

Dear Visitors:

Welcome to an open meeting of the Abington School Committee. This is the agenda that will be discussed this evening. Please note that Hearing of Visitors is included; and if you have a statement or question, please be kind enough to wait to be recognized by the Chair and give your name and address.

Chris Coyle, Chair

This meeting may be digitally recorded

ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ABINGTON, MA 02351

MEETING OF THE ABINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

ABINGTON MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL – LIBRARY

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE
- II. HEARING OF VISITORS
- III. READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS
 - A. March 28, 2023
 - B. Executive Session February 28, 2023
 - C. Executive Session March 22, 2023
- IV. PRESENTATION OF M.A.S.S. CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT
 - A. Guidance Department Update (Christina Park, Department Head)

B. ELE Department Update (Elizabeth Despres, Department Head)

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

A. Technology Services Update (Rich Bykowski Director of Tech Services)

VII. PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS

A. Jennifer Barresi – Woodsdale Elementary School

1. SY 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan.

VIII. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

A. School Safety Update

IX. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Establishment of the Final Day for the 2022-2023 school year as Wednesday, June 14, 2023 (1/2 Day for students).

B. Consideration of the 2023-2024 School Calendar.

X. NEW BUSINESS AND ESTABLISHING OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7PM

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Correspondence to the GreenWave Boosters for recent contribution
- Personnel Administration – Informational
 1. The superintendent has accepted the resignation of Steve Shannon, Music Teacher and Music Director for purposes of retirement effective June 30, 2023.
 2. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the superintendent has approved Lauren Dooley, as a long-term substitute effective March 2023 through the end of this year.

3. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the superintendent has approved Jennifer Gonzalez, as a TLC paraprofessional effective April 24, 2023.
4. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the superintendent has appointed Emily Lyons as an Auxiliary Tennis Coach, Jennifer Worden as an Assistant JV Lacrosse Coach and Mick Barry as an Auxiliary Ultimate Frisbee Coach.
5. The superintendent has accepted the resignation of Alexandra Carreiro as a Teacher at Abington High School effective June 30, 2023.

- Dates to Remember

1. Saturday, April 29- Abington Town Elections at BBES
2. Wednesday, May 4-Green Wave Boosters Meeting

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes, March 28 2023

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Abington, Massachusetts

March 28, 2023 Regular Meeting

**I. CALL OF MEETING
TO ORDER AND FLAG
SALUTE**

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held in the Library at 201 Gliniewicz Way.

Present: Mr. Chris Coyle, Chair; Ms. Danielle Grafton, Vice-Chair; Ms. Heidi Hernandez, Secretary; Ms. Julie Groom and Ms. Wendy Happel, Members. Also in attendance were Mr. Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Felicia Moschella, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance; Ms. Elizabeth Lindo, Student Representative and Ms. Danielle Gaylor, Executive Secretary.

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

Mike McDonnell 3 Pine Crest Road, Mike shared his thoughts on having school Good Friday April 7, 2023. He asked that the School Committee reconsider this in the future and that Good Friday be recognized as a holiday.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 28, 2023

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes of February 28, 2023.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The final version of the new Superintendent contract was agreed to and voted on for the 2024-2025 school year.

VOTED: on motion of Julie Groom (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee unanimously voted on the new Superintendent's contract for the 2024-2025 school year.

V. REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Dr. Elizabeth Gonsalves, English Department Head, provided updates on her department. She highlighted the strengths of her department as she discussed the department's standard of curriculum. She highlighted the use of academic tools such as Choice Boards and other writing tools that help students improve their writing, creativity and engagement. She also touched on AP and MCAS testing results.

The 2023-2023 School Calendar was presented to the School Committee and was concluded that they would vote on the calendar at a future meeting.

Dr. Basta provided details for the 2023 Academic Summer School program. He reported that the program is for grades 7-12 and is to be held at 201 Gliniewicz Way. Summer School is available to students in grades 9-12 to earn credits for courses they have failed during the school year. Middle school students may attend summer school to replace their grades rather than receive credit. Eligibility for both groups is determined with school administration and guidance counselors.

