

6/18 (3)

**Christine Joyce**

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**From:** Steve Ledoux  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 9:49 PM  
**To:** Christine Joyce  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request from the Regional School Study Committee

Sent from my iPad, please excuse any brevity or typos

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Peter Ashton <[PKAshton@aol.com](mailto:PKAshton@aol.com)>  
**Date:** May 30, 2012 8:43:57 PM EDT  
**To:** Pam Harting-Barrat <[pamela.hartingbarrat@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.hartingbarrat@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Steve Ledoux <[sledoux@acton-ma.gov](mailto:sledoux@acton-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request from the Regional School Study Committee

Madame Chair:

The Regional School Study Committee would like to request 15 minutes of the Selectmen's time at their meeting on June 18th to discuss the next steps towards negotiating a revised regional agreement. We also would like to solicit input from the Selectmen on the issues we have identified to be negotiated by the committee. To that end we will be providing a document outlining the issues as we have identified them thus far prior to the meeting. Please let me know if you can accommodate our request.

Thanks

Peter K. Ashton

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To: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee  
Fr: Regional School District Study Committee  
Re: Revision of the Acton-Boxborough Regional Agreement

June 1, 2012

The Regional School District Study Committee recommends the following:

- That the Regional School Committee re-commission the current six member Study Committee to draft a revised Regional Agreement;
- That a member of the Acton Board of Selectmen, the Boxborough Board of Selectmen, the Acton Finance Committee, and the Boxborough Finance Committee, be appointed by their respective boards/committees as ~~ex-officio~~ full members of the Regional School District Study Committee;
- That an Acton Public/Acton-Boxborough Regional Administrator and a Boxborough Administrator also be invited as ex-officio members of the Regional School District Study Committee;
- That the Regional School District Study Committee and Regional School Administration pursue grant funding to support the necessary legal, financial study, and transition costs;
- That a “preliminary draft” of a revised Regional Agreement be presented to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee, public boards and members of the community in October 2012;
- That a “final draft” of a revised Regional Agreement be presented to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee in January 2013;
- That the Regional School District Study Committee work with the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee to develop a revised Regional Agreement acceptable to the Regional School Committee;
- That the Regional School District Study Committee help communicate the changes in the revised Regional Agreement to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees in addition to the members of the two communities; and
- That the Regional School District Study Committee provide whatever assistance is appropriate to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee in preparation for, and at, the two Town Meetings, on the same night, in the spring of 2013.

The members of the Regional School District Study Committee have enjoyed the experience of getting this project to this point and would welcome the opportunity to continue to bring it to a successful conclusion.

Please advise.

Issues to be Addressed in a Pre-K to Grade 12 Revised Acton-Boxborough  
Regional Agreement

Construction/Renovation Costs

Issue: Is each town responsible for pre-K to grade 6 construction/renovation costs OR will financial responsibility be based on a percentage of each town's students in that building?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: Will grades 7 – 12 construction/renovation costs be based on student enrollment in all grades or in grades 7 – 12?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: Does Boxborough receive a 5% discount in construction/renovation costs?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Budget/Assessments

Issue: Will there be any change in the operating budget assessment allocation formula? How will potential savings/benefits be shared?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: Should there be a change in the process to authorize debt?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: Will there be any change in the capital assessment formula?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: Will the assessments continue to be based on a three-year rolling enrollment average?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: Should the operating costs of Acton and Boxborough elementary schools be separated to allow one town to spend a greater percentage for that level than the other town? [i.e., special budgetary consideration for special programs; e.g., music, ESL, special education, tutors, curricula, etc.]

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: How will transportation costs be assessed/allocated?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: Should transportation costs be allocated the same percentage as operating costs OR as actual costs?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

#### Community Education

Issue: How will Community Education and similar programs in Boxborough be merged and how will each town share in available funds?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

#### Regional Buy-In

Issue: Should there be any buy-in regarding the building assets of each town?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

Issue: What about current debt?

Pros:

Cons:

Recommendation (date):

#### Current Equipment and Technology

Issue: Should there be any reference in the Regional Agreement regarding current equipment and technology?

Pros:  
Cons:  
Recommendation (date):

### Transitional and Regional School Committees

Issue: How will the Transitional Regional School Committee be elected and for what time period?

Recommendation (date):

Issue: What should be the make-up of the Regional School Committee? Which of the five options concerning the members of the regional school district committee and its voting, from MGL, Chapter 71: Section 14E, should we use, and what should the specifics of that option be? ~~Should it be strictly "one man, one vote" OR should there be "additional" members form Boxborough with weighted votes?~~

Pros:  
Cons:  
Recommendation (date):

Issue: Should there be a guarantee that all pre-school to grade 6 (Or grade 4 OR grade?) students can attend an elementary school in her/his hometown? Should the Regional School Committee have authority to balance classes between towns? Should there be specific language regarding exceptions for special needs children? Should there be language to allow voluntary pre-kindergarten to grade 6 movement between towns? If parents choose to send their children to a school in the other town, will parents be responsible for transportation? If a Boxborough student goes to an Acton elementary school, will that student have equal rights to the lottery system?

Pros:  
Cons:  
Recommendations (dates):

### Buy OR Lease Facilities

Issues: Should the Region buy or lease all school Buildings? [Region currently owns the two 7 – 12 buildings]

Pros:  
Cons:  
Recommendation (date):

### Location Of Any New Facilities

Issue: Should the Agreement language indicate the location of any new building?

Pros:  
Cons:  
Recommendation (date):

*Acton-Boxborough Regional Study Committee: June 1, 2012*

June 1, 2012

**Regional School District Study Committee Proposed Timeline and Milestones for Full Regionalization Process**

June 2012	Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) develops timeline and identifies issues for discussion and decision-making re the revised agreement
Summer 2012	RSDSC meets with various stakeholders regarding key issues for a revised regional agreement
Summer 2012	RSDSC drafts a new regional agreement
Fall 2012 (October)	Preliminary draft agreement is circulated for input from RSC, local SCs, Selectmen and Fincom from each town as well as parents, teachers and others
Fall 2012	Legal and financial review by subject matter experts
Fall 2012	Public meetings to solicit input on preliminary draft agreement
Dec. 2012	Finalize draft regional agreement
Jan. 2013	Submit draft agreement to RSC for approval and to DESE for review/approval
Jan – April 2013	Public outreach
April 2013	Town Meeting votes on new regional agreement
<u>Assuming both towns approve the new regional agreement:</u>	
May 2013	Submit the new regional agreement to DESE for Commissioner's approval
Spring/Summer 2013	Appoint/elect members for interim school committee for new regional district; three existing committees continue to operate the three districts
Fall/Winter 2013	Interim Regional School Committee develops FY15 budget for new region for town meeting approval; also develop policies and negotiates union contract
Spring 2014	Elect new permanent regional school committee members
Spring 2014	Town Meeting votes on new regional budget for FY15
July 2014	New regional school district becomes operational for FY15 and other local school districts cease operations