1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
 - 1.2. Public Participation none
 - 1.3. High School Student Representatives Update
 - 1.4. Superintendent's Update

Mr. Light highlighted the new interactive Capital website and Building Project website as valuable resources for the public.

2. GUESTS and PRESENTATIONS

2.1. All Day Kindergarten (ADK) Follow-up Discussion - Marie Altieri

The decision regarding how many All Day Kindergarten sections for next year will need to be made when the Superintendent presents the FY21 budget on December 19th. It would be a \$1M addition to the budget if universal ADK was offered. The presentation focused on the educational and economic factors as a follow-up to the presentation at the School Committee meeting on September 19th.

Research on ADK is mixed. More than half of our kindergarten teachers (8 of 13) would like to go to ADK as soon as possible. More than half of our First Grade teachers (7 of 10) would like to go to ADK as soon as possible.

4.1

1

A recommendation was made to gradually reduce ADK tuition for September 2020 and again for September 2021 using E&D to cover some of the costs. In addition, the new Student Opportunity Act and AB's Chapter 70 Hold Harmless would be analyzed to see when ADK might be funded through Chapter 70 Aid. Tuition would be gradually reduced or eliminated in year 3, 4 or 5 depending on state aid and budgetary impacts. If E&D was used, it could be added to the next year's budget creating a gradual shift into the operating budget that might make it manageable. John Petersen felt strongly that there is no reason to distinguish the use of E&D from the assessment. In his opinion, it is fine to use E&D to reduce the assessment to member towns but this use should be tied to the general budget request, not to any specific program.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that there is scholarship funding for children to attend our ADK if they qualify. Amy Krishnamurthy felt strongly that if ADK is best for students educationally, then we should do it, especially if 92% of parents are asking for it. She does not want to gradually cut the cost for it. Some concern was expressed about moving to an All Day curriculum because trying to fit everything in in the morning so that kids who attend half day get everything done could be stressful. It might be that they have to miss out on music and PE for example.

Marie explained that using the survey data, 80% of families requested ADK in March when they registered, but when families were polled and asked how they would feel if it were free, 92% would choose ADK.

The Committee discussed possible options for families that would like to stick with the half day program. Parents could pick their children up early if they wanted to. If there was a small group in one location, we could offer a half day K program to those who wanted it. The issue would remain though, what gets scheduled in the morning vs afternoon when some children might not be there. Members agreed that the outcomes are not clear, and there would be a significant cost. Although it is too soon to tell, the Student Opportunity Act may provide some assistance. Dave will present more on this at a future meeting but any benefit might take 4-6 years to receive. One member was disappointed that there is not a clearer educational benefit. He felt that family circumstances have changed making ADK an economic need. Members discussed children's anxiety in trying to do too much during a half-day session. One member felt our district is "10 years late" on the decision to move to ADK. Another expressed concern about "the pace of education for these 5 year old Kindergartners" and feels protective of the half-day option. Another member added that we don't know what happens when students spend the other half day outside of school. It could be far more, or less, valuable than ADK. He asked, "which represents the best educational value for us?" Deborah Bookis agreed that there are some wonderful models that they would like to look at regarding the value of play.

Amy Krishnamurthy stated that if the Committee agrees that ADK is educationally important, then we should not be charging for it. Michael Bo added that although some say the District is behind in our kindergarten program, we are ahead in addressing mental health issues because that is a higher priority for the District than ADK at this time.

2.2. Charter Road Planning Update – JD Head and Carolyn Radisch, GPI Representative The District is planning to redesign elements of Charter Road in order to increase pedestrian safety as part of its FY21 Capital Plan Implementation. JD Head and Ms. Radisch reviewed slides on this progress. This is the third year of a large scale three year campus development plan. Bus route timing has been improved, but there are still some safety concerns being worked on. JD spoke about making the pedestrian the priority. Raised intersections and crosswalks slow traffic down. Bike paths and outside social gathering areas are desirable. Drone footage has been used to watch the traffic patterns. Additional sidewalks at the bottom of the Junior High stairs would be good, as well as a covered bike rack.

JD welcomed feedback and questions. He will also share the presentation with the Capital Subcommittee and Senior Leadership.

Comments from the Committee included:

- Happy to see these changes to the campus. Has combining the two parking lots in some manner been considered? JD will put that on his list.
- The traffic calming measures are much better than speed bumps. Maybe include some LED flashing beacons as well.
- Please don't remove any more trees on the campus.
- Drone shots of the McT dismissal show a large bunch of younger children in one area. That might be investigated.
- Love the outdoor High School gathering area and opening of Leary Field.
- The Blanchard drive outside the gym is an area that needs attention.
- Why do we not have speed bumps along the entrance to Charter Road?
- The skateboard area near the tennis court is concerning, as well as the paths.
- A walking path at the bottom of the hill near McT might be helpful.

2.3. District & Superintendent FY20 Goals – First Read – Peter Light

The Superintendent presented his FY20 Goals noting that the district-wide strategy is in transition and will be further developed as the school year progresses. (See 9/11/19 draft) The Building Project has taken a significant amount of time that would have otherwise been spent on the district goals. Mr. Light would like this to be a five year strategy that would include a set of key equity indicators developed with Dr. Bentley and his senior leadership team. The goals are part of the Superintendent's evaluation and how Committee members will provide feedback to Peter.

Mr. Light welcomed comments and questions on the presentation. Members would be asked to vote on his goals at the next meeting. Comments included:

- The goals look really good. Regarding Professional Practice Goal #2, Complete District Strategy, Mr. Light was encouraged to "bring the Committee along" with this even if it means another workshop. It is a collaborative process with staff members and School Committee members.
- There can only be one number 1 priority, which was correctly the Building Project this year.
- This is about looking at our students and how to make them successful. Goals need to be measurable, but also keeping in mind the tangible elements of a deep appreciation for things, like reading, is important.
- Be careful if you attempt to pool girls and boys. There are some dimensions where data should not be aggregated by boys and girls; it's much more sub group related.
- These goals are written in a more holistic way which makes the evaluation hard as process, assessment and evidence are not included with a holistic approach.
- What is the process used to identify the screening tools? How will you measure the outcome? There are many questions and I understand it is a work in progress.
- Overall I'm so happy with the vision and excited about the direction. I like how you are trying to bring more to Social Emotional learning into the elementary schools, and then let the Junior High and High School build on it.
- I like that literacy is taking a position of focus. So much is coming out in research now on literacy and being thoughtful about it.

