

To: Stephen Mills
 From: Larry Dorey
 Re: Discipline Report for May
 Date: 6/1/2014

There were 12 discipline referrals to the administration during the month of May, 2014. This total is down from 32 last year. 4 students were suspended this month, while 25 students were suspended during May, 2013.

Suspensions for the month of May, 2014

Infraction	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Abusive/Obscene Language					
Alcohol Possession			1	2	
Alcohol Use	4	11	5	13	
Disrespectful Behavior					
Disruptive/Uncooperative Behavior	2			1	1
Drug Distribution				3	
Drug Paraphernalia				1	
Marijuana Possession		1	1	4	
Marijuana Use			5		
Fighting		3	4		
Harassment	3				
Leaving School Grounds			1		
Physical Aggression	1				
Physical Attack		1			1
Sale of Alcohol		1			
Threatening			1	1	1
Truancy Issues	8				
Vandalism					1
Total	18	17	18	25	4

A list of all infractions for the month of May, 2014 appears on the backside of this page.

c: JoAnn Campbell

Other Infractions for the Year 2013-2014

Infraction	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Abusive/Obscene Language	1				
Academic Integrity		3			
Alcohol Possession			1	2	
Alcohol use	4	11	5	13	
Bullying		1			
Bus Discipline Issue					1
Chem Health Alcohol			2		
Chem Health Smoking		3			
Computer use Violation		3			
Disrespectful	3			2	2
Disruptive/Uncooperative Be	7	4	3	2	3
Drug Distribution				3	
Drug Paraphernalia				1	
Marijuana Possession		1	1	4	
Marijuana Use			5		
Fighting		3	4		
Forgery		4			
Harassment	4	2	2	1	1
Leaving School Grounds	11	4	4	1	2
Non Compliance w/school ru	2				
Other	3	1			1
Out of School Issue				1	
Physical Aggression	3			1	1
Physical Attack		1			
Sale of Alcohol		1			
Tardy		1			
Teasing	1	4	1		
Threatening			1	1	1
Truancy	14	3	1		
Vandalism			1		
Total	53	50	30	32	12

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 27, 2014

TO: Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent of Schools

CC: Ms. Deborah Bookis, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

FROM: Jean Oviatt-Rothman, K-6 Mathematics Curriculum Specialist/Coach

RE: Mathematics Programs Update

In order to meet the requirements of the 2011 *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics*, several Acton elementary schools have been evaluating math curricula to find a program aligned to the standards that will best meet their needs as a school. The current status of the math program in each school and plan for 2014-15 is:

Gates will be adopting *Go Math* (2012), K-6.

Conant will continue using *Investigations in Number, Data and Space* (2012) at K-2 and will continue piloting *Go Math* (2012) for a second year in grades 3-6.

Merriam will pilot the new *Everyday Math 4th Edition* (2014) in seven primary classrooms (K-2), will continue piloting *Go Math* (2012) for a second year in five classrooms (3-6), and will continue using *Everyday Math* (2012) in the remaining classrooms.

Douglas will continue using *Everyday Math* (2012) K-6.

McCarthy-Towne will continue using *EnVision Math* (2012) for grades 1-6 with *Investigations* (2012) used at kindergarten and as a supplement in grades 1-3.

The principals at all schools are aware that publishers are continuously revising and updating their various math programs during this time of transition in math education. We will continue to monitor new editions and new products as they become available. Our goal is to meet the instructional needs of our teachers as they implement the new mathematics standards while also being cognizant of budgetary and other constraints involved in evaluating new programs.

History

The *Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics*, released in 2011, builds on the *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*, released in 2010. The expectation is that these new standards will improve curriculum and instruction due to increased

- FOCUS : critical areas of focus at each grade level;
- COHERENCE: clear connections within and across grades;
- CLARITY: conceptual depth is clearly expressed; and
- RIGOR: an emphasis on skills and knowledge needed beyond high school.

The framework also promotes rigor through the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice, which describe the traits of mathematically proficient students.

The expectation from DESE is that districts should have curriculum and instruction fully aligned to the new frameworks by the 2013-2014 school year, and the 2014 Mathematics MCAS will fully assess the new standards.

All of the Acton Public elementary schools have been working very hard over the past three years to learn and incorporate the new standards into their curriculum and instruction. The challenge has been using math programs that were not completely aligned to the new standards. Many teachers have worked to develop lessons and supplemental materials that support the new standards. Below is a summary of the math curriculum work done at each school over the past three years.

