

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING
(Pre Acton Annual Town Meeting)

Room #102 East
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

April 2, 2018
6:00 p.m. Executive Session
6:20 p.m. (approximately) Open Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Motion: "that an executive session be convened under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel."

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

3. Possible **VOTE** to Approve the Superintendent Contract Between Peter Light and the ABRSD – *Amy Krishnamurthy (brought to meeting)*

4. Town Meeting Presentation by the Committee
 - a. Approval of Statement from the Regional Financial Oversight Committee – **VOTE** – *Mary Brolin*

5. Proposed Legislative Communication from the Committee
 - a. Approval of Letter regarding Gun Violence and Regulations - **VOTE** – *Paul Murphy*

6. Approval of Minutes

7. Adjourn

Posted on 3/28/18 at 12:45 p.m.



Article (TBD):

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (ABRSD) Assessment



Motion

Ms. Krishnamurthy moves that the Town appropriate \$59,981,958 to be expended by the Superintendent of Schools to fund the fiscal year 2019 assessment of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, and to meet this appropriation,

\$ 59,567,005 be raised from general revenues and

\$ 414,953 be transferred from Free Cash.

[Requires a Second]




Acton Town Meeting April, 2018



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District



Acton Assessment – Article 5 ABRSD School Committee Presentation



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District



School Committee Members

- Diane Baum
- Brigid Bieber
- Mary Brolin
- Dennis Bruce
- Amy Krishnamurthy
- Tessa McKinley
- Maya Minkin
- Paul Murphy
- Kathleen Neville
- Deanne O’Sullivan
- Eileen Zhang



ABRSD Highlights 2018-2019





Acton-Boxborough Regional High School



Merriam/McCarthy-Towne



Blanchard





Conant



Admin Building



R.J. Grey Jr. High School



Gates



Douglas



Our Mission and Goals




Mission

To develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships


Goals

1. *Understand and respond to our students' social and emotional needs.*
2. *Our students will have equitable opportunities and tools to learn.*
3. *Our students will have access to safe and effective learning environments.*



Wellness • Equity • Engagement



ABRSD FY2019 Operating Budget





	FY2018	FY2019
Budget	\$86,090,491	\$88,721,492
Prior Year Budget	\$83,073,204	\$86,090,491
\$ Change from prior year	\$3,017,287	\$2,631,001
% Change from prior year	3.63%	3.06%