- I am curious about the differentiation between the lower and upper grades' approaches regarding social emotional well-being and evaluations. How is the approach by evaluators differentiated?
- What do you take off your plate so you can address some new things?
- This is exciting and aligning the School Improvement Plans is interesting. It is challenging to see how they line up with the strategy as a whole. School Councils are developing them now. (Mr. Light responded that a big step forward will be seen this year, and again next year. We don't want the schools to be doing the same thing at the same time. We are saying we have a general direction and when a key initiative happens for your school, that is progress.)
- Why are professional evaluations on growth and development and how teachers will be part of the process? (Mr. Light responded that we are not trying to look at the whole system. We are focused on the student learning goals and the conversations that happen between evaluators and educators - focusing on the dialogue. One of the initial things he did when he came here was look at lots of evaluations and wanted to increase the consistency. The other thing that stood out was that we had an opportunity of changing dynamic between what a teacher does and the impact it has on students. That is what we want to focus on in this shift. This is important work. In a large district, it is important to have a level of consistency in our educators. This is about looking at what's happening in classrooms between educators and kids.
- These goals are not measureable in the classic sense, but looking at the graphic, this member doesn't think the acronym SMART goals should drive Mr. Light's goals. These are what the district needs, this type of infrastructure.

Regarding the Educator Growth and Development Initiative, Mr. Light agreed that Standard 2 is our overall focus as a team, but it is so granular. There is a place for SMART goals but sometimes you lose the value of the goal. He wants the focus on students but the process is through the faculty. He wrote this knowing it would probably be a 3-5 year process.

When asked about the relationship between the strategic initiative and the goal, he explained that we tried to pick some areas across multiple domains so we are continuing to make progress in all areas. Mr. Light said that some of these connections will become more explicit as we go through the year.

3. ONGOING BUSINESS

3.1. Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 10/17/19, 11/05/19 and 11/12/19 - VOTE - Adam Klein moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

<u>VOTED</u>: to approve the minutes of the 10/17/19 meeting as amended. Amy Krishnamurthy moved, John Petersen seconded and it was unanimously,

<u>VOTED</u>: to approve the minutes of the 11/5/19 meeting as written. (Nora Shine abstained.)

Ginny Kremer moved, John Petersen seconded and it was unanimously,

<u>VOTED</u>: to approve the minutes of the 11/12/19 TriBoard meeting as amended.

3.2. FY21 School Calendar – Second Read – <u>VOTE</u> - Marie Altieri

The policy subcommittee will be reviewing the religious holidays policies (File ACD and IMD) to consider including Chinese New Year and Diwali at Michael Bo's request.

John Petersen moved, Ginny Kremer seconded and it was unanimously, **<u>VOTED</u>**: to approve the FY21 school calendar as presented.

3.3. Receipt of FY19 Financial Audit Reports - Dave Verdolino

Dave reported that all three of these reports are required by law to be given to the School Committee every year. He was happy to report that there were no findings. The auditor asked a question about the district having a cash policy. We will communicate to him that we do have one. Dave reported that we are running at about 4% of employee reimbursements compared to last year so the new procedures (P-card) are working well.

3.4. School Building Committee Update - Peter Light, Adam Klein

Many forums have been held these past few weeks. The Acton Fincom and Board of Selectmen both voted unanimously to support the project. Their support is very much appreciated. They might try to do a "live" forum on facebook and are working on the technology. The Superintendent thanked everyone on the Building Committee for their tremendous efforts to get to this point.

3.4.1. Acton Tri-Board Meeting 11/12/19

3.5. Subcommittee Business

3.5.1. Policy - Amy Krishnamurthy

- 3.5.1.1. Public Participation, File:BEDH, First Read (next meeting)
- 3.5.1.2. Tutoring for Pay, File: GCRD Update (oral, to be voted 12/19/19) Policy met earlier this week. The Tutoring draft was brought to the last meeting and now staff and families are being asked for comments by Monday. The updated draft will be shared again at the meeting on Dec 5, and then again for a vote on Dec 19. Mr. Light added that we know this is a big shift in our district but we are working on establishing free math and reading support centers at the Junior High and High School for students to drop in. The district is trying to provide multiple solutions.

3.5.2. Budget - Diane Baum

Members discussed the audit, projecting budget variances, the capital spreadsheet, OPEB and the use of E&D at their recent meeting.

3.6. School Committee Liaison Reports

3.6.1. MASC/MASS Conference Recap (Nov 6-9)

Nine Committee members attended this year which was significant. Most reported that it was very valuable to spend time with fellow members and talk about how to move our district forward. Adam noted that AB was recognized for already working on many of the topics presented. John appreciated learning more about the MSBA's perspective on square foot reimbursement for new buildings. They know that their top reimbursement rate is well below current construction rates. Their rate is set to strike a balance between helping to make projects "affordable" for communities and funding an appropriate number of projects.

3.6.2. Acton Finance Committee

John Petersen reported that in addition to supporting the School project, the Fincom also unanimously voted to support the North Acton Fire Station. David Martin presented an update to the sewer project. After significant discussion, the Finance Committee voted 4-3 to recommend the article. Generally the Finance Committee has significant concerns about the large increase in tax bills that will occur as the result of these capital investments. Through Q1, Acton municipal finances and enterprise funds are tracking expected results.

3.7. CONSENT AGENDA – VOTE

- 3.7.1. Acceptance of Donation from Littleton Electric Light & Water to Blanchard
- 3.7.2. Acceptance of Donation from ABR PTSO to the Jr High for the 8th Grade Dance
- 3.7.3. Acceptance of Donation from the Acton Debate Institute to the ABRHS Speech & Debate Team

3.7.4. Acceptance of \$1,217.10 Anonymous Donation to Pay for Outstanding Jr High Student Lunch Balances

Given no holds on the consent agenda,

Ginny Kremer moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the consent agenda.

The Superintendent thanked all of the generous donors.

3.8. Statement of Warrants

Adam Klein read the warrants into the record and members signed the documents.