Gates

In 2011-12, Gates implemented *Investigations in Number, Data, and Space* (2012) in grades K-1 and continued using the *Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Math* (2005) program in grades 2-6. During the summer of 2011, representative teachers from grades 2-6 at Gates and Conant worked on an R&D to attempt to align the *Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Math* (2005) program with the new standards and to identify supplemental lessons and materials.

In 2012-13, Gates grade 2 began using *Investigations* (2012) and grades K & 1 continued to use *Investigations* (2012). Grades 4-6 continued to use *Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley Math* (2005). Grade 3 at Gates piloted *EnVision Math* (2012) in conjunction with a larger pilot at Conant. *EnVision Math* (2012) was the newest edition of the program that was formerly *Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley Math*. Pearson staff provided training, and the pilot teachers worked together to support each other all year. Pilot teachers evaluated *EnVision Math* using a *Curriculum Analysis Tool*, developed by a committee at the University of Louisville to analyze curriculum materials and alignment to the Common Core. As a result of the pilot, they chose to look at other programs.

In 2013-14, Gates piloted *Go Math* (2012) in all classrooms, grades K-6. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt staff provided multiple trainings, and the Math Specialist/Coach supported teachers. Teachers used a rubric adapted from the Amherst Public Schools Criteria for Evaluating Instructional Materials and Programs in Mathematics, and Belmont Public Schools Curriculum Assessment Criteria to evaluate *Go Math*. The data from the rubric, combined with a staff survey conducted by principal Lynne Newman, led to the decision to adopt *Go Math* for grades K-6 at Gates.

Conant

In 2011-12, Conant used *Investigations* (2006) in grades K-1 and the *Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley Math* (2005) program in grades 2-6. During the summer of 2011, representative teachers from grades 2-6 at Conant and Gates worked on an R&D to attempt to align the *Scott-Foresman-Addison Wesley Math* (2005) program with the new standards and to identify supplemental lessons and materials.

In 2012-13, Conant grades K-2 began using the newest edition of *Investigations* (2012). Most teachers in grades 4-6 continued to use *Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley Math* (2005). Several teachers in grades 3, 4 and 5 at Conant piloted *EnVision Math* (2012). *EnVision Math* was the newest version of the program that was formerly *Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley Math*. Pearson staff provided training, and the pilot teachers worked together to support each other all year.

Pilot teachers evaluated *EnVision Math* using a *Curriculum Analysis Tool*, developed by a committee at the University of Louisville to analyze curriculum materials and alignment to the Common Core. As a result of the pilot, they chose to look at other programs.

In 2013-14, Conant grades K-2 continued using *Investigations* (2012) and grades 3-6 piloted *Go Math* (2012). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt staff provided multiple trainings for the pilot, and the Math Specialist/Coach supported teachers. Pilot teachers used a rubric adapted from the Amherst Public Schools Criteria for Evaluating Instructional Materials and Programs in Mathematics, and Belmont Public Schools Curriculum Assessment Criteria to evaluate *Go Math*. The data from the rubric and discussions with staff led to the decision to continue using *Investigations* in K-2 and piloting *Go Math* in grades 3-6 for another year at Conant.

Merriam

In 2011-12, Merriam continued using *Everyday Math* (2007) in grades K-6. In a summer 2012 R&D project, representative staff from Merriam and Douglas worked to align the *Everyday Math* program with the 2011 MA Math Frameworks. In 2012-13 Merriam used the updated edition of *Everyday Math* (2012) along with the recommendations from the R&D work.

In 2013-14, Merriam piloted *Go Math* (2012) in several classrooms in grades 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. All other Merriam teachers continue to use *Everyday Math* (2012). Pilot teachers used a rubric adapted from the Amherst Public Schools Criteria for Evaluating Instructional Materials and Programs in Mathematics, and Belmont Public Schools Curriculum Assessment Criteria to evaluate *Go Math*. The data from the rubric and discussions with staff led to the decision to continue piloting *Go Math* for another year at Merriam. Because of looping, all Merriam teachers who have decided to teach *Go Math* will be teaching another grade level of the program during 2014-15. The completely re-written 4th edition of *Everyday Math* (2014) is being released for grades K-2 for the fall of 2014. Seven primary grade teachers have decided to pilot this new edition for the 2014-15 school year. Ed Kaufman's goal is to have all Merriam teachers teaching one math program by the 2015-16 school year.

Douglas

In 2011-12, Douglas continued using *Everyday Math* (2007) in grades K-6. In a summer 2012 R&D project, representative staff from Merriam and Douglas worked to align the *Everyday Math* program with the 2011 MA Math Frameworks. In 2012-13 Douglas continued using *Everyday Math* (2007) with the recommendations from the R&D work.