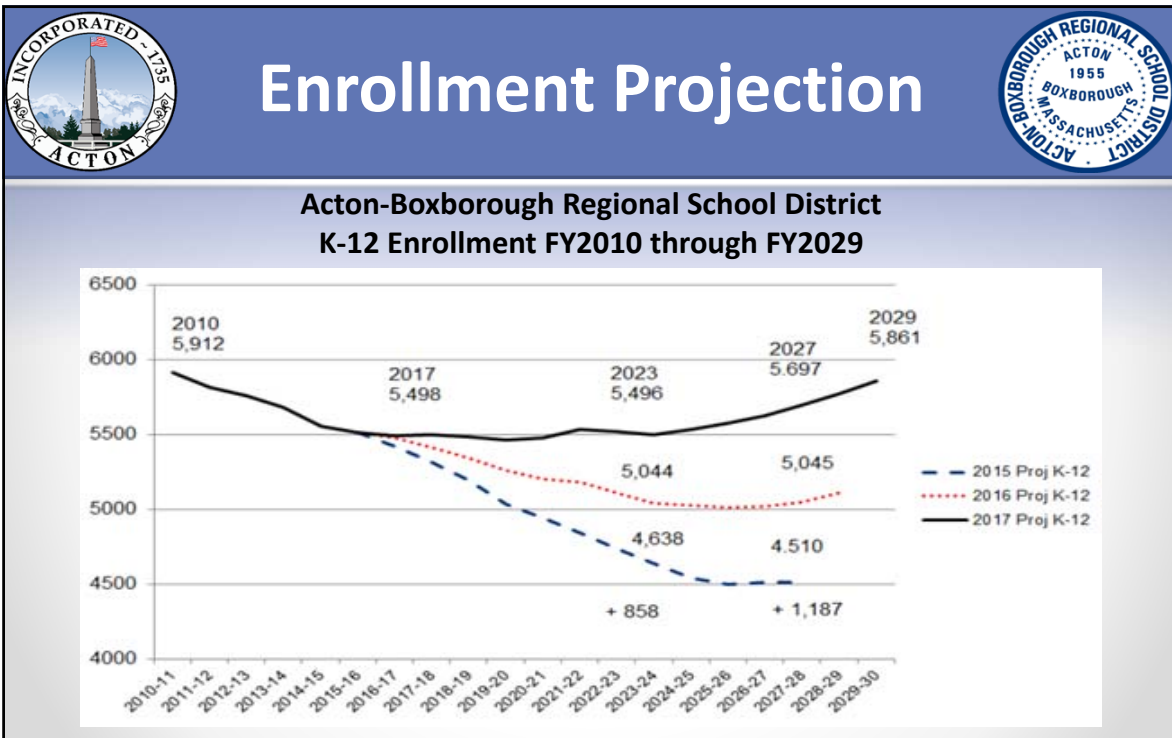
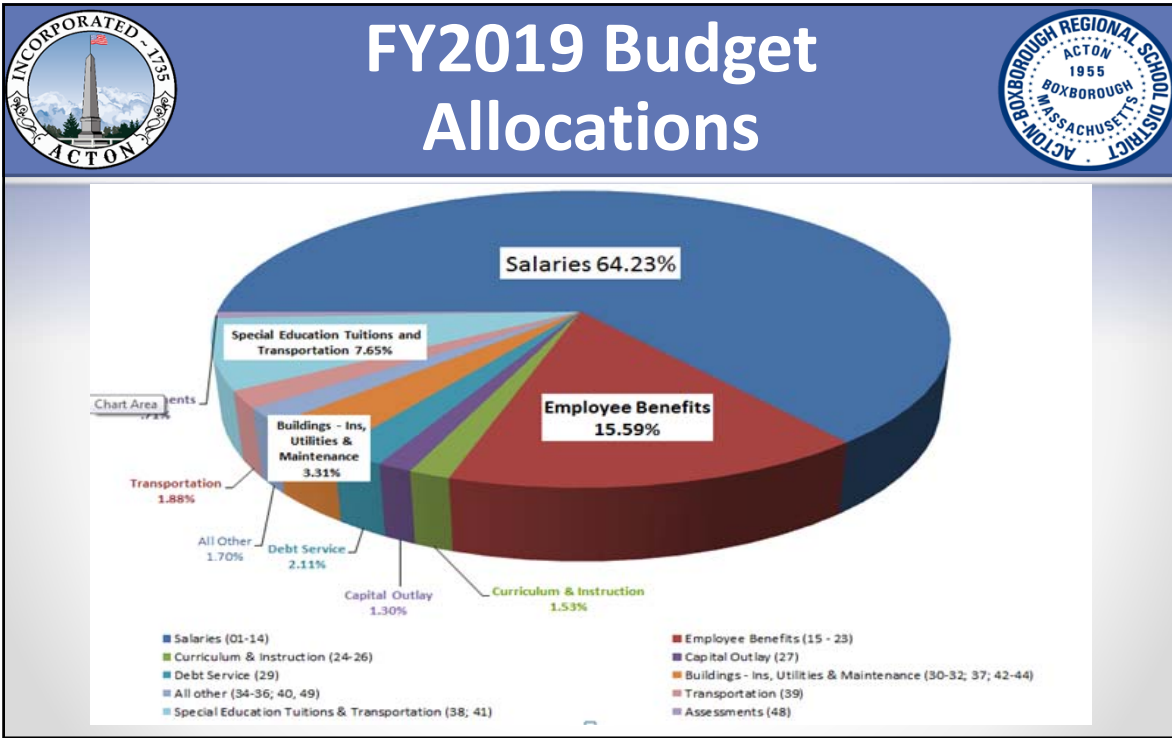
Acton Assessment

