

**Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee**  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District  
16 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720  
<http://www.abschools.org/school-committee>

To: Members of our Acton and Boxborough Communities  
From: The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee  
Date: May 23, 2017  
Re: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee District Priorities

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We understand that many community members are concerned and questioning a number of issues around the Separation Agreement with Dr. Brand. Due to the nature of the agreement we cannot speak for Dr. Brand's educational and operational philosophy. We can, however, be clear about the School Committee's District Priorities.

This memo outlines the School Committee's priorities based on our **Statement of Purpose, Long Range Strategic Goals** and recent work.

**Our Statement of Purpose** reads:

"The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee strives to support the district in its vision to provide high-quality educational opportunities that inspire a community of learners by:

- setting and adopting policy,
- hiring and overseeing the superintendent, and
- developing a thoughtful budget considering the needs of our students and the fiscal realities of the communities of Acton and Boxborough."

Our work over the past year or so, which aligns with **the District's Long Range Strategic Plan**, and the **FY 2017/2018 Budget** that was approved at our recent Town Meetings, demonstrates our commitment to prioritize our values of wellness, equity, and engagement through:

1. Moving forward the district's Challenge Success work which includes:
  - Review of the existing district homework policy with our School and District Leadership Teams
  - Ongoing examination of school start times with the District Start Time Committee that will incorporate community feedback, compare the pros and cons of single- and double-tier elementary busing, and lead to a final strategy to be implemented in Fall 2018

- A continued effort to consider changes to schedules to benefit students in the junior and senior high schools
  - Improved parent and community engagement which has been ongoing through the “Challenging Our Notion of Success” digital newsletters.
2. Building on the research of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and the current assessment of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District. Our first goal will be to improve the district’s Tier 1, core, universal academic and behavior services and build a foundation that will provide good outcomes for the majority of students.
  3. Selecting an appropriate School Culture and Climate Survey for the district and develop an implementation plan. This will include:
    - Reviewing the three approaches to measuring School Culture and Climate proposed by the Wellness Committee with the Senior Leadership Team and selecting the most appropriate tool for the district;
    - Determining what funding is available through grants and the budget in FY 2017-2018 and beyond; and
    - Determining if we will pilot the implementation of the recommended survey in FY 2017-2018 and/or move to full implementation in FY 2018-2019.
  4. Assessing the data on elementary school funding and staffing to improve future budgeting and policies.
  5. Continuing to address the capital needs of the Region, including:
    - Addressing short-term capital needs in the FY 2017-2018 and future budgets;
    - Addressing medium-term capital needs by bundling projects into packages that prioritize needs and efficiencies and bring those bundles with detailed cost estimates to Acton and Boxborough Town Meetings for approval;
    - Continuing to work with MSBA on a new building project. The project will include input from the community, a request for design and project management funds brought to Acton and Boxborough Special Town Meetings on December 4, 2017, and, if approved, a design process that addresses community input, facility needs and available resources.

The School Committee has been actively engaged in all of these priorities. We remain committed to these priorities to provide high-quality educational opportunities, inspire a community of learners, and develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships. As always, we welcome and appreciate your participation. Thank you.