VI. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. James Robbins, Director of Student Services, provided details on the 2023 Extended School Year Program which services students with disabilities. This program will run from July 5 – July 27, 2023 Monday through Thursday, and two Fridays [July 7 and July 21]

VII. PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Mr. Bourn was present this evening to update the committee on the School Improvement Plan for Abington High School. He began with a background on the School Improvement Plan for this past year and shared the goals for the 2023-2024 school year which include **Goal 1:** Identify opportunities to implement High Quality Performance Assessments connected to the Vision of the Graduate. **Goal 2** Revisit and define the philosophy and utilization of Bridge Block to best serve the academic needs of students in meeting course standards and the Vision of the Graduate.

Mr. Bourn also provided an update on student travel and education abroad. He presented 2 school trips to the Committee to vote on for the upcoming 2023-2024 School year. The trips to Spain during February break and Belize during April break are junior/senior trips.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Groom (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the trips to Spain and Belize during the upcoming 23/24 School year

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Schafer officially announces Melanie Savicke as the Assistant Principal at Beaver Brook Elementary School. Ms. Savicke shares her excitement to continue working with the BBES community.

IX. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Moschella provided an update of the FY-24 Budget which included updates to the preliminary proposal. She disclosed new positions that will be posted for the upcoming year as well as positions that will be funded via ESSER in FY24.

X. NEW BUSINESS AND ESTABLISHING OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Personnel Administration – Informational
 1. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Laura Brink as a Tutor at the Beaver Brook Elementary School effective March 10, 2023

Minutes, March 28 2023

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2. The superintendent has accepted the resignation of Thea Showstack as the School Psychologist at the Woodsdale effective March 15, 2023
3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Megan Muise as a TLC paraprofessional at the Beaver Brook Elementary School effective March 30, 2023
4. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved Tanya Faynberg as a Long Term School Psychologist effective March 21, 2023.
5. On the recommendation of Johathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School and Matthew MacCurtain of Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has appointed Meg Tomlin at the PreK-12 Coordinator and Academic Program Director
6. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has appointed Connor Bennett and William Caseley as the Assistant Track and Field Coach, Jason Brown as Assistant Baseball Coach and Zach Carey as Assistant Lacrosse for FY 22/23 Spring Season. He has also appointed the following volunteer coaches for the FY 22/23 Spring Season

Baseball

James Donohue
Christian Labossier
Tyler Perakslis

Lacrosse


Own Kearney

7. On the recommendation of Johathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High the Superintendent has appointed Fraser Toomey as an EL Tutor at AHS for 1st Period effective March 21, 2023
8. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the reassignment of Catherine Martin as a Tutor effective March 27, 2023
9. The Superintendent has accepted the reassignment of Heidi Rizzo as a 1:1 Paraprofessional at the Woodsdale Elementary School effective March 20, 2023
10. On the recommendation of Jennifer Barresi, Principal of the Woodsdale School, the Superintendent has appointed, Joseph Graziano (effective March 13, 2023) and Christine Caliendo (effective March 20, 2023) as Recess/Lunch paraprofessionals
11. On the recommendation of Johathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School and Steve Shannon, Director of Music, Drama Advisor the Superintendent has appointed Brian Mazzoli as the Percussion Technique effective March 21, 2023
12. On the recommendation of Johathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School and Steve Shannon, Director of Music, Drama Advisor the Superintendent has appointed Daria Healey as the Color Guard Technique effective March 21, 2023
13. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Marissa Politano as a Teacher at the Beaver Brook Elementary School effective March 21, 2023

Dates to Remember

1. Thursday, March 30 – Inservice/Early Release Day
2. Monday., April 3 – Annual Town Meeting @ AHS @ 7 p.m.
3. Monday., April 17 – Patriots Day – All School Offices and Buildings Closed
4. Monday., April 17– Fri., April 21 – Spring Vacation

XI. ADJOURNMENT



Heidi Hernandez, Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION

February 28, 2023

Executive Session

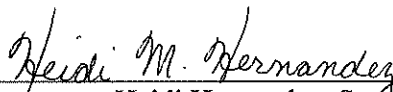
Members of the Abington School Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:10pm to discuss the parameters for a superintendent contract and enclosed was discussed.

