

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS: MARY ANN ASHTON & JAN COUCH

## 990 Hours, Senior Prom & Daily Announcements

The first PTSO Forum of the year featured presentations by our two Principals about each of their schools as they begin the 2006-2007 school year. This was followed by representatives from three local organizations that support our schools – the Regional School Committee, ABSAF (Acton Boxborough Student Activities Fund), and PIP (Parent Involvement Project).

**Steve Donovan, Principal of ABRHS,** said that the high school had had a very smooth opening, and thanked his administrative team and faculty for the summer work which had ensured this, especially Vice Principal Larry Dorey who had worked on the Master Schedule.

On September 12, ABRHS had enrolled:

- 480 freshmen,
- 510 sophomores,
- 479 juniors,
- 443 seniors

for a total of 1,912 students. Five years ago there were 1,683 students. There are 85 students who are new to ABRHS, including 31 new School Choice students. Steve noted that these are preliminary enrollment numbers, as families often do not notify the district that their students are not returning. The budgets approved last spring and the increased state aid have allowed for the addition of 9 full-time equivalent teachers. After rehiring for retirements and departures there are 14 new teachers, including 4 in English, 4 in world languages, 3 in science, 2 in social studies, 2 in math, and 1 counselor.

The administrative area has been reconfigured to provide easier community access. Steve announced that 21 ABRHS students

have been recognized as National Merit Semi-Finalists, a record number. He distributed copies of remarks made by Senior Class President, Lauren Levine, and senior Jeremy Rosenzweig as part of the high school's remembrance of September 11.

Steve discussed several "hot topics," starting with the decision by the Massachusetts Department of Education that ABRHS does not provide the required 990 hours of instruction to all of its students. The DOE is requiring that the high school be in compliance by September 2007, and show a good faith effort to work toward the goal starting by the beginning of 2007. While the average number of hours varies from grade to grade, the average for all ABRHS students is 853, 140 hours short of the requirement. To comply in the traditional way, each student would need to be in full-year classes for 7 of 8 periods. The high school is looking for creative and cost-effective ways to comply, and will be working on an implementation plan in the coming months. It will be a major topic of discussion when Steve Donovan makes his annual presentation to the Regional School Committee on Thursday, October 5. In response to questions from the audience, Steve said that they are investigating on-line courses, independent studies, "Summer Institute" classes, community service learning as alternatives to traditional classroom instruction to meet the requirement.

Steve said that the decision has been made that this year's prom will be for seniors only and their guests, rather than the combined Junior/Senior prom of the last several years. He said the administration had made the decision because of safety and supervision concerns; last year's prom

was attended by more than 750 students, and those faculty who chaperoned felt that it was too large and strained the limits of how many students could be safely supervised. The junior class officers will be working with their class advisor, Frank Calore, to develop activities that would be fun and appropriate for their class. In response to questions from an audience member, Steve said that there are very few venues in the state that can accommodate so many students. They had considered separate proms for juniors and seniors, but felt that the feedback from parents and guardians when they had two proms several years ago had been very negative, with families expressing concerns about the costs involved with sending a child to two proms. Steve said that it is the high school's usual practice to plan student activities with students, and that he would be looking to class officers to provide leadership with the class advisor about alternative activities.

**Craig Hardimon, Principal RJ Grey,** started his presentation with an announcement of two new teachers for world language and one new teacher in the SPED department. The student population exceeded initial expectations and as of September 12 there were 476 7th graders and 517 8th graders for a grand total of 993. The average team size for 7th grade is 119-120, with a class average of 21-26 students in the standard academic classes and 28-29 students in exploratory classes. For 8th grade, the average team size is approximately 129, with class sizes ranging from

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# From the Chairs

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22–28. Class size for honors world language classes has increased to 31–34. For example, the standard French class has a range of 22–26 students and honors increases to 32–33.

The first day of classes for the 7th grade included an assembly, team building activities and a barbeque with Mr. Hardimon and D.A.R.E. officer Jim Goodemote flipping burgers and hot dogs. The following day 8th graders began the school year with an assembly emphasizing leadership and practicing safety in the classroom and halls, followed by preparations for the academic year.