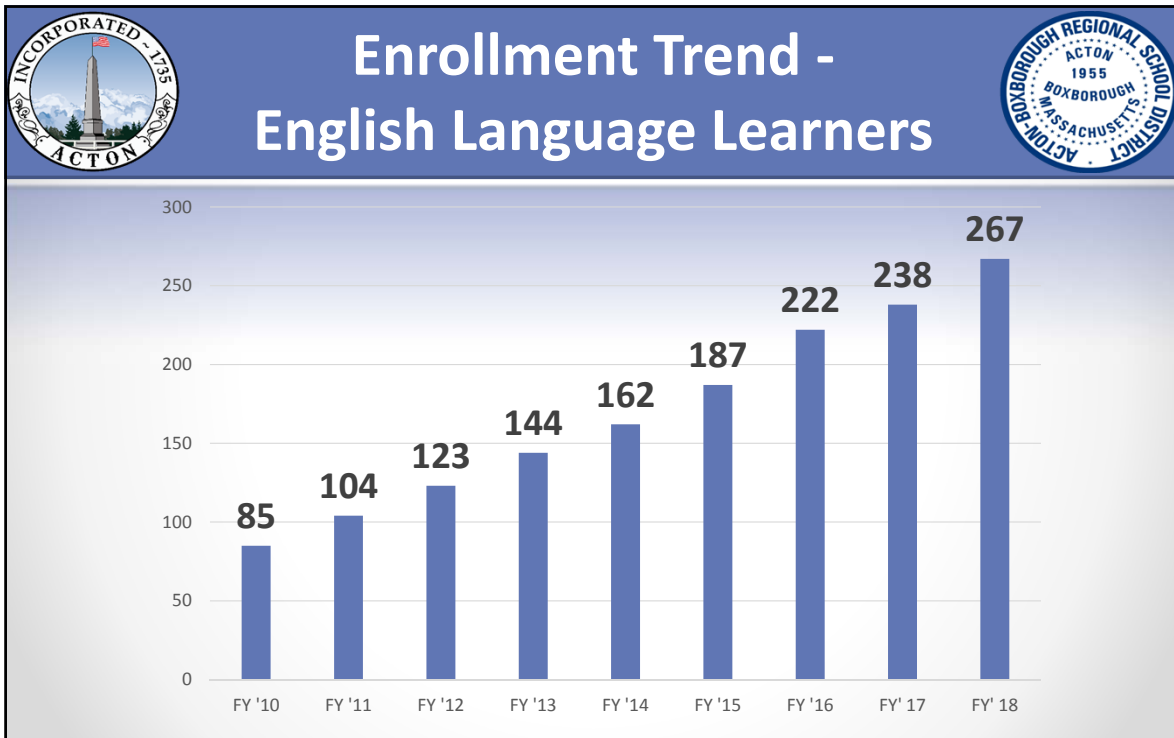
	FY2018	FY2019
Acton Assessment	\$57,730,056	\$59,981,958
\$ Increase from prior year	\$2,182,959	\$2,251,902
% Increase from prior year	3.93%	3.90%

Source of Significant Budget Drivers



Single-tier Elementary Busing (Start Time Changes)
Health Insurance – 5.0% Rate Decrease
Continued Investment in Capital Needs
Classroom and Other Teaching Staff





FY2019 New Staff Requests



Position	FTE
Elementary Classroom Teachers to Address Large Class Sizes	2.0
English Language Education Teacher	1.0
Special Education	1.5
Curriculum Support and Instructional Coaches	2.0
Strings Program - Expand from 0.6 to 1.0	0.4
Net FTE Increase	6.9

Capital Projects Spending

Fiscal Year	Appropriated (rounded \$000s)
FY2015	\$154,000
FY2016	\$195,000
FY2017	\$273,000
FY2018	\$761,000
FY2019*	\$1,000,000

* - FY19 projects address Windows, HVAC, Masonry, HS auditorium and Cafeteria Upgrades, Flooring, Paving

E&D History under Full Regionalization

Fiscal Year	Total Regional Budget	E&D Usage	E&D Balance	E&D as a %
FY2015	\$77,100,514	\$300,000	\$1,072,454	1.4%
FY2016	\$80,296,395	\$200,000	\$1,950,365	2.4%
FY2017	\$83,073,204	\$200,000	\$2,738,661	3.3%
FY2018	\$86,090,491	\$200,000 +\$250,000	\$4,008,284* < Leary Field	4.7%
FY2019 Voted	\$88,721,492	\$200,000 +\$575,000	< "annual usage" < single tier busing	TBD

* \$710K committed to MSBA feasibility study by A-B and town meetings.