Present:

Mr. Chris Coyle, Chair; Ms. Danielle Grafton, Vice-Chair; Ms. Heidi Hernandez, Secretary; Ms. Julie Groom and Ms. Wendy Happel, Members. Also in attendance were Mr. Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Felicia Moschella, Assistant Superintendent.

Adjournment

@ 9:55pm



Heidi Hernandez, Secretary

ABINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1071 WASHINGTON STREET
ABINGTON, MA 02351



School Committee Meeting

Wednesday March 22, 2023
6:30pm

VIRTUAL

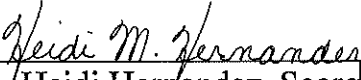
Microsoft Teams Meeting Call in Information:

+1 929-229-5751,,745757196# United States, New York City
Phone Conference ID: 745 757 196#

Executive Session: Members of the Abington School Committee entered into Executive Session at 6:30pm to discuss negotiations with non-union personnel Superintendent's contract.

Present: Mr. Chris Coyle, Chair; Ms. Danielle Grafton, Vice-Chair; Ms. Heidi Hernandez, Secretary; Ms. Julie Groom and Ms. Wendy Happel, Members.

Adjournment @ 7:37pm



Heidi Hernandez, Secretary



Abington High School Guidance Department

**School Committee Presentation
By Christina Park
April 2023**

COUNSELOR BREAKDOWN

Students are assigned a Guidance Counselor based on their last name. Students typically have the same counselor all 4 years of high school.

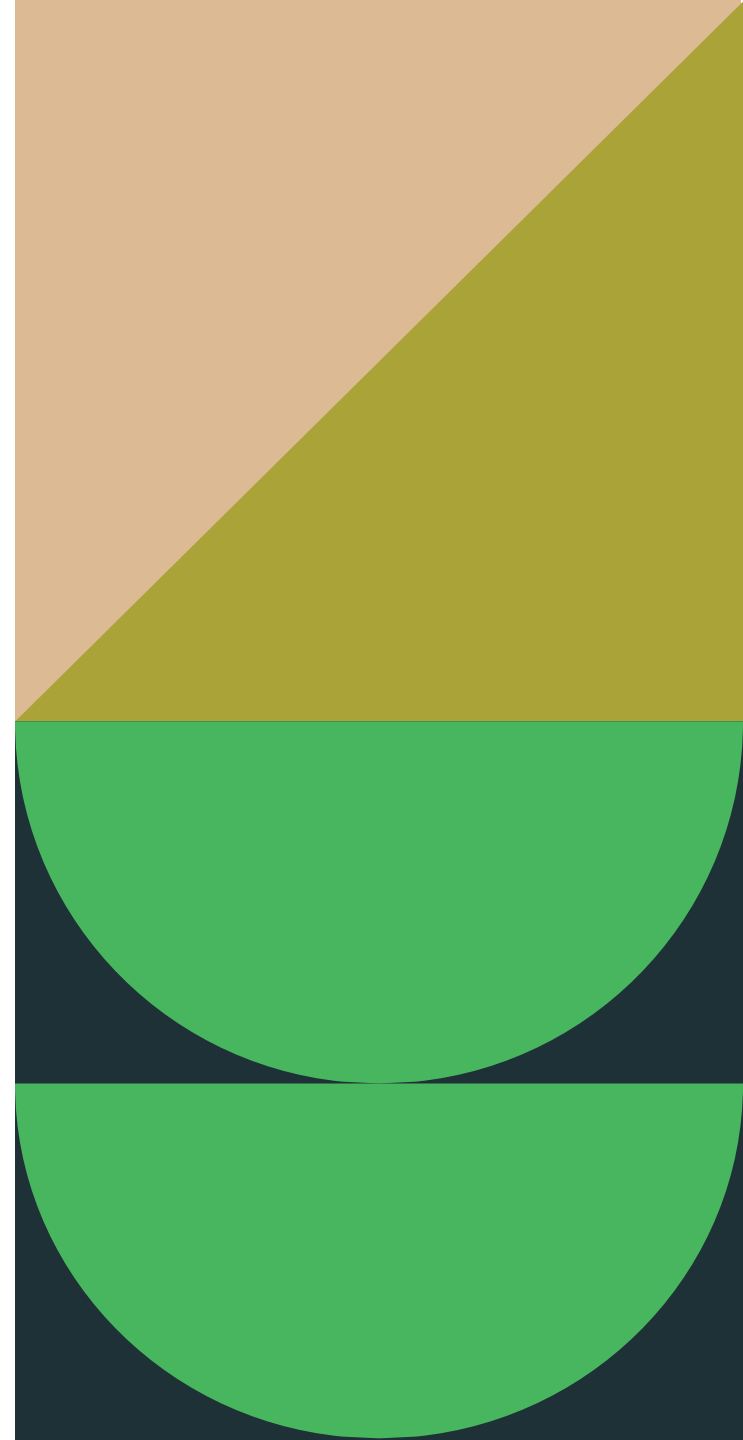
Sarah McGinness - Students with the last names A-F

