

## 2023– 2024 School Committee Member Bios

<p><b><u>Benjamin Bloomenthal</u></b> Member, Acton Term Expires: April 2024</p> 	<p>Benjamin was elected in 2021 to the Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee. He has lived in Acton, with his wife and son, since 2010.</p> <p>Benjamin has over 20 years of work experience in healthcare, transportation, government finance and management. He currently works in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, overseeing research grant funding. Benjamin also serves on various committees and boards including but not limited to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, Acton Democratic Town Committee, and as representative of Acton to the MBTA Advisory Board. Benjamin obtained his Master’s in Business Administration from the distinguished Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Suffolk University.</p> <p>Benjamin also volunteers at Temple Emunah in Lexington, where he and his family are members. Benjamin enjoys the outdoors and is an avid skier, cyclist and camper.</p>
<p><b><u>Tori Campbell</u></b> Member, Acton Term Expires: April 2026</p> 	<p>Tori and her husband moved to Acton in 2018 after 20 years of Army service. Their kids attended McT, RJ Grey and AB. Tori studied at West Point and Harvard, deployed to Bosnia and Iraq, commanded a company, taught at West Point and developed policy and resourced a \$400M, 1,000-person portfolio at the Pentagon. She has M.Eds in learning and education policy from Harvard. Tori teaches at a small school in Concord and has parent and teacher experience supporting kids with IEPs. She serves as Orienteering USA’s Vice President for Youth Initiatives and a BSA girls’ troop Scoutmaster.</p>
<p><b><u>Liz Fowlks</u></b> Vice Chair, Boxborough</p>	<p>Liz has been a Boxborough resident since 2015 and was elected to the School</p>

Term Expires: May 2025



Committee in 2022. After growing up in Worcester, MA Liz loves living in Boxborough with her husband, two sons, au pair, and six rescue dogs.

Liz works in Wealth Management for a firm outside of Boston. She received her MBA from Clark University and Bachelor's from University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. She coaches soccer for AB and both her boys attend Blanchard Memorial. When not working or volunteering, you can find Liz at home crocheting, enjoying time with her family/friends, or with her nose buried in a book.

**Lakshmi Kaja**


Member, Boxborough  
Term Expires: May 2026



Lakshmi resided in Boxborough since 1996 and was elected to the school committee in 2023. She has been involved in the local school system as a volunteer while raising her 2 children, who have since graduated from AB School System. She has been a team manager and a AB district coordinator for nearly two decades in Destination Imagination (DI)—a volunteer driven creative problem solving program that fosters teamwork, critical thinking and an integrated approach to STEM and arts education.

Lakshmi has always believed in a holistic educational system that integrates academic, adaptive, and social-emotional learning. As a practicing engineer, she realized the importance of these “soft-skills” in preparing students for the real-world.

As a school committee member, her mission is to work towards (i) educational freedom via uncensored access to educational material and curriculum set by professional educators; (ii) equity and inclusion enabled by providing equal opportunity to students of all backgrounds; and (iii) student well-being

	<p>to enable effective learning. Implementing and furthering such programs would require continued support from the wider community which she proposes to achieve through community engagement, going beyond student families to promote understanding and encourage participation.</p> <p>As a beneficiary through her children of a wonderful environment promoting many of these values from the Acton-Boxborough school system several years ago, she would like to ensure that future generations of students have the same benefits.</p>
<p><b><u>Adam Klein</u></b>  Chair, Boxborough  Term Expires: May 2024</p> 	<p>Elected to the Committee in 2018, Adam joined after serving on the District Master Plan Review Committee, Blanchard School Council and Superintendent Search Committee.</p> <p>Since joining the committee, Adam has served on the Policy Subcommittee and as the chair of the Capital Planning and Budget Subcommittees. He has served as Chairperson of the School Committee and is currently a member of the School Building Committee. Adam and his family moved to Acton in 2013 and relocated to Boxborough in 2015. Adam has a BFA in technical theater from Ithaca College and an MBA from UMass Lowell. He spent 15 years in the entertainment technology field before moving to product management in the building technology world. He is currently a Director of Global Product Management at Schneider Electric. As a thoughtful and supportive leader, Adam looks to put the equity, wellness, and engagement of our learning community at the forefront of his work on the committee.</p>
<p><b><u>Ginny Kremer</u></b>  Member, Acton  Term Expires: April 2025</p>	<p>Ginny Kremer is an attorney who has devoted her career to making government work better for the people it serves. After spending two years as a Superior Court law clerk, Ginny was appointed by Attorney</p>