The ABRSC was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda with documents used

Next Meetings:

ABRSC, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building Auditorium (packet posted MONDAY, 12/2/19)

ABRSC, December 19 at 7:00 pm in the Administration Building Auditorium (packet posted 12/13/19)



Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Meeting Agenda Item Summary

	12.19.19	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	4.2
AGENDA ITEM TITLE	School Building Comm	nittee Update	
PRESENTER(S)	Peter Light		
SUMMARY OF TOPIC	Next Steps for the Building Project given the results of the Special Town Meetings & ballot votes		

WHAT	WHAT ACTION (if any) DO YOU WISH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TAKE?				
x	No action requested - this is a short update or presentation of information				
	Request input and questions from the School Committee, but no vote required				
	Request formal action with a specific vote:				
_	If formal action is requested, is this item being presented:				
	for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent meeting OR				
	with the request that the School Committee take action immediately				

If formal action is requested, include a suggested motion or contact Beth Petr.

SUGGESTED MOTION	
FOLLOW-UP	
APPROX. TIME FOR THE AGENDA ITEM (MIN.)	5 min
ATTACHMENTS	Meeting minutes

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT School Building Committee (SBC) Draft Minutes

Administration Building AuditoriumNovember 13, 215 Charter Road, Acton, MA 017207:00 p		
Members Present:	Mary Brolin; Amy Krishnamurthy; Maya Minkin; Peter Light; Marie J Dennis Bruce; Jason Cole; Bob Evans; Bill Hart (arr 7:09pm); Gary Kushr Newman (arr 7:05pm); Katie Raymond; Mac Reid; Chris Whitbeck.	
Members Absent:	Becca Edson; JD Head; Adam Klein; Maria Neyland.	
Other:	Karen Coll; Representative from Skanska: Chuck Adam; members of	f the public.

1. Mary Brolin called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. MSBA Updates – Mary Brolin, Peter Light

Mary Brolin said the MSBA approved our project at their October 30th board meeting. In their letter of acceptance, they said they had approved a contribution of \$36.7MM toward the project; this doesn't include contingency expenditures because they don't approve those in advance but their letter also noted that they will reimburse us for those eligible expenses for a total MSBA contribution of \$38MM. Chuck Adam said that he is working with the district and the MSBA on the final contract, which is contingent on town approvals. Chuck will ask the MSBA to update our project's cost information on its website, which still has the higher numbers from before the Value Engineering reductions.

3. Acton Board of Health/Permit Updates -- Mary Brolin, Peter Light

Mary reported that the Acton Board of Health has approved a permit for our septic design based on a reduced flow rate. The initial requirement was that the septic be designed to accommodate a flow rate of eight gallons/person/day. Given the low-flow equipment planned for this building and our history in other buildings, the Board of Health had been asked for a reduction to five gallons/day. They were more comfortable with a six-gallon/day level, which still puts the septic under the total volume threshold of 10,000 gallons/day that would have required a variance from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

4. Design Updates - Mary Brolin, Peter Light

Engineering consultants at Nitsch are working to determine a separate cost for the septic system, which will be the basis for setting the district's payment if we opt to connect to the expanded sewer system. Separating out the septic-specific costs is not straightforward because some are embedded into overall project costs, but Nitsch will have the information before we need to make a decision. There were no other design updates.

5. CM at Risk Update – Skanska

Chuck Adam said that the CM at Risk subcommittee received qualifications packages from seven construction firms, although one has since withdrawn. Chuck thinks it's a great group of candidates. A second walkthrough was held on Veterans Day, which was chosen because the buildings would be vacant. The tour took almost two hours, and about 35-40 people attended, which shows how seriously they are taking it. There were a lot of questions about the pedestrian bridge and about the sewer/septic issue.

Amy Krishnamurthy said there were a number of construction companies with vendor booths at the recent MASC conference, and they were very interested in talking to people from Acton-Boxborough. Chuck added that one of the potential construction firms attended the MSBA board meeting on October 30th.

The last day for firms to submit questions is Friday, November 15th. Proposals are due to us by November 22nd at 10:00am. Chuck will distribute the proposals and the subcommittee will review them until their December 4th meeting; at that meeting they will either create a short list or decide to interview all of them. Interviews will be Monday, December 16th; they are open meetings, although only subcommittee members can vote. The SBC will hold a brief meeting right after the Town Meeting and ballot votes, on December 18th, to move forward with finalizing the CM contract.

6. Plans for Special Town Meeting Presentations – Mary Brolin, Peter Light

The Special Town Meetings are less than a month away. Mary gave committee members an overview of the Town Meeting logistics. The building project is Article #1 in both towns. An Acton School Committee member, John Petersen, will make the motion for the building project at the Acton TM, and Peter Light will make the presentation. In Boxborough, Tessa McKinley will make the motion and Mary will make the presentation. ABC members will go to the STM in their home towns so they can vote. Chris Whitbeck will be at the Acton TM and Lynne Newman will go to Boxborough. Presentation slides are due to Boxborough Town Hall by December 4th; Mary didn't have the date when slides are due in Acton.

The presentation in Acton is limited to 12 minutes with eight minutes for the Finance Committee response, which will be presented by Jason Cole. Mary is also planning a 12-minute limit for her presentation to the Boxborough TM, and there will be no FinCom presentation. Because the 12-minute time limit doesn't allow for much detail we expect to get a number of questions from the audience, including some about technical issues such as the ground source heat pump system and its costs. Representatives of Arrowstreet and Skanska will be at both Town Meetings to support our responses. SBC members can ask questions at TM; they should identify themselves as SBC members but note that they speak as town residents.

At the Acton TM, short video clips for each article will be shown, which will include the taped school tours and a video of a public forum. At the Boxborough TM, SBC members will sit facing the Select Board; in Acton, it's not clear whether the School Committee or the SBC will sit up front. Amy Krishnamurthy said that our seating should reflect the fact that the SBC has been doing the work on this project, not the School Committee. John Petersen said the presentation should highlight the way the SBC has worked with the MSBA and functioned as a group to increase confidence in our process; we have been working on this since 2015. John, Peter, Tessa and Mary will meet on November 20th to go over the presentations.