Athletic teams are underway with over 200 students participating in Soccer, Field Hockey, Lacrosse and Cross-Country. Clubs are ramping up as well and students will be notified through the daily announcements.

This year RJG will be conducting a self study, components of which will focus on the home/school communication as well as the RJG parental experience. All RJG parents/guardians will be asked to fill out questionnaires in the near future.

Mr. Hardimon finished his presentation by addressing questions from the audience. He responded that Counselor assignments had been contained in his weekly Grey Matters, acknowledged that the JH speech team will be taking place (TBA in daily announcements), and stressed the importance of following the daily announcements for activity date and time changes.

## Regional School Committee

Sharon Smith McManus said the Regional School Committee is very grateful to our legislators for the increase in state aid, which resulted in an additional \$1.6 million for the regional schools. Some of the money was spent to add 4 new positions at the high school while the remainder is available for the future. The School Committee has also completed an extensive audit of all policies, and the approved policies will be posted on the schools website for easy reference for the community. This year the School Committee will be focused on working with legislators to ensure that the changes to the state aid formula for education (Chapter 70) become permanent, developing a plan with the high school to comply with the DOE's requirement for 990 hours, and working on a vision for the regional schools, including class size and other issues. The principals will present at the next two Regional School Committee meetings: Steve Donovan on October 5, and Craig Hardimon on November 2.

## Community Alliance For Youth (CAFY)

CAFY organizes and supports programs educating both parents and teachers, recognizing the value of parent and child communication. The group is currently seeking parents to participate in their board and planning activities for the year. For more information, please contact Linda Minkoff at [MinkoffLS@aol.com](mailto:MinkoffLS@aol.com), or visit their website at [www.cafy.net](http://www.cafy.net).

Jack Boyles from ABSAF and Karen Herther from PIP also spoke at our meeting. Please see articles on page 6 and page 4, respectively.

We hope to see you at our next meeting on October 17th.

**Mary Ann Ashton**, ABRHS Co-Chair  
[MABAshton@aol.com](mailto:MABAshton@aol.com), 978.263.4399

**Jan Couch**, RJGJHS Co-Chair  
[JCCouch@comcast.net](mailto:JCCouch@comcast.net), 978.263.2118

## “Holes” Opens the Theater Season at the High School

**H**oles,” a play based on the award-winning book by Louis Sachar, opens the season for Proscenium Circus, the high school drama club, November 3–11. Directed by Linda Potter, the play weaves several stories around Stanley Yelnats IV, a teenager who has landed at Camp Green Lake in Texas, a camp for juvenile offenders, wrongly accused of stealing a pair of sneakers. Family folklore, gypsy curses, and stolen loot combine when Stanley meets someone connected to his past and challenges fate.

The cast features Garrett Richardson as Stanley, with Nick Rizza, Matt Samperi, Christian Latham, Ben Szewczyk and Craig Reid as the D-Tent Boys. The adults at the camp are Sarah Sanderson as The Warden, Ben Cesare as Mr. Sir, and Noah Simes as Mr. Pendanski. Supporting cast are Matt Bauer, Lauren Brooks, Amanda Duggan, Connor Finnegan, Dani Forshay, Becca Iandoli, Kate Jones, Andy Savage, Eric Sheehan, Maddy Smith, Katherine Voss, and Ana Walker.

Evening shows are at 7:30 pm on Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11. Matinees are at 3:00 on Nov. 5 and 11. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, available Oct 1 at: Roche Bros., West Acton Market, Tedeschi Food Store (2A), and via credit card at [MKTix.com](http://MKTix.com). Seating is not reserved. Special group rates that include a talk with the cast are available at the matinees. For more information, contact Linda Potter at 978-264-4700 x3584 or [ABDrama.org](http://ABDrama.org).