Article (TBD):

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (ABRSD) Assessment



Motion

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\$ 59,567,005 be raised from general revenues and

\$ 414,953 be transferred from Free Cash.

[Majority Vote]

**Statement from the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Regionalization Financial Oversight Committee**

March 27, 2018

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee created a sub-committee in the Fall of 2013 to review the projected financial benefits of Regionalization proposed by the Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) and presented to both Town meetings in the Spring of 2013.

The expectation was that the sub-committee would be in existence for five years. It consists of representatives from the Acton and Boxborough Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees and two School Committee representatives.

After reviewing in detail the average per pupil costs for each elementary school for FY 17 and the projected financial benefits we concluded unanimously that: (1) per pupil costs for Blanchard Elementary School in FY '17 continue to be significantly less than before regionalization, and (2) the projected regionalization savings, cost cutting measures, and increased Regional transportation aid are accurate and consistent with estimates that were presented at both Acton and Boxborough Town Meetings in the Spring of 2013.

Thank you!



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Superintendent's Office
16 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720
978-264-4700 www.abschools.org

5.

April 4, 2018

DRAFT

TO: President Donald Trump, Secretary Betsy Devos, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, Congressman Richard Neal, Congressman Jim McGovern, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, Congressman Joseph P Kennedy, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, Congressman Seth Moulton, Congressman Mike Capuano, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Congressman Bill Keating

RE: Taking Action to Prevent Further Gun Violence

Dear President Trump, Secretary Devos, and Members of Congress from Massachusetts:

It is with great sadness and mounting outrage that we find ourselves bearing witness once again to another tragedy borne of gun violence; this latest incident occurring on February 14, 2018 at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where a 19-year old armed with an AR-15 style semi-automatic rifle activated the fire alarm and began to fire at students and teachers and killing seventeen people. The United States appears to be unique in the developed world in that it has suffered repeated tragedies without taking adequate action to stop gun violence.

It is unconscionable that these types of tragedies persist. The Second Amendment empowers Congress to regulate firearms, yet Congress has consistently abdicated on numerous opportunities to do so and has been unresponsive to the outcries following school massacres. While the leaders in Congress fail to act, the students in our District have spoken out and continue to speak out; saying "Enough." To show their support for the responsibility that has thus far been lacking in Congress, students of our District have joined many other schools across the nation in the National School Walkout held on March 14th. Other demonstrations are also planned. We encourage this activism, but we are disheartened that the leadership on gun violence is not coming from our leaders in Congress. Rather, it is coming from students who have a legitimate concern for their safety.

This rampant gun violence makes it clear that as long as guns continue to be poorly regulated, the Second Amendment is not serving our society in the manner in which it was intended. It's the duty of Congress to correct this fault. Further delay will only allow more gun violence.

We demand that Congress act now to pass legislation that, at a minimum:

At ABRSD, our mission is to develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships.

WELLNESS - EQUITY - ENGAGEMENT



**Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Superintendent's Office**

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

- prevents access to assault rifles,
- makes background checks more robust,
- makes background checks universal.

Sincerely,

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee

Amy Krishnamurthy, Chair

Brigid Bieber, Vice Chair, Boxborough

Paul Murphy, Vice Chair, Acton

Diane Baum

Mary Brolin

Dennis Bruce

Tessa McKinley

Maya Minkin

Katie Neville

Deanne O'Sullivan

Eileen Zhang

Cc: James Eldridge, Massachusetts State Senator
Jennifer Benson, Massachusetts State Representative
Cory Atkins, Massachusetts State Representative

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WELLNESS - EQUITY - ENGAGEMENT

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING
DRAFT Open Minutes

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

Monday, March 12, 2018
7:00 p.m. Open Meeting
8:00 Executive Session (approximately)

Members Present: Diane Baum, Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Amy Krishnamurthy, Tessa McKinley, Maya Minkin (by remote, left at 9:12 p.m.), Paul Murphy, Kathleen Neville, Deanne O’Sullivan (left at 9:38 p.m.), Eileen Zhang
Members Absent: none
Others: Bill McAlduff, Beth Petr

1. The ABRSC was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Amy Krishnamurthy.

2. **Chairman’s Introduction – Amy Krishnamurthy**

The Chair announced that member Maya Minkin was participating remotely due to geographic distance per policy BEDJA. Mary Brolin mentioned that Open Door Theater’s production of Cinderella will open this weekend. She spoke very highly of this special community organization and urged the public to see the show.