In 2013-14 Douglas updated to the 2012 edition of *Everyday Math*.

McCarthy-Towne

In 2011-12, McCarthy-Towne continued using *EnVision* (2009) in grades K-6, supplementing with *Investigations* (2012) in grades K-3.

In 2012-13, grades 1-6 continued using *EnVision* (2009) with online Common Core supplemental lessons from Pearson. Kindergarten began teaching exclusively *Investigations* (2012), and grades 1-3 continued to supplement with *Investigations*.

In 2013-14, McCarthy-Towne updated to the 2012 edition of *EnVision* for grades 1-6, with *Investigations* (2012) in kindergarten and as a supplement for the primary grades.

Office of the Superintendent
Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools
978-264-4700, x3211

To: Richard Guzzardi, ABSAF President
From: Dr. Stephen Mills and Marie Altieri
Date: 5/28/14
Re: ABSAF Support for FY'15

Thank you very much for ABSAF's donation of \$75,000 for the 2014 – 2015 school year. We are so grateful for the Acton Boxborough Student Activity Fund's continued support of our students and programs.

Below is a breakdown of the 2014 - 2015 plan for use of the ABSAF gift funds.

FY '15 High School Student Activities Stipends	\$16,000
FY '15 Junior High Student Activities Stipends	\$ 6,000
FY '15 Interscholastic Athletics	\$41,000
Performing Arts (FY '15)	<u>\$12,000</u>
Transportation	\$2,000
Proscenium Circus – High School	\$8,000
Instruments	\$2,000
TOTAL:	\$75,000

Cc: J. Campbell
A. Shen
S. Desy
M. Hickey
D. Aicardi



**Community Preservation
Committee**

TOWN OF ACTON
472 Main Street
Acton, Massachusetts 01720
Telephone (978) 929-6631
Fax (978) 929-6340
cpc@acton-ma.gov
www.acton-ma.gov

April 24, 2014

Steve Mills, Superintendent
Acton Public Schools
15 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720

**Re: 2014 CPA Project Funding – Acton Public Schools
Acton Public Schools Nature Play Space Planning Grant – up to \$24,000**

Dear Mr. Mills:

Congratulations to the Acton Public Schools on being a recipient of 2014 Community Preservation funds (CPA funds) in the amount of \$24,000. The Schools' effort and cooperation during this year's project selection process helped secure the necessary support at the Annual Town Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) spending recommendation for this project. Voters agreed that each funded project is worthwhile and now they expect that each will be well executed. Before you move forward with the project, please pay close attention to the following important instructions and funding conditions:

- The Town staff person assigned to this project is Roland Bartl, Planning Director. All necessary documentation and communication with the Town regarding this project shall be directed to him.
- CPA funding for this project is available immediately following the release date of this letter.
- CPA funds shall be disbursed in accordance with standard Town of Acton accounting procedures, policies, and controls, after full or partial project completion to your satisfaction consistent with and limited to the project scope as presented in your funding application, and after:
 - a) receipt by the assigned Town staff person of contractor invoices for material provided and work performed on the project;
 - b) verification that all applicable state purchasing and ethics regulations, local bylaws, and Town financial policies have been met;

- c) the assigned staff person has verified that the conditions of this award letter have been met.
- Any significant changes to the project from what was presented in the funding application and during the project selection process, and ultimately approved by Town Meeting, shall require CPC approval. Please contact Roland Bartl, Planning Director (978-929-6631; rbartl@acton-ma.gov) to discuss whether or not a change must be considered significant, and if necessary to schedule an appointment with the CPC.
 - Upon completion of the project and payment of all bills, you must certify completion in writing to the Planning Director. Once he receives your certification, your project account will be closed and no further funds shall be available thereafter for this project.
 - Any CPA funds awarded to this project and not used upon project completion shall be returned to the general CPA fund of the Town and made available for future appropriation by Town Meeting for other projects.
 - Good publicity for your project is very important. It is important for Acton citizens to know where their CPA funds are being spent. Therefore, the CPC asks that you make every effort to credit the source of this funding at any meetings and in any written materials related to this project. Upon completion, please submit a letter to the CPC detailing how the funds have benefited your project.

The Community Preservation Committee would appreciate a notice when work on the project has commenced, periodic updates concerning the progress of your project, and especially notification upon completion. For updates or general questions please contact the CPC via email - cpc@acton-ma.gov, or by calling the Planning Department at (978) 929-6631.

Finally, please sign and return to Roland Bartl the attached acceptance form. Thank you for working in partnership with the CPC to make a significant and lasting difference in our Town.