## Audition Workshops Planned for High School Musical

**S**tudents interested in auditioning for the musical, “Once Upon a Mattress,” are invited to four audition workshops to help them prepare. Linda Potter, director, will discuss monologues on Tues., Oct. 10, 2:30–4:30, in Room 218. Jeanie Furlan, music director, will review audition songs from 3:00–4:30. Dance workshops with choreographer Christine Campbell will be held Tues., Oct. 24, 2:30–5:30, in the cafeteria, and Tues., Nov. 7, 5:30–7:30 in the auditorium. Auditions will be held Nov. 13–16 and are open to all A-B students; anyone who wants to learn more about auditioning is encouraged to attend the workshops. For more information, visit [www.ABDrama.org](http://www.ABDrama.org) or contact PC Advisor Linda Potter at x3584 ([lpotter@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:lpotter@mail.ab.mec.edu)).

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Steve Donovan

Our year at A-B is off to a good start. As you know, it's a very busy place. We have around 1900 students at A-B this year, including 85 new students, some through the School Choice Program and some who have moved to the area or have come to A-B from private schools. Students and teachers seem settled into their classes, and during the week of September 18 we had a two-day Activities Fair during which many of the school clubs and organizations kicked off their year. Our fall athletic program is also in full swing.

You may have seen or heard the media coverage about Acton-Boxborough having to come into compliance with the Time and Learning requirements (990 hours of class structured learning time per year for all students) of the Education Reform Act of 1993. We look forward to meeting these requirements in a way that makes sense for our students and for our school. Additional resources will be necessary to assist us in reaching this goal, probably a combination of teachers to teach the classes we will add to our school year and staff to manage other options, such as independent study and the tracking of learning experiences outside of the school day. Acton-Boxborough is a unique place, and we are confident that we can design a system that is in keeping with our strengths and the needs of our ever changing student body.

At the October 5 School Committee meeting I will report on our goals for this year and on the challenges we face. These meetings are open to the public.

## Back to School Night

I hope that most of you will be able to join us for Back to School Night on Thursday, October 12. We have changed our schedule this year, based on feedback from last year's event. The welcoming session will take place in the auditorium at 6:40 p.m. We especially invite parents of freshmen and new students to this portion of the evening. Knowing this timing may be too early for many people, we will have my re-

marks available in writing and on the web site for those who are interested. Parents attending the welcoming session should arrive in the building between 6:15 and 6:25 to pick up their students' schedules and to be seated. Auditorium seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. Student Center East will accommodate some overflow from the auditorium. Parents not planning to attend the opening session should arrive in the building by about 6:45.

Parents will follow their child's schedule for a simulated school day beginning at 7:00. Handouts containing a school map and a timetable for the evening will be distributed along with student schedules in the Commons area (cafeteria) in the north wing.

Alternatively, parents can get a copy of their child's schedule from their son or daughter. We will be following Day A of the six-day cycle (days are designated A through F). If you bring your own schedule, be sure you have room numbers and an indication of which wing (north, south, east or west) each classroom is in.

Back to School Night is an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers and to hear about the expectations in your child's classes. During a student's lunch or other free period, parents are invited to visit the Counseling Center, the library and other resource areas of the school. Information tables will be set up (PTSO, ABSAF, Project Graduation, League of Women Voters and other organizations) in the Commons area, and parents can enjoy some refreshments at the same time. Because of the popularity of this event and the size of our student body, parking close to the school is at a premium for Back to School Night. Parking is available at the Junior High and at the Parker Damon Building. Additional parking can be found in the Kmart/McDonald's lot. Please allow time to walk from these locations to the high school building. Monitors and student volunteers will be on hand to assist you in finding your way around the building.

Any parents who need special accommodations at Back to School Night (elevator access, translation of information, etc.) should contact Deb Trentsch in the Main Office 978.264-4700 ext. 4303).

## School Store

Our school store is a multi-function operation located beside the Main Office in the front lobby. Parents who need to drop off messages or items for students should go to the store. The store carries school supplies, snacks and a line of A-B clothing items and is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please check it out at Back to School Night. Families of underclassmen interested in purchasing a yearbook should place an order at the school store during October. (Seniors do not have to order a yearbook since it is covered by their senior class dues.)