3. **Public Participation**

Four members of the public spoke separately in favor of reopening the search, given their perceived lack of significant experience on the part of the 2 finalists and an internal candidate that they believe has that experience. One person stated that part of a good search is to identify candidates internally and externally, and that the process should be slowed down. Marie Altieri was thanked for her years of invaluable service to the schools and community.

Angie Tso thanked the search committee and the candidates. She was on the site committee and felt that that was well organized and very helpful to get to know the finalists better.

Amanda Bailey, chair of AB SPEDPAC and a member of the screening committee, was very positive about the process and the finalists, describing committee members as people who cared deeply about the kids, staff and community. The committee paid close attention to the candidate profile that was agreed on by the School Committee throughout the search process.

4. **Superintendent Search Discussion**

Amy Krishnamurthy thanked the public for their input, especially those that had just spoken. The remainder of the meeting would be School Committee discussion. She reviewed the steps taken emphasizing that a large amount of time and effort were spent on them, and that it was a process that the District can be proud of. She described the screening committee as a diverse group of very intelligent people.

Mr. Parker visited the District on February 28 and Amy reviewed that day. Tessa McKinley shared a summary of the community feedback and forms. On March 2, the site visit team went to Weston High School. Mary Brolin shared their summary. She thanked all of the stakeholders in Weston and Franklin as well as the visiting team. Reference checking was done by Dennis Bruce.

Mr. Light visited the District on March 1 and went through the same process. Tessa McKinley shared a summary of the community feedback and forms. Paul Murphy reported on the site visit to Franklin. Brigid Bieber did references for Mr. Light.

The Committee discussed the two finalists.

Strengths and positive qualities were noted for both Mr. Parker and Mr. Light. They were described as thoughtful and committed to this next step in their careers, although neither of them had been a Superintendent before and both lacked some of the desired experience.

Mary Brolin expressed concern that the Committee was looking for significant Central Office and regional budget experience and she didn't see it. She felt both could grow into the job, but that the District doesn't have time for that. Brigid Bieber agreed but felt the process had to be respected. Paul Murphy agreed with Mary and would support reconsideration if the Committee wanted to discuss it. Tessa McKinley strongly defended the process and was inspired by both of the finalists, despite them not having all of the desired experience. She and Maya Minkin noted the strong professional staff in place that could help the new Superintendent. Katie Neville agreed and was enthusiastic about Mr. Light.

Deanne O'Sullivan stressed that the process needs to be trusted. In response to a comment from the public, she does not think the School Committee has ever "cowered to the public". She said that Mr. Light took the initiative to understand our town before coming. Although Mr. Parker was thoughtful and logical in his interview, he didn't seem to take that initiative as much. She was inspired by both.

Diane Baum emphasized that the candidate profile, carefully built by everyone in the district, drove the process and was a credo outlining the critical qualities the Committee was looking for. She believes that the finalists are outstanding leaders to consider. Mr. Parker understands how to empower people, and is a galvanizing force in his district. She wonders about the scalability of his skill set given we are twice his size as a district, but he could do it. She felt that Mr. Light could hit the ground running and is a phenomenal communicator. She quoted him saying that it is the district leadership team that sets the pace and that is key to her.

Eileen Zhang did the two site visits and was very impressed by both districts and how their staff and students felt about Mr. Parker and Mr. Light. She likes both finalists.

Amy Krishnamurthy enjoyed both days hosting the finalists at AB. Both were very creative and charismatic and focused on the students. She felt Mr. Light was stronger because of his communication skills and experience. She stressed that whomever is chosen, it is important to be very thoughtful about how Central Office Administration is used to fill in the experience gaps that either of these finalists will have. A strong support system must be in place.