7. Community Outreach and Communications – Mary Brolin, Peter Light

Many outreach events have been held, in a variety of venues. The November 4th public forum was poorly attended, with only about 10 community members, but it was filmed and posted on town websites the next day. The League of Women Voters event had 25-30 attendees, as have most other groups. People have been generally very supportive of the building project. The biggest hurdle is the projected tax impact but we also need to clarify what will happen if the project doesn't pass. Mary was concerned that some Boxborough

residents seem uninformed about the project; we need to work hard to get the word out to them. Information has been sent to all Blanchard families, as well as a list of preschools and community groups.

Peter Light suggested holding a Facebook forum as a way to reach people who don't come out to meetings. We also need to increase our presence on social media; Adam Klein has had a very busy work schedule and has been traveling so Katie Raymond will pitch in on Facebook. She will work with Victoria Clifford of Skanska on the content. Katie can reach out to some key parents who will follow us on social media and reshare our posts. Lynne Newman knows a Gates parent who would like to help out and might be able to work on Twitter and Facebook with Katie. Peter Berry will check with the town of Acton to find out if there's a way information could be emailed to all town residents; we don't know if there is an email distribution list for Boxborough.

- 8. Minutes Jason Cole moved, Katie Raymond seconded and the minutes of the October 23, 2019 SBC meeting were unanimously approved as written.
- 9. Invoice Approval Arrowstreet, Skanska and other Invoices No invoices to approve.

10. Adjourn

The committee decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for December 4th, and to hold a brief meeting instead to discuss the CM contract on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30pm at the high school.

Amy Krishnamurthy moved, Mac Reid seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Coll

Documents Used: Draft Minutes of the October 23, 2019 SBC Meeting

Next Building Committee Meetings (all in Administration Building auditorium unless otherwise noted): December 18, 2019 (meeting will be in ABRHS Room 115N at 6:30pm) January 8, 2020 January 29, 2020 February 12, 2020 February 26, 2020 March 11, 2020 March 11, 2020 March 25, 2020 April 8, 2020 April 29, 2020 (4/22 is school vacation week) May 13, 2020 May 27, 2020 June 10, 2020 June 24, 2020



Meeting Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	12.19.19	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	4.3
AGENDA ITEM TITLE	Subcommittee Bus	iness - Policy	
PRESENTER(S)	Amy Krishnamurthy		
SUMMARY OF TOPIC	Second Read and V <u>Note</u> : Policy subcom versions and may br	d Public Participation policy. OTE on Tutoring for Pay policy revision. mittee will meet on 12/19/19 at 9:00 a.m. t ing edits to the School Committee meeting ng is posted and open to the public	

WHAT	WHAT ACTION (if any) DO YOU WISH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TAKE?			
	No action requested - this is a short update or presentation of information			
	Request input and questions from the School Committee, but no vote required			
x	Request formal action with a specific vote:			
	If formal action is requested, is this item being presented:			
	X for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent meetin OR		for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent meeting OR	
	with the request that the School Committee take action immediately		with the request that the School Committee take action immediately	

If formal action is requested, include a suggested motion or contact Beth Petr.

SUGGESTED MOTION	"Move to approve the Tutoring for Pay policy GCRD as revised."
FOLLOW-UP	
APPROX. TIME FOR THE AGENDA ITEM (MIN.)	15 min
ATTACHMENTS	Drafts of the two proposed revised policies

First Reading File: BEDH

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DRAFT following 11/19/19 Policy Subcommittee meeting w counsel review

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public, except for "Executive Sessions" which will be held as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee welcomes citizens of the District to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear the public's <u>ideasinput</u>.

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the Committee have the opportunity to speak and to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures have been adopted by the Committee:

1. At each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the Committee. The Chairperson shall determine the length of the public participation segment.

2. Each speaker will be allowed two (2)three (3) minutes to present his/her statement. The presiding Chairperson may permit extension of this time limit at her/his discretion.

3. Topics for discussion are not limited to those items listed on the School Committee meeting agenda for that evening. However, items not on the agenda must be brought up during public participation portion of the meeting. Due to the requirements of <u>the</u> Open Meeting Law, the School Committee may not be able to respond to items brought up during public participation.

4. All remarks will-shall be addressed through the Chairperson of the meeting.

5. <u>Topics raised during the Public Comment period shall be limited to items that are within the School</u> <u>Committee's authority</u>. <u>Areas that are within the School Committee's authority are: District educational</u> <u>goals; policies; budget of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District; and the performance of the</u> <u>Superintendent.</u>

Speakers may offer such objective feedback regarding school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints regarding school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving District personnel. Staff and student confidentiality must be preserved.

6. Written comments that would exceed two (2) spoken minutes may be presented to the Committee before or after the meeting for the Committee members' review and consideration at an appropriate time. Letters or emails addressed to the School Committee will be shared with the Committee members and will be responded to by either the Committee Chair, Vice Chair or appropriate administrator. Emails to the Committee are considered public records as defined by Mass General Law.

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

Public Participation is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between or among citizens and the School Committee. Rather it is intended to offer citizens an opportunity to express their opinion on issues <u>regarding of School Committee</u> business. While the Committee and /or administrators will not typically respond to citizen comments or questions posed during Public Participation, the Chair, as presiding officer of the meeting, may answer or request an answer to a question if he/she deems it readily available. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.

Approved 11/20/14

Legal Ref: M.G.L. 30A, Section 20 (f)

TUTORING FOR PAY First Read 11/5/19, Second Read following 12/19/19 Policy Sub (highlighted yellow paragraph replaces bullet above)

Private tutoring is the provision of private instruction or assistance to an individual or group for which the employee receives payment other than through the school district.

Students are entitled to reasonable assistance both in and outside of class times without charge from their current teachers. Teachers will make themselves regularly available to provide extra help to current students.