General Scott Harshbarger as an Assistant Attorney General in the Government Bureau. During her time as an AG, Ginny represented state agencies and officials in the state and federal courts. Ginny was a member of the four AAG team that defended the Commonwealth and the Department of Education in the constitutional lawsuit known as Handcock v. Driscoll. After 8 years as an AAG, Ginny moved from the state level to the municipal level and was appointed as Town Counsel for the Town of Grafton. Ginny has served the Town and its residents, as well as private clients, ever since.

Ginny moved to Acton with her husband in 2005. Their two daughters have attended the District's schools since kindergarten. Ginny first ran for School Committee in 2017 hoping that her municipal legal experience could benefit the District, its educators and staff, and all AB students.

**Vikram Parikh**

Member, Boxborough  
Term Expires: May 2026



Vikram and his wife moved to Boxborough in 2013 for the school district. Their son will begin his third year at Gates, and their daughter will begin at Gates in 2024. He is the Senior Network and Systems Administrator for the Global non-profit Oxfam America. Vikram has worked in IT for over 25 years. He obtained his B.A. from Hunter College and his M.S. from Baruch's Zicklin School of Business. Coming from a long line of educators, Vikram is a musician, studies Kung Fu, and has a passion for travel and adventure. He has lived in India, Hungary, Colombia, Switzerland, NYC and California.

**Leela Ramachandran**

Member, Acton  
Term Expires: April 2026

Leela grew up in Acton, attending A-B schools K-12. She went on to receive a B.S. in Public Health Sciences from UMass Amherst. While in school, she worked with youth as a tutor and a mentor. Leela's professional work is equity-driven public health research and evaluation, and she also consults to support organizations to improve their



inclusionary policies and practices. Outside of work, she is politically involved and always looking for avenues to support positive change. She was elected to the School Committee in 2023 and is always looking to hear from community members. Please reach out!

**Yanxin Schmidt**

Member, Acton  
Term Expires: April 2026



Yanxin Schmidt has been serving our community since moving to Acton with her husband and two sons in 2018. Prior to being elected to the school committee in May, 2023, Yanxin volunteered for Meals on Wheels and served on AB School's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Family Advisory Group, which she co-chaired from 2020 to 2022. Currently, Yanxin, who holds a U.S. Soccer D Coaching License, serves as a Vice President for Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS).

Yanxin holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology. She is fluent in both English and Mandarin Chinese.

**Andrew Schwartz**

Member, Acton  
Term Expires: April 2024

Andrew is the proud parent of four boys in the district. He believes that we are at an incredible inflection point for learning and wants to help ABRSD continue to be a place where our kids can thrive. Andrew, his wife, kids and dog, have lived in Acton for the past four years. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Andrew graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL.

Andrew is the Director of Metaverse Engineering at Nike. His background is in



strategic consulting. He's owned his own businesses, established and run Innovation Labs for Fortune 5 companies, been an advisor for startups, worked in the agency world and consulted with healthcare, financial services, entertainment and non-governmental organizations.

Andrew believes Parents, Guardians, Administrators, Teachers and Staff are partners in creating great learning environments. The job is to give our kids the tools to be the best people they can be. Schools are the center of the community. They connect us, they make us stronger, they build our future. When our schools work, they give our kids a love of learning, the tools to explore their curiosities and an environment where they can grow in incredible ways.

**Rebecca Wilson**

Vice Chair, Acton  
Term Expires: April 2025



Elected to the school committee in 2022, Rebecca is an Acton-Boxboro alumna who has lived in Acton for over twenty years. She is currently raising three young children in the district along with her husband, a fellow AB alumna.

She received her bachelor of arts in English from Framingham University in 2011 along with a minor in Spanish language. Travel to Argentina in 2016 was a cherished opportunity to practice that skill.

Since having children she has been a stay at home mother, and works part time in browser testing and customer service, using her previous experience in IT at a local Maynard company. She is also active in local social justice movements, and is deeply passionate about community building.

	<p>Rebecca is currently moonlighting as a novelist and zine creator, and is pursuing professional publishing. Her pandemic project was a sprawling kitchen garden which grows larger every year, along with her flock of chickens.</p>
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