Mary Brolin stated that if she had to choose, she would lean toward Mr. Light. She liked them both and admired their work to date, but asked the Committee if they think it's ok to bring someone in that will need a growth period given the complexity and needs of our district at this time. Mary does not see how that could happen without Central Office having to pick up more work.

Mary agreed that the process was set and should be trusted, but if an appropriate pool of candidates wasn't received, another process could be started. Tessa strongly disagreed, saying that she is willing to take the risk and hire Mr. Light because he will learn what he needs to know. Members advocated for not starting a new process.

Brigid Bieber stated that Mr. Light definitely hits more of the points on the profile. To her personally, it's important to have the ability to move things forward and make decisions and Mr. Light can do this. He also recognizes what he needs to know and reaches out to get the knowledge that he needs from others. She thinks Mr. Light has many of the qualities needed but not the depth of experience. She agreed that he is a visionary and that is exciting to think about. She would support his candidacy.

5. Possible Recommendation to Appoint

Dennis Bruce moved:

to appoint Peter Light to the position of Superintendent of Schools beginning July 1, 2018 pending successful contract negotiations.

Tessa McKinley seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

The Committee discussed and agreed on the importance of providing appropriate support to the new superintendent, including participation in one of the MA Association of School Superintendent programs.

The Committee **VOTED and APPROVED** the motion by Roll call:

IN FAVOR: Baum, Bieber, Bruce, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Minkin, Murphy, Neville, O'Sullivan, Zhang
OPPOSED: Brolin

At 9:02 p.m., the meeting was suspended by the Chairperson. She returned to the meeting at 9:10 p.m. and stated that she had called Mr. Light and he was excited to learn about the appointment. Maya Minkin left the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

6. Executive Session

At 9:13 p.m., Amy Krishnamurthy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously, **VOTED BY ROLL CALL**: To enter Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel per M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) (IN FAVOR: Baum, Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Minkin, Murphy, Neville, O'Sullivan, Zhang)

The Chair stated that the Committee would return to open meeting for the sole purpose of adjourning.

At 9:49 p.m., the Committee returned to open meeting and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: Agenda, Summary of Community Feedback regarding the Superintendent Finalists, Summaries of Site Visits, NESDEC Candidate Profile, Finalists Memo dated 2/15/18, Resumes for A. Parker and P. Light

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING
Draft Minutes

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

March 15, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Diane Baum, Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Tessa McKinley, Maya Minkin, Paul Murphy, Kathleen Neville, Deanne O’Sullivan, Eileen Zhang
Members Absent:	Dennis Bruce, Amy Krishnamurthy
Others:	Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Dawn Bentley, Bill McAlduff, Beth Petr, Dave Verdolino

1. The ABRSC was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Brigid Bieber, Vice Chairperson from Boxborough.
2. **Chairman’s Introduction** –
Deanne O’Sullivan was thanked for her past 6 years of service on the Committee. Dennis Bruce was thanked for serving for the past year, as well as his prior service. They both chose not to run for re-election.
 - 2.1. Annual Spring Town Elections
 - Acton Election is March 27
 - Boxborough deadline to submit papers is April 3 for Election on May 22
3. **Public Participation**
Terra Friedrichs stated that she is running for Selectmen in Acton.
4. **Blanchard Memorial School Presentation – Dana Labb**
Principal Dana Labb gave a terrific presentation with Dr. Karen Tower on their School Improvement Plan and activities at Blanchard. Dana congratulated Karen on her promotion to Principal of a school in Lynnfield. She will be greatly missed at Blanchard.
5. **Proposed Legislative Communication from the School Committee**
 - 5.1. Draft Letter regarding Gun Violence and Regulations - **VOTE** – *Paul Murphy*
The Committee reviewed the draft letter that they decided to send several meetings ago in response to the recent tragedy and public outcry. They decided not to include the issue of arming teachers. It was agreed that all members would sign it.

Bill McAlduff mentioned that there is another initiative that some School Committees in MA have started called the Parkland Project. They are looking for Committees to sign and plan to send it to the President after 100 days have passed so there is time for the School Committee to discuss it at their next meeting.