ABRSD employees are responsible to follow the conflict of interest guidance. The Massachusetts Ethics commission has a helpful <u>FAQ</u> available to provide specific guidance as it relates to tutoring and other areas of potential conflict. The conflict of interest laws <u>M.G.L.</u> <u>Chapter 268A</u> specifies the following regarding school employees tutoring:

- An ABRSD employee, whether full or part-time, shall not be permitted to receive compensation for privately tutoring one of his/her current students.
- If a student may be a future student of an ABRSD employee, the employee may tutor the student if they have filled out the disclosure <u>form</u> and submitted it to Human Resources.
- Employees who act in a supervisory capacity shall not tutor ABRSD students within the subject or program area which they supervise.
- <u>ABRSD employees may not recommend that one of his or her own students receive</u> tutoring. Rather, teachers should offer extra help and support materials for their students.
- ABRSD teachers regularly provide extra help to their students. Drop in centers, staffed by teachers, are available free of charge to students in grades 7-12. Teachers may recommend these and other supports to students and families. However, to avoid putting an undue financial burden on families, teachers will not recommend private paid tutoring services.
- School facilities may not be used for private tutoring.
- School materials, other than those brought by students, may not be used for private tutoring by a school employee. Staff may not use school resources, including school email, to support private tutoring (e.g. copier, supplies, etc.).
- The district will provide a list of tutors on the website. To be included in the tutoring list, the tutor will fill out a form that includes college degrees, any DESE licensure, and area of specialty. The tutoring list will provide a disclaimer that the district is not endorsing any private tutoring provider.

- During the course of their regular employment, school employees may not advertise or solicit tutoring services in any way. Employees may not tell students or parents that they are available for tutoring services, or advertise tutoring services using school resources, including school email. If asked for a recommendation, staff members will refer parents or students to the list on the district website. Staff members may not recommend specific tutors.
- If the district needs to hire an employee to tutor a student, this is not considered private tutoring, and this is not subject to the rules above. Tutoring paid for by the district will be allowed as long as the tutoring rate is specified in the teachers' contract or the support staff contract, whichever is applicable to the employee.

Legal Reference: M.G.L. 268A; Mass. Ethics Commission FAQs for Public School Teachers

ALG Minutes October 30, 2019 Room 204, Acton Town Hall, 6:30 PM

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator: Christi Andersen & Roland Bourdon, FC; Joan Gardner & Jon Benson, BoS; Diane Baum, SC; John Mangiaratti, Peter Light, Marie Altieri & Steve Barrett, Staff.

Absent: Amy Krishnamurthy, SC

Audience: David Martin, BoS; Mark Hald, Asst. Town Manager; Brian Mc Mullen, Assist. Assessor & Finance director; & Charlie Kadlec.

Additional documents: Agenda; October 10 Minutes; Town of Acton Multi-year financial model (ALG spreadsheet); Schedule of meetings and events; Nov. 4 BoS votes for December 10 STM; excerpt of ATM 2016, Article 10 to authorize debt issuance for Minuteman; Town Counsel's opinion on the need to have an additional Town meeting vote on Minuteman debt and bond counsel's response

I. Regular business

1. There was a hold on both the October 10 & September 19 minutes

II. New/Special business

2. FY 20 update

Peter: Nothing new

John: tax bills will go out next week; otherwise nothing new.

3. FY 21

Steve: no changes to the financial model. Tax levy is to maximum extent; state aid is level; local receipts is level; \$1.3m in reserves. Until budgets are added, there will be no changes.

4. School building

Peter reported that they received the formal approval from the MSBA; \$38M with this formal authorization they are looking towards the STM in December. He took the plans to Boxboro and their selectmen, finance committee and school committed voted their approval.

5. West Acton sewers

John reported that they were on track for the December STM; those in the district have received notification of their projected betterments; they are answering the feedback from that notification. There will be an additional public forum on 11/14 to answer betterment questions.

6. Minuteman

John reported that town counsel has written that there need not be another town meeting vote for the authorization of the money. There does need to be a ballot vote on authorization of a debt exclusion. There will not be an article on the warrant at the STM for Minuteman.

Jon noted that the Minuteman ballot vote could be either on December 17, along with the other debt exclusions for the school and fire station or at the town election on March 29. He asked which date was better.

Marie noted that it would be difficult to get the budgets changed if the vote were delayed until March. Roland agreed saying that it gave the town only one week to find a way to absorb the \$423K into the operating budget. If the vote were to fail on the 12/17 then there would be more time to figure out the necessary changes.

Jon noted the concern that voters would not know why the Minuteman question was on the ballot. It was agreed that not having to "scramble" to find the funds, it was better to have the Minuteman question on the 12/17 ballot while there needed to be a short presentation at the STM on the Minuteman ballot question.

The BOS will meet on Monday and determine the articles for the STM warrant; they will also ask the Town Moderator for time to explain Minuteman.

7. Fire station

John reported that there has been an update on the cost estimate; Monday he will report to the BoS; there will be a public forum on 11/05 at the public safety building.

8. STM & ballot

At present the warrant has four articles: school building; North Acton Fire station, Sewers and a charter change for the Board of selectmen to Select Board.

There was a discussion on the ASTM (Additional Special Town Meeting) and when that could be scheduled before the STM on December 10. John noted that the BoS would make that decision on Monday but it appeared that it would most likely be Dec 3. The BoS will open and close the warrant at their Monday meeting. The single article for the ASTM is non-binding.

Christi asked that it be scheduled so the FC could meet before.

9. Tri-Board Meeting.

There was a general discussion on the pending Tri-Board meeting scheduled for November 12.

It was decided to change the time from 5:30-6, making it easier for board members to get there in time. The venue was also discussed and the schools suggested that they meet in the school administration building. The school committee members will see if that venue is free and let the others know. Members were reminded that they need to post the meeting for each committee under the OML.

The meeting will go over the articles for the STM and have presentations. There were discussions as to whether or not decisions on support for the articles could be made after the presentations. Roland thought that the FC would need more time to deliberate. The FC positions will be made public at their Nov.19 meeting.

Bart: so there is an agreement that the Tri-board meeting will start at 6:30, with social time starting at 6 ; the FC will present their POV but not their positions.

10. POV---nothing new

- 11. Review of Multi-year plan
- SB: No changes

12. Future meeting

The next ALG is scheduled ALG meeting is Nov. 14. There was discussion as to the need of this meeting so close to the Tri-board meeting. It was decided to keep the date but make a decision later. There was a desire to meet before the Dec 3. Additional STM. It was decided that they could possibly meet before the start of the meeting. No actual decision was made.

The next scheduled meeting will be on December 13, 7:30 AM in room 204.

13. Public

Charlie asked that the STM be covered on TV. Peter noted that the administration building, a possible site for the Tri-board meeting was also connected to Acton TV.