## Student Handbook

The Student Handbook which students received on the first day of school contains a wealth of information. Parents may want to read their student's copy or to look at the version on the school's web site ([ab.mec.edu/abrhs](http://ab.mec.edu/abrhs)).

## Early Release Dates

The School Committee has approved two early release days for the high school to enable the staff to work during these afternoons on curriculum-related issues. These dates are Friday, October 13 and Thursday, April 5.

## AB.mec.edu/abrhs

We continue to try to post as much useful information as possible on the school's web site. Daily announcements can be found by clicking the School Announcements link on the high school home page.

## Parking at A-B

Parents and other visitors should park in marked visitor spaces which are near school entrances. Please note that all other spots are assigned to faculty and staff. Campus monitors are available to assist with any parking problems.

## Freshman Study

**N**inth graders will have an opportunity to apply to be excused from freshman study hall at the end of the **first term**. After receiving first term grades, freshmen who have a satisfactory academic record, perfect attendance in all of their classes (including study hall), no behavior incidents and parental permission can apply to be excused from freshman study. Students whose applications are approved can spend their free period in any supervised area of the school (library, student centers, commons, etc.).

Students who either choose not to apply at the end of Term I or are not granted permission to be excused from study hall can apply at the end of Term II.

—Steve Donovan

## Prudential Spirit of Community Award

**S**tudents involved in conducting a community service activity are invited to submit an application for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. This award will be given to two Acton-Boxborough students who in the past year have participated in significant self-initiated volunteer work in the community. A-B's honorees will be eligible to compete for the Massachusetts Youth Volunteer of the Year award. More information and applications are available from Judi Bowes in the Counseling Center. Information is also available on the Prudential web site ([www.prudential.com/community/spirit/awards](http://www.prudential.com/community/spirit/awards)). Applications must be picked up by October 13 and submitted by October 27.

## Help Students with Career Exploration

**W**ould you like to help students learn about careers and preparation for work? There are many ways in which parents can help the school with its career exploration program. Parents can volunteer to host job shadowing students for one-day visits at their place of work, speak to inter-

ested students as part of our career speaker program, offer internship or apprenticeship programs, or help in other ways. This fall we are particularly looking for parents with biology-related careers or connections in this field. Parents who are interested can call or e-mail Kay Steeves (978-264-4700, ext. 3444, [ksteeves@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:ksteeves@mail.ab.mec.edu)) or Bruce Oetinger (ext. 3497, [boetinger@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:boetinger@mail.ab.mec.edu)) or talk to one of them at Back to School Night.

## Academic Support Center

**T**he Academic Support Center, located in Rm. 242S, provides support for students who need assistance with homework or other class assignments, study and organizational skills, and test taking strategies. It is a quiet environment staffed by teachers and approximately 32 Peer Tutors. The Peer Tutors have been trained to work with their peers in a variety of subjects and are eager to help in any way they can. Students can commit to regular support or can use the ASC services as needed. Please encourage your son or daughter to avail themselves of this valuable resource. Contact Jacalyn Starr if you have specific questions or want more information.

## Yearbooks

**R**eservations for the 2007 Torch, the annual yearbook, will be accepted through the end of October in the high school School Store. The price is \$65. Checks may be made out to "The Torch."

## PIP and Danny's Place Help Sponsor Skid School Sessions on October 21

**A**cton PIP (Parent Involvement Project) along with Danny's Place and Acton Toyota is sponsoring 2 sessions of **Skid School Advanced Driver Training** on Saturday, October 21st. At Skid School Driver Training, teen drivers learn defensive driving skills they need to avoid dangerous situations and make the best split-second decisions. \*\*\*Space for the 10/21 sponsored sessions is very limited\*\*\*. To sign up or receive more information about

## It's a Date / ABRHS

### OCTOBER

- 2** No school – Yom Kippur
- 9** No school – Columbus Day holiday
- 12** Back to School Night – Welcome 6:40 p.m.; Classes start 7:00
- 13** Early release for students – Professional development for staff
- 13** Hypnotist Program – fundraiser sponsored by Student Council 7:00 p.m.
- 14** SAT & SAT Subject Tests administered
- 16** School Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 17** Career Speakers – first period
- 21** PSAT/NMSQT administered at ABRHS
- 25** College Planning for Special Education Students 7:00 p.m.

upcoming Acton area Skid School sessions, contact Martha Bartle directly at Skid School at 617-451-1051 or e-mail her through the website [www.msada.org](http://www.msada.org).