Sincerely,



Roland Bourdon
Chairman
Community Preservation Committee

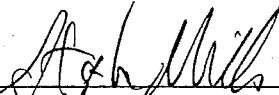
cc: Board of Selectmen
Roland Bartl, Planning Director
Lisa Krause, Town Accountant
Eileen Sullivan, Elementary Curriculum Specialist Acton Public Schools

p:\cpc\2014\awards\schools - nature play space planning grant.docx

**Re: 2014 CPA Project Funding – Acton Public Schools
Acton Public Schools Nature Play Space Planning Grant – up to \$24,000**

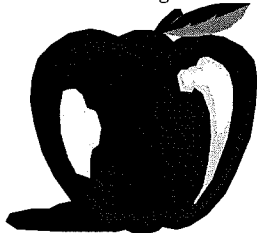
The Acton Public Schools accepts the foregoing grant of Community Preservation funds and agrees to be bound by the conditions stated in this award letter.

Dated: 5/2, 2014



Steve Mills, Superintendent
Acton Public Schools
15 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720

Acton-Boxborough Food Services



Serving Education Daily

**Acton Public Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Food Service Department
16 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720-2995
Phone # 1-978-264-4700x3221
Fax # 1-978-264-3340
Kirsten Nelson, Director**

TO: Stephen Mills
FROM: Kirsten Nelson
DATE: May 30, 2014
RE: Recommendation to award Food and Related Product Bids

The Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District participated with The Education Cooperative (TEC) in the following bid categories:

- 1) Paper Products
- 2) Groceries
- 3) Vending
- 4) Bread Products
- 5) Milk

The following vendors were approved and awarded the bids at the May 7th bid award meeting at TEC.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1) Paper Products | Mansfield Paper Company |
| 2) Groceries | Thurston Foods, Costa Fruit and Produce |
| 3) Vending | Polar Beverages |
| 4) Bread Products | Duva Bakery |
| 5) Milk | Garellick Farms |

The above named vendors have serviced the district in the past and their services have been satisfactory.



21.6
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 27, 2014

For More Information:

Stephanie Ferrari, MS, RD
New England Dairy & Food Council
(617)-734-6750 x21 (office)
(413)-265-3814 (cell)
SFerrari@NewEnglandDairy.com

RJ GREY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES FUNDS FOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

\$1,638 Awarded by New England Dairy & Food Council for Fuel Up to Play 60

Acton, MA – May 27, 2014 - RJ Grey Junior High School has been chosen to receive \$1,638 to support its Fuel Up to Play 60 initiative, the New England Dairy & Food Council announced today. RJ Grey Junior High School was selected from among hundreds of schools across the country that applied for funding to help them jumpstart and sustain healthy nutrition and physical activity improvements. This nationwide funding program offers schools up to \$4,000 to help them increase awareness of and access to nutrient-rich foods and physical activity opportunities for students. Funding for this program is provided by New England Dairy & Food Council and the dairy farmers of Massachusetts.

Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60 provides support for a variety of activities and tools, such as foodservice materials and equipment, nutrition and physical education materials, student and staff incentives, staff development and overall Fuel Up to Play 60 implementation.

The funds will be used to purchase a new smoothie blender to help produce nutrient-rich smoothies made with fruit, milk and yogurt. Smoothies will be offered to students five days a week at lunch with a warm soft pretzel and choice of milk. To help promote the new smoothie offerings, the school nutrition department will provide free smoothie taste test samples to the students during lunch for a week before they become a permanent menu item. Additionally, the health education teacher has partnered up with the school nutrition director to develop a student smoothie recipe contest which will run this spring.

"We are thrilled to receive this funding from the New England Dairy and Food Council," said Kirsten Nelson, school nutrition director for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District. "We have been offering smoothies at our High School this year and are so excited to be able to bring smoothies to the students at the RJ Grey Junior High. What a great offering for lunch for our students! We know the students will enjoy the smoothies as much as the High School students do."

More than 73,000 schools across the United States are participating in Fuel Up to Play 60. Developed by National Dairy Council, local Dairy Councils and National Football League (NFL), in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the program encourages youth to consume nutrient-dense foods and achieve at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Multiple health organizations and several major corporations also support Fuel Up to Play 60.

"We are excited that Fuel Up to Play 60 has really taken off in Acton. By offering fruit and yogurt smoothies, students have yet another healthy option available to them in the school cafeteria," said Jill Read, RD, LDN, nutrition specialist with New England Dairy & Food Council.

Schools, parents and students can learn more about Fuel Up to Play 60 at FuelUpToPlay60.com. Schools can learn more about eligibility requirements, and find the Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60 application, at FuelUpToPlay60.com. There are several application windows each year, including the upcoming deadline on June 4, 2014.