Adjourned 7:25

Ann Chang

Additional documents: Agenda; October 10 Minutes; Town of Acton Multi-year financial model (ALG spreadsheet); Schedule of meetings and events; Nov. 4 BoS votes for December 10 STM; excerpt of ATM 2016, Article 10 to authorize debt issuance for Minuteman; Town Counsel's opinion on the need to have an additional Town meeting vote on Minuteman debt and bond counsel's response

ALG Minutes

October, 10 2019; 7:30 AM; Room 204 Town Hall

Present: Bart Wendell, Facilitator: Joan Gardner & John Benson, BoS: Christi Andersen & Roland Bourdon, FC; Amy Krishnamurthy, SC; John Mangiaratti, Peter Light, Steve Barrett & Marie Altieri, staff. Absent: Diane Baum, SC.

Audience: David Martin, BoS; Mark Hald, Asst. Town manager; Brian McMullen, Asst. Assessor & Finance director; Bonnie Lobel, COA; John Petersen, SC & Charlie Kadlec.

Additional documents: Agenda; Minutes of July 31; DOR Free Cash approval; Town of Acton Multi-year financial model (ALG spreadsheet); Finance committee POV---slide show

I. Regular Business

1. Minutes of July 31 were accepted with typo corrections

II. Special Business

2. FY 20 Update

John: Not a lot of changes: DOR certification for reserves; we are on plan.

Peter: no changes

3. FY 21 Revenue projections

Steve: Projection total: \$105,434,495. That assumes a tax levy to the full extent; level state aid; @ 1% increase in local aid; addition of debt exclusion numbers. There is a need to look at more economic data.

Marie: The state is working on a student opportunity project which will look at the distribution of Ch. 70 aid, health insurance and SPED. We are using the minimum of \$20-\$30/pupil. If the legislation passes the larger districts will get more money; in several years we will expect to get increases.

Peter: I think it will take 3-4 years for us to catch up.

4. School building project

Peter reported: a meeting with the staff of the MSBA to go through the building project budget to determine what would and would not be reimbursed. The grant is \$38M which is lower than expected.

There was no reimbursement for : the second stage so that was removed and the floor will be flat; hazmat and asbestos removal will not be reimbursed; they will reimburse for the demolition of only one school---that will be the Gates; the modulars needed for the transition will not be fully reimbursed so they will reduce the number of modulars. Acton's share will be \$66.3M with a tax impact range of \$452-\$509 a year for a median value home. There will be a 25 or 30 year bond at a conservative rate of 3%. Peter: "The debt strategy committee has a strong interest to stay at the lower end of the range."

There was also a presentation to the Boxboro boards where the project was favorably received by board members.

Jon asked if the number for the avoided costs for the sewer/septic had been finalized.

Peter indicated that there was a meeting with the Board of Health next week where that would be discussed.

Once the building numbers are voted, they cannot increase but may decrease.

5. West Acton Sewer

John said the project was "moving along" and there was a forum in West Acton tonight where the final service area map would be voted. It's approximately a \$15M project. Once all the properties are determined, betterments will be calculated. The project will be in two phases with Phase 1 being a forced main in the area to serve the new school building; Phase 2 will fill-in all the other properties. There are approximately 200 parcels and the owners will be notified shortly about their betterment costs. By phasing, it is expected that there will be more competition and bids will be lower. If everything goes as planned, betterment assessments will start to be paid in 2023; we think they will be in the \$35K range over a 30-year borrowing cycle.

6. Minuteman

John went to the ribbon cutting for the beautiful new building.

John said that the payment for the Minuteman debt was not excluded but as per a 2016 agreement was coming from the operating budget. He said that the increase in the costs increasing and that he was making a request from the town to put the Minuteman debt into a debt exclusion bond.

Bart: Is there any object for the town to make this change?

Christie: That's exactly what debt exclusion should be used for: to cover the costs over time. Questions were asked about the rate and Steve explained that it was 3.25% but MM still had another bond outstanding and needed to wait for the MSBA audit before it was floated.

7. North Acton Fire Station

John said the project was in pretty good shape; it's a \$9.5M project; they were doing some value engineering; looking at the square footage but want the building to be flexible for the future; that a traffic engineer will have a report in several weeks. John expect to present the project to the Tri-board session on November 12th.

8. STM & Election

School space is reserved; 1,700 clickers will be available; they are working on a draft warrant and will be speaking with the Town Moderator.

Amy: I feel confident that all the kinks have been worked out.

John: We are OK with 1700 but not 4,000

Marie: the overflow will not be in the cafeteria but in the gym which should make the sign in easier and faster.

9. FC POV----this was a slide show

The POV presented town statistics and followed them with concerns.

Of interest: 74.1% of Acton households (5884) have no children while 25.9% (2057) do have children; Acton's share of the school project is \$66.7M; there is a debt for Minuteman of \$10.5M

The FC's concerns include: 71% of next year's town budget is going for salaries and fringes; for the schools the percentage is 80; there is an annual increase in Middlesex retirement. Under OPED the town owes \$16.1M; investing \$600K/year; liability decreased by \$452K; will be fully funded by 2023. Schools owe \$43.8M; pay out \$900K/year; liability increased last year by \$1.8M; will be fully funded by 2092.

FC recommended: town continue OPED; Schools add an additional \$100K/year; \$1.6M yearly investment required to fully address service costs in a timely manner.

FC future capital projects:

1-5 years: Douglas/Gates; (new capital improvements, use of override funds); North Acton fire station; WA sewers; updates on existing fire stations; waste water treatment plant upgrades.

5-30 years: Conant replacement; DPW building; ABRHS administration building.

FC recommendations for future capital projects: Bring in outside funding where possible; fund ongoing maintenance within operating budget; prioritize capital needs before they become critical; present capital improvement scorecard at ATM.

Concerns: Recession ----which will require vigilance; watch revenue numbers; limit budget growth; stop depending on reserves for operating budgets.

Recommended reserve policy: minimize use of reserves and E&D; only use reserves and E&D for onetime unforeseen capital emergencies.

Concern: Land purchases

Make no future land purchases without a clearly outlined purpose. 19-21 Maple street is OK; parking fees will pay for the purchase; 53 River street is an ongoing risk---the dam; 348-364 Main street--learn from our mistakes

K-Mart parcel: development may have traffic, school use, commerce, residential/commercial tax base and quality of life implications.