Acton PIP volunteers—parents—educators—and AB students will be taking part in SkidSchool this fall developing an understanding of the "real world physics" connection to driving. Acton PIP is a coalition of parents, school and community partners supporting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education activities in grades K-12. For more information about PIP, e-mail [actonpip@yahoo.com](mailto:actonpip@yahoo.com) or visit [actonpip.org](http://actonpip.org).

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Craig Hardimon

When our children are in early elementary school, they are thrilled to tell us about their day and excited to hand us any piece of paper sent home from school. As they get older, they often have less to say about their day and frequently lose forms and documents in the black hole known as, "The backpack!" As the conduit of information, also known as our child, loses efficiency, clear communication between school and home becomes even more important than before.

RJG prides itself on strong home/school communication. All of our daily announcements about events and activities are posted on our website and sent to all parents and guardians who are on our email list. Additionally, there is the weekly issue of *Grey Matters* as well as the monthly issue of *Shades of Grey*.

Nevertheless, there may be times that you have a concern (academic and/or social) regarding your child. If this is the case, **please do not wait!** Get in touch with your child's teacher(s) or counselor right away. More often than not, addressing such issues early can resolve problems quickly and easily.

RJG provide a variety of mechanisms for dialogue. If the topic is relatively simple, email is a very effective mode of communication. Teachers check their email daily and try to respond within 24 hours. If your concern requires a more lengthy response, I encourage you to either call the teacher to talk over the phone or to schedule a meeting with the specific teacher or the entire team. When we work together, students succeed.

Each month, I post a monthly newsletter called, *Middle Years*, on the RJG web site. It is a periodical written by Resources for Educators (Aspen Publishers), specifically for parents of middle level children.

*Below is an excerpt:*

### Get involved!

Wondering how to help your child succeed during the middle school years? Being involved in her education is as important now as it was when she was in kindergarten. Here are several ways you can support your youngster's learning and make a big difference in her school success.

### Ask questions

If you want to know what's going on at school, take the time to ask your child. If she says, "Nothing," follow up with a specific question. Example: "What chapter are you discussing in science class?" Talking about school helps your middle grader see how important it is. Plus, the two of you get a chance to chat.

### Expect success

Tell your child what you expect from him at school—such as hard work, perfect attendance, and consistent study. Challenge him to set goals in his classes. Or suggest that he tackle a difficult topic on his term paper. The important thing is for him to learn, so don't overemphasize grades. Students achieve more when their efforts are encouraged.

### Work Together

If something goes wrong at school, take a deep breath before you contact the teacher. Keep in mind that the teachers want your child to learn as much as you do. Together, find a solution to the problem. Working calmly through problems will put your middle grader back on the path to learning.

## It's a Date / RJGJHS

### OCTOBER

- 2** No School—Yom Kippur
- 4** Student Council Meeting, 12:22 PM
- 9** No School—Columbus Day
- 10** School Council Meeting, 7–8:30 PM
- 16** Midterm Reports Mailed
- 25** Grade 8 Minuteman Trip
- 26\*** Make Up Picture Day (Date changed from original)
- 27** Grade 7 Social, 2:30–4:30 PM
- 31** Halloween Dress-Up Day

### NOVEMBER

- 1** Student Council Meeting, 12:22 PM
- 9** End of Term 1

# Welcome Mrs. Huber

**“Liza Huber replaced Nancy Kolb as Director of Pupil Services on July 1, 2006 (after Mrs. Kolb’s over 30 years of service). Mrs. Huber is responsible for the following departments:**

- Nursing Services
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Special Education Programs and Services
- Regular Education Academic Support Programs
- English Language Learning Programs

**We are happy to share this letter of introduction with the families of R.J. Grey and ABRHS:**

**T**he Acton-Boxborough Regional School District has a distinguished history of educational excellence and an enduring commitment to its schools. We have earned a reputation for educational excellence from a superb staff, an innovative and challenging curriculum, and the extraordinary relationships we enjoy with our parents and children. As the newly appointed Director of Pupil Services, I am proud to be part of an outstanding environment that encourages each child to grow and excel.