Christina Park - Students with the last names G-M

Jessica Coscia - Students with the last names N-Z

Individualized counseling on:

Social Emotional Needs. Academic Counseling. Course Selection.
Postsecondary Planning. New Student Registrations.



GUIDANCE CURRICULUM

Grade 9 – Orientation to High School

- Graduation requirements
- GPA
- Academic eligibility
- Attendance policy
- Clubs/Activities

Grade 10 – Introduction to Naviance

- Career Interest Inventory – match interests to potential careers/areas of study

Grade 11 – Post Secondary Planning

- Overview of the post-secondary planning process
- Naviance College Application features

Grade 12 – Post Secondary Planning Cont.

- Create a Common App account
- Review of the college application process
- Review Naviance college application features

GUIDANCE EVENTS

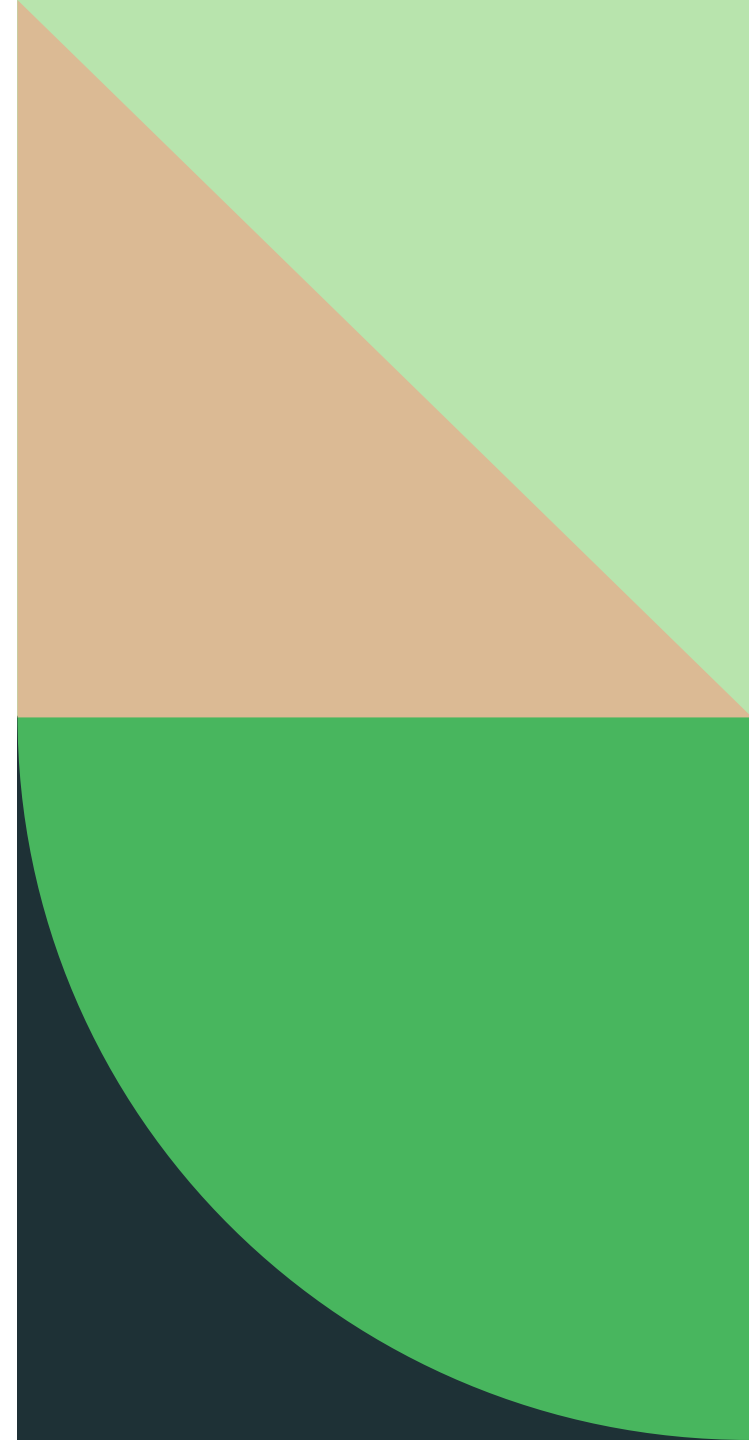
- College Fair field trip
- Financial Aid Night
- PSATs + Results workshop
- Exam coordination
- On the Spot Admissions Days
- Junior Parent Night
- Course Selection per grade level
- Signs of Suicide Program w/ School Psychologist & Health Department
- Senior College Decision Day
- Scholarship Awards Night
- Weekly group sessions during bridge block for College Application help
- Hosted Southeastern Technical Institute and Porter and Chester to do an information session on trades
- Scholarship information session for seniors during bridge block
- Showcased local part-time job opportunities
- Organized military branches to set up a table at lunch for students to inquire

NEW THIS YEAR

- College Information Sessions during Bridge Block
 - Bridgewater State, UMass Dartmouth, Bryant University, UMass Boston
- Monthly Guidance Newsletter
- TV screen in the Guidance Department showcasing events
- Care Solace
- Mass Hire Partnership
 - STEM Career Field Trip, Career Day Conference Field Trip, Construction Day Field Trip