Take Always: tax bills expected to increase \$500-\$550 from all debt exclusion votes. Operating budgets should increase no more than 2.5% and not to exceed 3%.

Jon said that the outcome for the 348-364 Main Street was something the town needed and people wanted to have dedicated senior housing.

Christi noted that the town did have a pro-active housing plan but that buying that land at inflated prices was not the way to go. The town needs to have a specific plan for the purchase of land and not try, after the fact, to find a purpose.

Jon said that it was a special case and that circumstances led to a good outcome.

Roland suggested that they look at 53 River Street instead. They have already missed \$23,249.23 in lost tax revenue and there is the unknown liability of the dam

Jon noted that there was a great deal of neighborhood objection to the planned 40B that would be in the flood plain. He added that there was a committee working on the project and they would come out with a project acceptable to the community. Sometimes we must listen to the voices from the community

Marie said she liked the presentation and suggested that it was nearly ready for presentation at the STM. She asked that they get together off-line to go over the debt charts and the average house assessment.

It was agreed that the finance directors from the school and town would look at the charts and make sure they were correct.

11. Public

John Petersen congratulated the FC on their POV and was happy to see they are looking toward the future. He suggested that the target budget increase may be hard to accomplish since there is inflation and the budgets are primarily salaries.

Bonnie Lobel suggested that the FC's POV was misleading and gives a false impression that the tax increase will be in the \$500 range when for many it will be much greater. She also noted that the FC is depending on the incoming increase [in assessments] and does not add that to the tax increase.

Christie said the FC is aware of the tax impact differences for different families and that using averages does not focus on individual bills.

Charlie said he thought the FC POV was a good thing for the STM. He also asked that the debt for the rest of the school buildings be shown.

Peter said that the schools were working on a debt sheet that would show the outstanding school debt as it related to each building.

12. Next meeting

October 30, 6:30 PM in 204

13. Adjourned 8:45

Ann Chang

Additional Documents: Agenda; Minutes of July 31; DOR fee cash approval; Town of Acton Multi-year financial model (ALG spreadsheet) and FinCom POV---slide show

Meeting Notes Acton Leadership Group September 19, 2019 7:30 AM Acton Town Hall – Room 204

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator, Joan Gardner and Jon Benson, Board of Selectmen; Christi Andersen and Roland Bourdan, Finance Committee; Diane Baum, Amy Krishnamurthy and Paul Murphy, Regional School Committee; John Mangiaratti, Peter Light, Marie Altieri, and Steve Barrett, Staff.

Audience: Charlie Kadlec, Bonnie Lobel, Brian McMullen (Staff); Dave Verdolino (ABRSC Finance Director)

Handouts at the Meeting: Town of Acton Multi-Year Financial Model dated 19-Sep-19, Review of Projection FY21, Minutes of the Acton Leadership Group dated August 29, 2019, Draft Schedule of Meetings and Events for Special and Annual Town Meetings, Draft Warrant for December 10, 2019 Special Town Meeting (embargoed).

Regular Business

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

After discussion, the Minutes for the August 29, 2019, meeting were agreed to with minor corrections. Consideration of the minutes of the July 31 meeting was postponed.

New/Special Business

2. FY20 Update

Town (Mangiaratti): Town Hall is on track; Town has had some additional financial support from the Legislature. For CPC projects: \$100K for the Asa Parlin house; \$150K for the NARA bathrooms as well as \$100K toward the transportation shuttle for Maynard.

Schools (Light): On target for FY20; considering bonding capital items from last year's Town Meeting to piggy back on borrowing costs with school construction.

- 3. Review of Multi-Year Financial Model
- 4. Discussion of FY21 Revenue Projections

Mr. Barrett reported that the newest version of the model includes debt exclusion for the Region and changes in the average tax bill.

The following points were made:

Benson: FY21 projections include \$1.3 million in reserves from the Town and \$505,000 from E&D (schools). There appears to be the need for another \$1.2 million in cash.Altieri: Budget numbers will come in lower and impact the gap.Andersen: Does the tax bill calculation include the debt exclusion? Answer is yes.

Altieri: Debt exclusion did have short term bonds in it but is now showing long term bonds for financing. Barrett: Tax bill does include the fire station and assumes taxing to the full available levy; conservative local receipts and level funding from the State. Bourdan: Will State aid go down in a recession?

5. School Building Update

Mr. Light introduced David Verdolino, Finance Director for the Regional School District to present the current thinking on financing options.

October 30: MSBA appointment with final vote on package presented September 11; staff level meeting on October 3 to get good sense of the numbers.

Debt Strategy Subcommittee looked at several models for issuing debt. Assumption for Acton is an 85 percent share at a 3 percent bond rate. Considered when to borrow, term, structure of the bonds and old vs. new debt.

Based on historically low interest levels, the subcommittee recommends borrowing project debt as soon as possible and forego short term borrowing (eliminate the outlay for short term financing.) Looking at a 25-30 year term, probably with level total payments. The range of incremental difference for the average taxpayer is about \$442 annually (25 year financing) to \$498 (30 year financing).

This range will be superimposed on existing debt for Jr. High and High School which will expire after year five.

Every ¼% change (up or down) in the 3 percent rate will be about \$14.

Mr. Light pointed out that they are also looking at piggy backing the capital project money for current projects with the hope of saving on issuing costs.

In response to Mr. Benson, Mr. Light explained that the earlier projections of 650-800 over the summer did not reflect the impact of changing the short term borrowing and the lower interest rates. Initial costs were higher as well and the change to a level payment schedule over a longer period helped.

Ms. Andersen stated that the number scared her and encouraged a 30 year schedule in light of the additional costs for the fire station and potentially sewers for people in West Acton. Mr. Light assured her that the School Committee is sensitive to these concerns and Ms. Baum agreed that there could be sticker shock and said it would be important to explain the value in context.

6. West Acton Sewer

Mr. Mangiaratti reported that outreach forums were underway including a presentation to the School Building Committee prior to finalizing the participants in the new district. There will be additional information for ALG. Ms. Andersen commented that this is an additional fee on top of the capital projects and that the affected residents have no control over whether they pay or not. Mr. Benson asked about the number of residents and businesses in the district.