I came to Acton-Boxborough in 1983, and have chosen to remain in Acton not only because of excellent academic programs, but because of the innovation encouraged at all levels and within all departments. Within Pupil Services, I have had the privilege of being part of a department that has, over the years, developed many programs that have provided for the education of both regular and special needs students. I have loved being part of such a creative school district, one that has provided in-district and fiscally prudent programs which keep students connected to their community school, while learning in an inclusive environment.

While much of my experience has been at the junior and high school level, I have worked with students at almost every grade level during critical transition points: transitioning in and out of special education,

moving into and returning from out of district programs, and graduating from one grade to another. I have consulted with families and to staff regarding academic curricular issues, classroom accommodations and modifications, behavioral management, and social skill building. Thoughtful and creative transitional planning has always been an essential component for providing students with the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability.

While I am a believer in inclusion, I also believe that respecting individual needs is paramount. This is a delicate balance. As such, there must continue to be focused and intentional thought around children’s learning and the measurement of their progress within the least restrictive environment. Being part of a team process at every developmental level requires establishing priorities, developing practical options for students and their families, raising the academic bar for achievement and

anticipating measurable outcomes. When making critical decisions in the interests of our students, teaming and working together among parents, teachers (regular and special education), and clinicians are essential for ameliorating differences in children’s learning. In this regard, I am tremendously proud to be working with a leadership team that is committed to offering the finest education services.

To date, the Pupil Services’ organization has endured significant change and accomplished many things. That being said, there is still much work to be done. It is my belief that ongoing partnerships and continuous planning are essential ingredients for a successful organization to sustain excellence. I look forward to learning and growing with all of you as I transition to a new role within Pupil Services.

— Liza Huber  
*Director of Pupil Services*

## You’ll really Want to Read this....

### October 2006—ABSAF Phonathon Coming Up

**O**n Sunday, October 22, Wednesday, October 25 and Sunday, October 29 from 5:30p.m. to 9:00p.m., student volunteers will be calling members of the community in a Phonathon to benefit ABSAF, The Acton-Boxborough Student Activities Fund. The calls will be made from the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Counseling Center. ABSAF was created in 1981 to help keep extracurricular programs at the regional schools alive and healthy. In 2005–2006, contributions from nearly 1,300 Acton and Boxborough residents provided \$108,000 to support a broad range of extracurricular activities. Because funding from taxes, gate receipts and activity fees has not been sufficient to cover extracurricular costs, extracurricular programs would have been cut or eliminated without outside help. The range of activities at our junior high and high school is impressive as is the fact that over 85% of our students participate in these activities. Donations to ABSAF in any amount are appreciated, and for a donation of \$150 or more, you and your immediate family will receive an ABSAF pass admitting you to most home extracurricular events sponsored by the regional schools as well as two tickets to the junior high and high school plays/musicals for the 2006-2007 school year. In addition to supporting extracurricular activities, the pass is a bargain for many families. ABSAF donation forms can be downloaded from the ABSAF website at [www.absaf.org](http://www.absaf.org) and can be mailed to P.O. Box 662, Acton, Massachusetts 01720. If you have questions about ABSAF, please contact Jack Boyles at 978-405-2528 or [absafinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:absafinfo@yahoo.com) or visit the ABSAF website at [www.absaf.org](http://www.absaf.org). Please help support extracurricular activities at the Acton and Boxborough regional schools. Thank you.