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously, **VOTED**: that the ABRSC approve the Draft Letter about gun related school violence and that said letter be sent to our elected federal representatives (Senators and Congressmen,) the President of the United States and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Further, our elected state representatives and Senator should be copied on the letter.

6. **MCAS Update – Deborah Bookis**

The Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning reviewed the Spring MCAS 2017 results emphasizing that they are only one measure of a child's growth and achievement. These results are a baseline for the new ELA and mathematics tests. See memo. It was stated that these tests should not be compared to last year's tests per the state because they are different. It would be like comparing apples to oranges. All test schedules are now posted on the website. They are all untimed this year.

The Committee asked if there had been any response to the letter Deborah sent to Mitchell Chester in October 2015. She also wrote back to them regarding the growth piece. Because we cannot compare this year's test to last year's, how can we look at comparable growth. The response from the MCAS chief analyst said that they did feel like validity was there. When asked how we assess if our students are coming prepared for the Junior High and High School, Deborah stated that benchmarks are reviewed, and decisions made about where we want them to be. We have different students every year, and therefore sometimes different standards. Eileen Zhang asked about accountability levels and was told that they involve growth percentiles and achievement, and that there are several factors that go into a school's score. She is concerned about the no homework policy. Deborah feels that these new tests will help the District understand more of what is going on. Over time, different schools perform differently. This performance is something that the principals discuss with the teachers, noting that sometimes different students also account for some of this. In response to a question, Deborah said that students and staff are very comfortable now using the computer tests.

7. **School Building Committee Update – Mary Brolin**

7.1. MSBA Meeting on 2/14/18

Bill McAlduff reported that all went as planned at this meeting in Boston.

7.2. Recommendation to Submit Statements of Interest (SOIs) to MSBA for

7.2.1. Conant School – **VOTE**

7.2.2. Gates School - **VOTE**

The deadline to submit new SOIs to the MSBA is April 6. The Administration recommends that the Committee submit for the Gates and Conant Schools as has been indicated all fall. The documents will be unchanged from last year with the exception of enrollment data. We believe the focus will be on a two school project involving Douglas and Gates or Conant.

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 6, 2018 for the Luther Conant School located at 80 Taylor Road in Acton, MA 01720 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

Priority #2 Elimination of existing severe overcrowding:

The Conant school's capacity based on gross square footage and MSBA guidelines is 307 students, compared to 442 students as of 10/1/17.

Priority #5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility: The Conant School was built in 1970 with essentially no renovations, other than roofing in 1986.

Priority #7 Replacement of, or addition to, obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirement: Lack of proper accessibility and space at the Conant School affects programs that may be offered to these students.

; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 6, 2018 for the Paul P. Gates School located at 75 Spruce Street in Acton, MA: 01720 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

Priority #2 Elimination of existing severe overcrowding:
The Gates school's capacity based on gross square footage and MSBA guidelines is 300 students, compared to 402 students as of 10/1/17.

Priority #5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility: The Gates School was built in 1968 with essentially no renovations, other than roofing in 1986.

Priority #7 Replacement of, or addition to, obsolete buildings in order to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirement: Lack of proper accessibility and space at the Gates School affects programs that may be offered to these students.

; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

7.3. Building Committee Meeting on 2/28/18 and 1/31/18

Documents used may be found at: <http://www.abschools.org/district/school-capital-and-space-planning>

7.4 Recommendation to Approve Changes to Building Committee Membership - **VOTE**

Mary Brolin asked the School Committee to revote the membership, particularly given a change in the Boxborough Finance Committee rep from Ted Kail to Gary Kushner. Also, Dennis Bruce will need to change from a School Committee member to a Community member. Rob Bukowski, Brian Griffin and Damian Sugrue will leave the Committee.

Paul Murphy moved, Tessa McKinley seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the AB School Building Committee members as presented
by Mary.

