

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee

May 7, 2013

RJ Grey Junior High 7:30 PM

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TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Present: Ms. Adachi; Mr. Gowing; Ms. Green; Mr. Sonner; Mr. Clough;, and Town Manager Ledoux

The purpose of the meeting was to hear a presentation from the School Committee on the regionalization of K -6 with the Town of Boxborough.

Dennis Bruce, Chair of Acton School Committee, presented the case for regionalization of K-6 with the Town of Boxborough.

Mr. Bruce stated that the proposed regionalization features the following:

- Sale of Local School Buildings
- District takes on school debt
- Home town school guarantee (first five years minimum)
- Guarantee one elementary school in each town
- Costs are assessed on a three year rolling average
- 80/20 split on assessment, Acton/Boxborough for the first five years
- School Committee expands to 7 Acton members and 4 Boxborough members (Acton, 2.5 votes each, Boxborough 1 vote each)

Mr. Bruce explained why the proposal made sense:

- Increased School Choice options
- Greater leveling of class size
- Classroom space increases
- Increase in Fulltime Kindergarten slots
- Increased professional learning opportunities
- More education, less administration

Mr. Bruce also described the financial benefits:

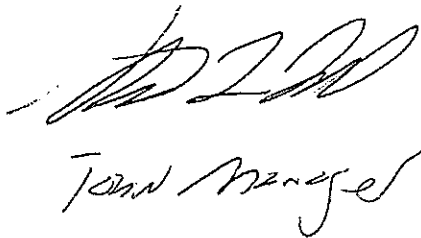
- \$1 million in initial savings
- \$943,000 average savings over the first five years
- Additional potential benefit of \$300,000 to \$1,000,000

Many concerns were expressed from members of the Board of Selectmen as well as the FinCom. Concerns include: the assumptions behind the forecasts for financial projections and student population growth: nominal savings, given the size of the budget: no forecast of costs of status quo. There was some sentiment that the benefit of regionalization benefits Boxborough and not Acton.

The Board of Selectmen will meet in Special Session on May 13th to take a position on the Town meeting Articles.

Mr. Clough moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Sonner. Yeas: all.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.



Tom Menges