# School Committee News

## FROM THE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Michael Coppolino, Chair**

The Regional School Committee held its first meeting of the school year on Thursday September 7th. Every year, five ABRHS students are elected to serve as student representatives to the School Committee. Their contributions add insight to many discussions throughout the year. This year's representatives are Seniors Lauren Levine and Doug Breuer, and Juniors Jyoti Jasrasaria, Aneil Tripathy and Evan Feng. The School Committee welcomed them, and they jumped right in sharing their views on structured learning time at the high school.

ABRHS received notification from the Massachusetts Department of Education that we must comply with a minimum number of 990 hours of structured learning for all students by next September. This was an outcome of the Coordinated Program Review, which is a state audit that the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Schools underwent last year. Principal Steve Donovan has been working on plans to meet this requirement, and will be presenting some preliminary ideas to the School Committee at the October 5th School Committee Meeting.

All School Committee Members can be contacted at [AB\\_School\\_Committeemail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:AB_School_Committeemail.ab.mec.edu).

## Upcoming School Committee Meetings

### OCTOBER

**5** Thursday, October 5th  
7:30 PM ABRHS Conference Room 115N\*  
Annual High School Report by Principal Steve Donovan

### NOVEMBER

**2** Thursday, November 2nd  
7:30 PM RJ Grey JHS Library  
Annual Jr. High School Report by Principal Craig Hardimon

As always, the public is welcome to attend.

\*Please note that the October 2nd meeting is at the High School.

## Looking for Volunteer Buddy Families for the Fall

Would your family like to help a new immigrant family acclimate to the Acton-Boxborough schools and community? After an initial meeting at the beginning of the school year, one call per month is suggested to check on your family. Hopefully two volunteer families per new family will facilitate a smooth, friendly new year to the area for a family who could be pretty anxious, unfamiliar with the culture and process, and would be very grateful for assistance from a local school family. While knowing Portuguese, Mandarin, and Korean would be helpful, the most important qualification of a volunteer would be a willingness to help and capacity to understand the new families' problems. For more information, or to volunteer, please email Mrs. Patricia Garrison, the ELL (English Language Learners) teacher of grades 7-12, at [pgarrison@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:pgarrison@mail.ab.mec.edu) or [pgxc@aol.com](mailto:pgxc@aol.com). Thank you very much for your interest.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR SENIORS' FAMILIES

- The last time the school photographer will visit AB is October 16 through 20. Only photos from this photographer are acceptable for the yearbook.
- Senior Quote and Directory information are due November 6 at 2:30. Hand deliver to Mrs. Starr in 142 South or place in Starr mailbox in the Faculty Cafeteria.
- A Student Recognition Ad in the AB Torch (ABRHS' Yearbook) is an opportunity for you to congratulate your senior on his/her graduation. It may contain photos, messages, congratulations, or something of your own design. The deadline for the Yearbook Staff to receive your ad and check is November 10th. All proceeds from advertising supplements the publication costs of the yearbook, a self-supporting activity.
- All seniors have been given handouts with this information in recent/upcoming class meetings. For more specifics, go to <http://ab.mec.edu/abrhs/>, from Quick Links, choose "Seniors."

—Jane Starr, Advisor, [jstarr@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:jstarr@mail.ab.mec.edu)

# 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

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 25  
Acton MA 01720

**High School Student  
Phone Books will be sold  
at Back-to-School Night  
on October 12!!!  
Look for the PTSO  
table in Commons.**

## PTSO Calendar

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>October 12</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	High School Back to School Night
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>October 17</b>	<b>9:30–11:00 am</b>	PTSO Forum at RJG Jr High Auditorium Speaker; Bill Noeth, Math Regional Department Chair, ABRHS
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 14</b>	<b>Noon</b>	PTSO Forum at the Acton Memorial Library Speaker: Stephen Hitzrot, Chairperson, Counseling and Psychological Services, ABHRS
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 14</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	PTSO Board Meeting, location ABRHS Library – Open to all

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**Submission DEADLINE for the November 1 Newsletter is October 16.**

**Please contact Beth at [BPetr@verizon.net](mailto:BPetr@verizon.net) or 978-263-7208.**