Mr. Mangiaratti explained the proposed plan is to determine the number of homes in the new district in November when the Board of Selectmen will act as Sewer Commissioners. He cautioned that the information in the Draft Town Meeting Warrant (Article 3) was for reference only.

7. Minuteman Vocational Technical High School

Mr. Barrett explained that the ALG Model assumes that the Town will approve bonding the debt for the new Minuteman school construction. In response to Mr. Benson's question about considering the matter at the Annual Town Meeting in April, Ms. Altieri explained that the ballot question would have to be on the Town Election ballot in March prior to Town Meeting consideration. Mr. Benson said the borrowing information will have to be precise for consideration in December.

8. North Acton Fire Station Update

Mr. Mangiaratti reported that the schematic design cost for the station is \$10.9 million with 25 percent for contingencies. The project is now going through value engineering to reduce costs without sacrificing the project's mission. The old estimate was \$7.5 million plus design, which brought the total to \$8.2 million. The delta includes escalation in construction costs, soft costs for FFE and specialized equipment specifically required for firefighting; e.g., air pack refill equipment and a decontamination chamber. The number carried in last year's budget was \$9.5 million.

In response to Mr. Bourdan's question, he confirmed there were no new fire trucks included in the estimate.

9. December Special Town Meeting and Special Town Election

Mr. Mangiaratti referred to the Draft warrant distributed at the meeting, reminding the group the document was very preliminary and as such should not be shared.

10. Future Meeting Schedule

Wendell reminded the group that the meeting schedule should include two meetings in both January and February (if needed) and one in March. The next ALG meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2019, at 7:30 AM.

11. Finance Committee Draft Point of View

No updates; will be on agenda for next Finance Committee meeting.

12. Public Comment

Mr. Kadlec suggested that debt service for capital project be stretched out as long as possible (level funding) to take advantage of low borrowing rates. He also predicted a high likelihood of needing additional firefighting staff subsequent to construction of a fourth station. Mr. Mangiaratti stated that the current plan anticipates no new firefighters; there will be a longer term analysis. Mr. Benson indicated the Selectmen would be considering the question of closing one of the stations.

Ms. Lobel, representing the Council on Aging, spoke on behalf of residents who are living on fixed incomes and asked for financial information applicable to their financial reality. She also asked for more focus on the available tax exemptions. Mr. Magiaratti responded that there was an increased number of residents using a total of \$525,000 in exemptions this past year; by comparison in FY12 (5 years ago) the total was \$300,000.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 am. Submitted by Pat Clifford on behalf of Ann Chang



Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Meeting Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE	12.19.19	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	4.5
AGENDA ITEM TITLE	CONSENT AGENDA		
PRESENTER(S)	Peter Light		· · · · ·
SUMMARY OF TOPIC	Two donations to be app	roved by the Committee	

WHAT		(if any) DO YOU WISH SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO TAKE?									
	No action requested - this is a short update or presentation of information										
	Reques	t input and questions from the School Committee, but no vote required									
х	Reques	t formal action with a specific vote:									
	-	If formal action is requested, is this item being presented:									
		for the first time, with a request that the School Committee vote at a subsequent meeting OR									
		with the request that the School Committee take action immediately									

If formal action is requested, include a suggested motion or contact Beth Petr.

SUGGESTED MOTION	"Move to approve the Consent Agenda as proposed."
FOLLOW-UP	
APPROX. TIME FOR THE AGENDA ITEM (MIN.)	5 minutes
ATTACHMENTS	Two donation letters



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Paul P. Gates School 75 Spruce St. Acton MA 01720 Ph. 978-266-2570 Gates.abschools.org



Lynne Newman Principal

December 4, 2019

Mr. Peter Light Superintendent of Schools Acton-Boxborough Regional School District 16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Light,

I would like to request the acceptance of the gift of money from O'Connor Studio in the amount of \$1,690.91. This amount has been designated for the purchase of picture books for each grade level that will enhance our balanced literacy program at Gates

I hope you will present this request for acceptance of the O'Connor Studio gift of \$1,690.91 to the Acton Boxborough Regional School District School Committee at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lynne Newman

Lynne Newman Principal

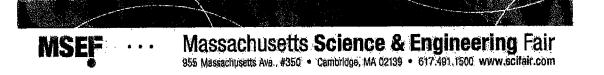
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Mernorandum To: Peter Light From: Larry Dorey Date: 12-4-19 Re: 2019 Sanofi Genzyme Science School Award

Please present to the School Committee this award presented to ABRHS/Science Department:

ABRHS Recipient	Donor (Amount
	Massachusetts Science &	
ABRHS-Science Dept.	Engineering Fair and Sanofi	\$9,000.00
	Genzyme Corporation	

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November 8, 2019

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Mr. David Baumritter HS Science Department Leader Acton-Boxborough Regional High School 36 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

Dear David:

On behalf of the Sanofi Genzyme Corporation and the Massachusetts Science & Engineering Fair, I am pleased to send you a check for \$9,000 for the 2019 MSEF Sanofi Genzyme Science School Award earned in conjunction with Antara Pal receiving the \$27,500 (total) Sanofi Genzyme Science Award. This award money is to be used for the purchase of laboratory equipment as outlined in your October 22, 2019 proposal. Upon receipt of your final report, preferred by June 30, 2020, a check of \$1,000 will be mailed to you/the school.

I hope that visual recognition will be given to Sanofi Genzyme in your new research area.

Congratulations to you, the school, and of course, Antara, for this outstanding achievement.

Sincerely,

Eleanor A. Tishler Vice President of Corporate Development 888 437 3247 | etishler@scifair.com



ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

December 5, 2019

Mr. Peter Light Acton-Boxborough RSD 16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Light,

In appreciation of the many clients we are privileged to service in Acton & Boxborough, we are pleased to make this donation to the school department. Lueders Environmental is a Lawn, Tree & Shrub care company specializing in science based environmentally sound approaches and attentive customer service.

Contributing to your school department is a way we can give back to the Acton & Boxborough communities for considering us the company of choice. I always hope that in supporting education, other companies will join us. Please use these funds in any way you consider appropriate.

Sincerely,

Mile hunders

Michael Lueders President

MEL/cll Enclosure

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104 Acton residents attend school in Boxborough

69 Boxborough residents attend school in Acton