8. **Merriam School Principal Announcement** – *Bill McAlduff*
Bill McAlduff welcomed Assistant Principal Juliana Schneider as the new Principal replacing Ed Kaufman. It was a very complete and rigorous process and he thanked Marie Altieri for leading it.
9. **Town Meeting Preparations** (*Acton Meeting begins April 2, Boxborough on May 14*)
 - 9.1. Presenters for Acton and Boxborough – *Brigid*
Amy Krishnamurthy will present in Acton and Brigid Bieber will present in Boxborough.
 - 9.2. Financial Reporting of Per Pupil Costs per the Regional Agreement (Section 11/App A Section e) – *Dave Verdolino*
Dave Verdolino reviewed his memo that will be shared with the Regional Financial Oversight Committee (RFOC) at their meeting next week. He concluded that much of the variation shows as change in per pupil expense from FY16 to FY17 can be attributed to normally occurring factors. Adding the Pathways program at the Blanchard School added costs to that school, but ultimately created districtwide savings that are misleading if not understood. There is also a somewhat similar situation with the Conant school. The RFOC will create a statement to be voted on at the pre Acton Town Meeting School Committee meeting based on this information. This analysis was only to be done for 5 years per the Regional Agreement because when full regionalization began Blanchard's per pupil cost was significantly higher than the Acton schools' but that is coming into line more now.
10. **Kindergarten Registration Update** – *Marie Altieri*
Marie Altieri reviewed the memo. Placement and the lottery will be done by the end of March and she will report on that at the next meeting. Blanchard will have four Kindergarten classes. New children moving to Boxborough must have the option to go there so they may have a hybrid class next year to be sure all who want ½ day Kindergarten can get it. Marie discussed this year's lottery saying that it will involve mostly Blanchard with a few students for Douglas. She noted that Blanchard used to be thought of as having lots of space available but it is now full. Dana Labb has done an exceptional job managing his space. Dawn Bentley mentioned that incoming kindergarten families have noted that they speak 32 different languages. Next week they will screen 132 incoming Kindergarten students for ELL services (44% of these incoming students).
11. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - 11.1. **Policy**
 - 11.1.1. NEW: Section 504, File: IHBA – Second Read – **VOTE** - *Dawn Bentley*
Diane Baum moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously
VOTED: to approve this policy as amended for a comma.
 - 11.1.2. Discipline of Students with Disabilities, File: JKF – First Read – *Dawn Bentley*
Dawn Bentley distributed a revised version that included required language from the recent DESE review.
12. **School Committee Member Reports** (*oral*)
 - 12.1. MASC/MASS Summit on Poverty, 3/9/18 - *Diane Baum, Tessa McKinley*
Diane Baum and Tessa McKinley attended due to the significant increases in our students who receive free and reduced lunch. The rate of increase concerned both of them and they wanted to try to understand how to meet the needs of this population. The main speaker talked about the pedagogy of poverty providing a

framework of how to encourage more (build new knowledge) and do less (memorizing). Much of this works for all students. They also talked about the hidden costs of education such as field trips, athletic fees, yearbooks, etc. and how this affects families. Brigid Bieber mentioned the Homeless Coalition on presentation on Sunday that is open to all. All agreed it is an important topic to continue discussing.

- 12.2. ALG Meeting on 2/28/18
Bill McAlduff referred to the minutes stating that FY19 work is now wrapped up.

13. Consent Agenda – VOTE

- 13.1. **Statement of Warrants & Approval of Minutes of 3/1/18, 2/28/18, 2/15/18**
13.2. **Donations to our Schools – Bill McAlduff**
13.2.1. ABRPTSO Grant of \$1500 to the High School for Community Service Awards Night
13.2.2. AB Boys Basketball Boosters (\$621) and AB Colonial Club (\$2100) Donations to High School for cheer/gymnastics teams mats
13.2.3. Blanchard PTF donation of \$3750.60 for ipads and covers at Blanchard
13.3. **High School Field Trip to France, 4/9/19 – 4/18/19**

The minutes of 2/15/18 were held for a revision.

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the minutes of 2/15/18 as amended.

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the consent agenda with thanks to all three of the donors.

The ABRSC adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: See agenda, List of warrants

Next Meetings:

ABRSC Meeting, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the R.J. Grey Junior High Library (*NO NEED, NO Meeting, although there will be one added pre TM at 6:00 pm at the HS*)

Acton Town Meeting begins April 2

See warrant at www.acton-ma.gov/warrant

Boxborough Town Meeting begins May 14