

Vote for School Council Reps!

We are very fortunate to have seven parents who are interested in representing you and your opinions on the ABRHS School Council for the next school year, 2008-2009. Each candidate has provided a brief statement about her interests and experiences. Please review these statements and submit your ballot (see bottom of page 3) for the **three** candidates of your choice. The results of the election will be published in the PTSO Newsletter, September 2008 issue. **Ballots must be postmarked by July 31, 2008.**

Cheryl Beaudoin

I am currently a parent of an 8th grade daughter who will be entering ABRHS in the fall. I also have two sons who graduated from ABRHS in 2002 and 2004. I have been an avid supporter of the Acton Public and AB Regional Schools serving both systems in many roles over the years. At the regional level I was the PTSO Co-Chair from 1998-2001, I have been an active volunteer at Project Graduation from 2001 to present and co-chaired the event in 2003. I have also served on many booster boards while my sons were students at ABRHS.

My passion is education and ensuring our student population continues to be successful. I believe this is an exciting time for ABRHS with a new principal at the helm and I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of the discussions and working on issues that the School Council faces.

I have just completed my Bachelor's Degree at Lesley University and am currently enrolled in a Master's Degree program for Early Childhood Education. I have worked this past year at Douglas School in Acton as a third grade assistant.

Nancy Belanger

Greetings. My name is Nancy Belanger and I have been a resident of Acton for the past nine years. Next fall, I will have two children at the High school; a junior and freshman. I am very interested in being a member of the School Council for the Acton-Boxborough High School. Over the past twenty years I have been involved with education as a professional and parent. I have been an elementary school teacher, and am currently a middle school reading specialist. I have been fortunate to have participated on School

Councils as a professional and am seeking the opportunity to be on the board as a parent. School councils are critical to having a successful, well run school. Each year the council creates a school wide vision and goals to achieve that vision. The school improvement plan is evaluated on a yearly basis. As the evaluation occurs a new plan is created for continued success.

Over the past years as an Acton resident, I have been involved with elementary PTOs, have been on the Youth Softball League and Pop Warner Football boards, am currently a member of the Acton Adult Softball League and am a board member of ABSAF, the Acton Boxborough Student Activity Fund. I enjoy working together with people to create common goals for the success of our children. I feel my qualifications for School Council match what the council is looking for and hope you will consider me for a position on this important board.

Janet Chinitz

I would like to submit my name for nomination for a position on the ABRHS School Council. As the parent of four children in the Acton and Acton-Boxborough school systems, I have several years of various types of school experience under my belt as well as several years ahead of me before I become an alumni parent. My oldest child is a graduating senior, the next is finishing her freshman year and my two younger kids are in sixth and first grades at McCarthy-Towne. From my first son's first day of kindergarten, I have enjoyed being involved in the schools and contributing in any way I can. As this year comes to an end, I am finishing three years as secretary of the regional PTSO, having also served as the junior high

membership chairman five years ago. At McCarthy-Towne I have volunteered my time in several different capacities on the PTSO including two years as chairman. I am an experienced McCarthy-Towne School Council member, serving my first term when the School Council was initially formed and I was involved in writing McCarthy-Towne's first School Improvement Plan. This spring, I am completing yet another two year term for MCT. As a result, I will come to the ABRHS School Council with much history and experience. Our high school is soon to enter a time of transition and as a member of the School Council I look forward to meeting our new principal and assisting in that transition. With many years ahead for my family in the school system, I have a long-term commitment to the maintenance of the ongoing excellence of our school.

Jan Couch

I believe that I can help the students and administrators of ABRHS, and in turn the residents of Acton and Boxborough, by serving for you on the HS Council. I have served as a Regional PTSO co-chair representing RJ Grey JH. I served as chair for Project Wellness, and will continue in that role in 2009. As Acton residents for over twenty years, my husband and I have three children, all of whom will be at the high school next year. From the time our children began their experience in the school system, I have served on various committees, volunteered in the schools, and served as a substitute teacher. I am blessed to have developed many strong relationships with many of the students, teachers, and administrators over the years, which have provided me with insight into the challenges that our students, schools and community continue to face. I understand the grassroots levels of the town overrides, building construction and renovation efforts, and the severe stresses on our budgets. I would be honored to be named to the HS Council, and would work diligently for the best possible experiences for our students, teachers, administrators, and residents.

Patricia Easterly

With my husband, Tim, I have lived in Acton for 9 years and have two children in the schools, a son who is a Second-Grader and a daughter who is a sophomore at the high school. While my professional background is in accounting and finance, I have recently been active in our community and schools in a variety of different ways. I recently served on the High School Principal Search Committee and have been a member for the past year on the ABRHS School Council. I serve on the Acton Finance Committee where I have been very involved as the Finance Committee observer to the School Committees. I

am a classroom volunteer at Gates and involved in the Gates PTO. I am interested in serving on the High School Council since as a parent and community volunteer I see the challenges the high school staff, administration, and students face and would like to contribute to the oversight role the Council provides. I also would welcome the opportunity to continue my work on the High School Council with the new principal to ensure that the many positive aspects of the High School continue. However, there are also many challenges facing the high school, such as addressing how to best balance the rigors of our strong academic, athletic, and other extra-curricular programs with the stress levels that accompany such strong programs. I would like to continue the work on this issue the High School Council began this year as well as assisting in the development of the school improvement plan as a way to ensure the needs of our High School students are met. I would appreciate your support in voting for me as a member of the Council.