Caption for photo: Jill Read of New England Dairy & Food Council presents \$1,638 funding check on behalf of the dairy farmers of Massachusetts to the School Nutrition Staff at RJ Grey Junior High School in Acton.

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About New England Dairy & Food Council

New England Dairy & Food Council (NEDFC) is a non-profit nutrition education organization staffed by registered dietitians. NEDFC is a state and regional affiliate of the National Dairy Council® (NDC). Our goal is to ensure that health professionals, scientists, media and educators have a credible body of nutrition information upon which to base health recommendations.

About Fuel Up to Play 60

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council (NDC) and National Football League (NFL), with additional partnership support from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program encourages youth to consume nutrient-rich foods (low-fat and fat-free dairy, fruits, vegetables and whole grains) and achieve at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

Fuel Up to Play 60 is designed to engage and empower youth to take action for their own health by implementing long-term, positive changes for themselves and their schools. Customizable and non-prescriptive program components are grounded in research with youth, including tools and resources, in-school promotional materials, a website and student challenges. Fuel Up to Play 60 is further supported by several health and nutrition organizations: Action for Healthy Kids, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Medical Association and School Nutrition Association. Visit FuelUpToPlay60.com to learn more.

About NFL PLAY 60

Designed to help tackle childhood obesity, NFL PLAY 60 brings together the NFL's long-standing commitment to health and fitness with partner organizations like the National Dairy Council. NFLPLAY 60 is also implemented locally, as part of the NFL's in-school, after-school and team-based programs. For more information, visit NFLRush.com. © 2012 NFL Properties LLC. All NFL-related trademarks are trademarks of the National Football League.

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21.7

Bos@acton-ma.gov@acton-ma.gov

Upcoming Common Core/PARCC Forum

Corinne Hogseth <corinnehog@verizon.net>

Wed, May 28, 2014 at 10:56 PM

To: srcochair@gatesschoolpto.org, jrcochair@gatesschoolpto.org,

Cc: bos@acton-ma.gov, abrsc@abschools.org, aps@abschools.org

Hi All —

I first heard the phrase “common core” in the fall of 2012 at my third grade daughter’s curriculum night. I didn’t think much of it, other than “Good, they’re going to make her learn her multiplication tables.” Earlier this spring, I was informed that my 7th grade son would be taking the PARCC pilot test for ELA. That’s when I started doing some digging. As I spoke with friends to see what they knew or thought about this, I was met with blank stares. At a PTO board meeting just last week, I brought up this topic, and the first comment was “What’s Common Core?” By definition, a PTO board consists of actively engaged parents, yet most were admittedly under-informed on this subject. I am stunned and a bit depressed by the lack of discussion on this very important topic that is directly impacting our children (and our school budget) *right now*.

With the hope of turning that around, I have reserved the Gates cafetorium for the evening of Monday, June 16, from 7-9 pm to conduct a forum on the topics of the Common Core and PARCC testing. Our speakers will be Dave McGeney, chair of the Peabody School Committee, and Jamie Gass, the Director of the Center for School Reform at the Pioneer Institute. I have also extended an invitation to Mitchell Chester, the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, so that we might have a balanced discussion.

In addition to the Commission of the DESE, I am also hoping that Representatives Benson and Atkins and Senator Eldridge will also be able to join us, as well as our members of our Board of Selectmen and School Committees (copied here). Since acceptance of the Common Core and replacement of MCAS with PARCC tests was never debated or voted upon at any level of government, I suspect that many of our elected officials are as uninformed as everyone else. I hope they take the opportunity to come and learn more about CC/PARCC.

I hope you will help spread the word to your school communities to maximize participation in this forum. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kind regards,

Corinne Hogseth

Acton

Thank you
Dr. Stephen Mills!

Please stop by
to thank Dr. Mills and wish
him a happy retirement
after 36 years
in public education!



Monday, June 16th

3:00 – 5:30

R.J. Grey Junior High School Library

Questions? Beth at bpetr@abschools.org



21.9

Congratulations!

Marc Lewis <mlewis@abschools.org>

Fri, May 23, 2014 at 10:19 AM

To: AB News <news@abschools.org>

Congratulations to the newly-elected Executive Committee of the Acton-Boxborough Education Association, formerly the AEA, who were elected earlier this week and will begin their terms on June 1:

President: Karen Sonner, *Merriam School*

Vice President: Mike Balulescu, *Jr High School*

Secretary: Karin Drowne, *High School*

Treasurer: Kristen Sluyski, *High School*