Janet Geller-McGrath

My name is Janet Geller-McGrath, parent of David, a 10th grader at AB, and Julia who has just finished her freshman year at Clark University. My husband, Joshua, and I have lived in Acton since 1989. We love our community and are very invested in our children's education. I work at the Weston Middle School in the 7th grade as a House Supervisor and Learning Specialist. I have worked in the field of education for thirty years, including six years at the high school level and have thoroughly enjoyed my work with students of varying backgrounds, parents, consultants, and administrators. I have been very pleased with the level of support and enrichment our children have received over the years and feel very fortunate to be part of this school community.

My experiences in the Acton Public Schools have been at the McCarthy-Towne School where I was a co-chairperson of the School Council for five years and an active member of the Parker Damon Steering Committee. When our daughter transitioned to R.J. Grey, I was fortunate to serve on the School Council for two years and found this a very rewarding experience. When Julia was in high school, I was fortunate again to serve for two years as a member of the ABRHS School Council and was impressed with the level of support provided our students as they grow and mature into young adults. I then served another term on the ABRHS School Council when David entered the high school and have thoroughly enjoyed my interactions with the many talented members of our school community. I believe that I have contributed in a positive way to these committees

and would be pleased to serve again on the ABRHS School Council.

Francesca Ricciardi

My husband Tom Durrant and I have four sons. Stefan is currently in the 9th grade at ABRHS, Nathanael is in 7th grade at R.J.Grey, Collin is in 5th grade at Gates and Avery is in 3rd grade at McCarthy-Towne. As Stefan is just at the beginning of his high school experience my husband and I will be a part of the Acton Boxborough Regional High School community for many years to come. I worked for many years at Mast Industries, a clothing design and production company, and when I left in 2002 I was running an International garment sourcing division as well as managing the Italian and Portuguese offices. While working I saw from afar the dedication many parents had to the schools and the community. When I decided to stay home in 2002 I knew it was my turn to give back. I became involved in the following ways. I started and operate an after school program at

McCarthy-Towne, I research and book the arts enrichment programs for both McCarthy-Towne and Gates schools, I am a den leader for my youngest sons cub scout den and I am co-founder and co-leader of the Acton Boxborough Parents of Children with Challenges support group that is a educational and supportive organization in town for parents. I was on the R.J.Grey school council for two years and also served on the Interschool Council for three years and was also a co-chair of the ABSpedPac. I have gained great satisfaction from my efforts within the schools and town and I am very interested in understanding and becoming involved in the challenges and opportunities that ABRHS is facing now and in the future. I look forward to being able to draw on my business skills and reasonably diverse community involvement to work within the group to develop both long and short term goals to address the issues that we face as a school community.

Please clip and mail before July 31, 2008

Ballot for ABRHS School Council – School Year 2008-2009

Election open to all parents/guardians of **current and incoming Acton-Boxborough Regional High School students.**

I am a parent/guardian of student(s) who will be in the following grade(s) next fall:

- 8th grade 9th grade 10th grade 11th grade 12th grade

VOTE FOR THREE CANDIDATES:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Beaudoin | <input type="checkbox"/> Janet Chinitz | <input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Easterly | <input type="checkbox"/> Francesca Ricciardi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Belanger | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Couch | <input type="checkbox"/> Janet Geller-McGrath | |

Detach and return this ballot no later than July 31, 2008 to:
ABRPTSO, P.O. Box 912, Acton, MA 01720

Ballots postmarked later than July 31 will not be accepted. All ballots will be forwarded to High School Principal Dr. Alixe Callen.

PTSO News

<http://abrptso.ab.mec.edu>

Newsletter of the Acton-Boxborough Regional
Schools Parent-Teacher-Student Organization

Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
Acton, MA 01720

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**Look inside for
information about
voting for
ABRHS School Council
candidates**

**Watch the mail
for the September
issue of the
PTSO Newsletter!**

Thank you to Principal Steve Donovan!

I'm sure that you'll join with us in saying "thank you" to Principal Steve Donovan for his 36 years of service to the Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools. Steve began as a junior high counselor in 1972, chaired the Counseling Department and became the Director of Special Education and Coordinator of Pupil Services. He has been the principal of ABRHS since 1991. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a flair for proposing creative solutions, and has always shown a passion for focusing on meeting the needs of all students. As a PTSO, we thought the most appropriate way to honor his tenure was through a scholarship for ABRHS graduating students. Beginning this June, the PTSO awarded two "Stephen A. Donovan" scholarships for \$500 each to students who matched criteria described below.

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund for future awards, please send your check to "AB Regional PTSO," and designate that it is for the Stephen A. Donovan scholarship fund. If you'd like to send your note of thanks, and good wishes for an enjoyable retirement, please address those to Steve Donovan, ABRHS, 36 Charter Road, Acton, MA 01720. To read more about the district's tribute to Steve, and other retiring educators, see <http://ab.mec.edu/about/publications.shtml>.

Thank you for your consideration!

Mary Ann Ashton, Jan Couch, and Chris Renzi, PTSO co-chairs

Criteria for Stephen A. Donovan Scholarship Award (as developed by the PTSO Board):

This scholarship is to be awarded to an ABRHS graduating senior who has made a positive contribution to the high school community and has demonstrated leadership skills in an understated way without the recognition of a specific "leadership post." This student has shown that he or she values and respects each of his peers, and possesses the qualities of self-motivation, integrity, creativity, dedication and commitment. Preference may be given to a student who is planning a career in education, counseling, or other areas where service to others will be required.