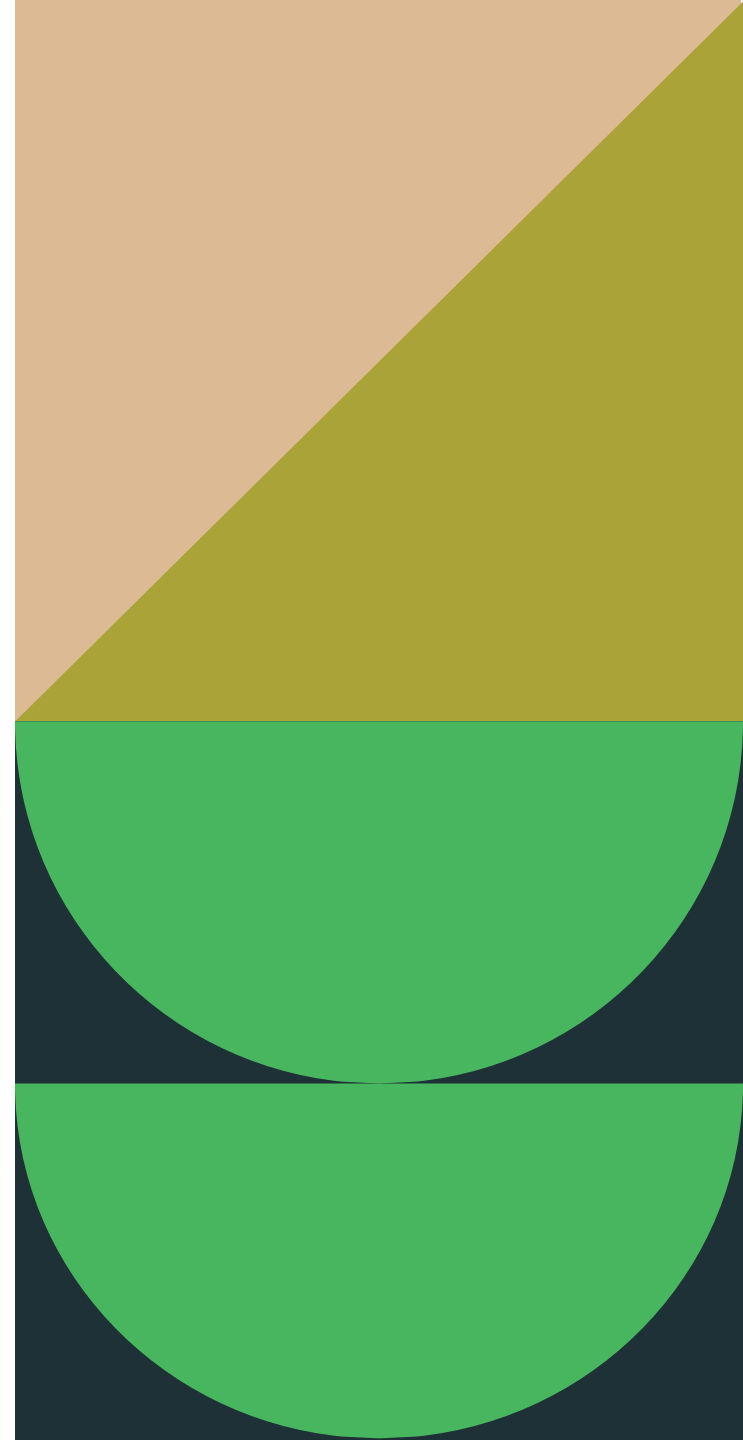
STRENGTHS

- Experienced Staff
- Ongoing commitment to the social emotional well-being and academic success of all students
- Collaboration amongst all stakeholders
- Technology & Communication



PROGRESS ON AREAS FOR GROWTH AS PRESENTED IN 2021-2022

- Continue to increase student knowledge of the variety of post- secondary options available to them
 - Partnership with MassHire - Career based field trips
- Continue to increase Guidance Information Sessions during Bridge Block
 - Invited 4 Universities to speak to Juniors and Seniors about their admissions process, increased Junior group presentations from 1 to 2 group sessions (January and June)
- Continue to provide resources to students through multiple modalities
 - Monthly Guidance Newsletter, TV Screen in Guidance showcasing events, Canvas page for Grades 11 and 12
- Continued education on local mental health resources available for our students
 - Partnership with Care Solace, PD from John Crocker, Director of the Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium



AREAS FOR GROWTH FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

- Continue to increase student knowledge of the variety of post-secondary options available to them
 - Try to secure more Universities/Trade Schools/Military Branches to meet with students
- Continue to be educated on the local mental health resources available for our students
 - Secure more Professional Development focusing on mental health resources
- Promote Summer enrichment options for students
 - Create a document to educate students on summer dual enrollment & summer programs offered at local colleges/universities

VISION OF THE GRADUATE

Through individual counseling, our department focuses significantly on the following domains:

SOCIALLY COMPETENT CONTRIBUTOR:

- Displays tolerance and empathy
- Learns about and values cultural differences
- Advocates for needs beyond oneself
- Is physically and intellectually present in daily interactions
- **Successfully navigates social situations: *Facilitates Mediations***
- Builds and maintains healthy relationships
- **Uses technology to enhance learning for self and others: *The Naviance Program***

SELF-AWARE INDIVIDUAL:

- **Prioritizes and manages time effectively: *Meeting with students and devising plans after an extended absence***
- Models healthy lifestyle choices
- Manages stressful situations
- Demonstrates resiliency
- Advocates for themselves
- **Takes intellectual risks: *Course Selection Conversations***

English Learner Education Department

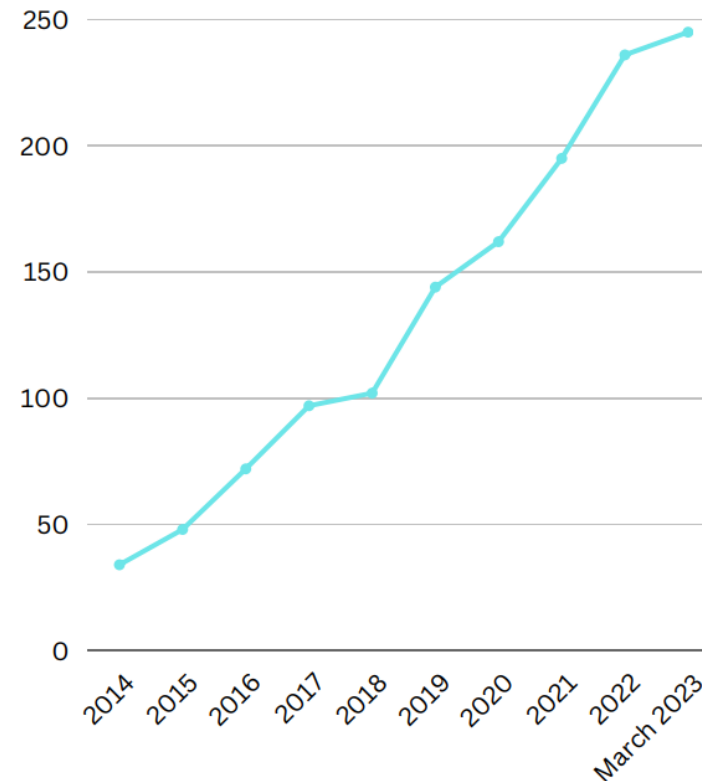
School Committee Presentation

By Elizabeth Despres

April 25th, 2023

English Learners in Abington

- ▶ In Abington, there are currently:
 - ▶ **245 English Learners** (11.5% of total student population)
 - ▶ **65 Former English Learners** (14.5% of total student population)
 - ▶ **375 students whose first language is not English** (17.5% of total student population)
- ▶ **About 73% of ELs speak Portuguese** as their 1st language
- ▶ **27% of ELs speak other languages**, including Spanish, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Gujatati
- ▶ Over 30% of our ELs are in their 1st year in the United States



Progress on Areas for Growth as presented in 2021-2022

Added a 1.0 Foundational ELE teacher at Beaver Brook Elementary School

Added a .4 ELE teacher at Woodsdale School

Added a .6 ELE teacher at Abington Middle School

Purchased the Reach Curriculum Series for Woodsdale School

ELE teachers are beginning to write ELE curriculum that is aligned with the 2020 WIDA Standards, vertically aligned within the department, and laterally aligned with grade-level standards

Strengths of the Department

▶ Strong ELE Teachers

- ▶ ELE teachers are culturally proficient and follow an asset-based approach to language learning

▶ Student Programs

- ▶ ELE Tutoring, ELE Summer Program, Language Buddies Club / Brazilian Students Club

▶ Family Engagement

- ▶ Active ELPAC, ESL Family Breakfast, ESL Family Night, Coffee and Literacy, technology workshops, and Adult ESL Classes



Areas for Growth



Decreasing EL drop-out rates at the high school level and closing the achievement gap for ELs across the district



Allowing for more Common Planning Time between ELE teachers and content-area teachers



Written ELE Curriculum that is better aligned with general education curriculum for grades K-12

Questions?



Abington Public Schools Technology Department

Rich Bykowski – Director

Oliver Crichlow – Computer and Network Technician

Rhys Papineau – Computer and Network Technician

Vicki Graham – Integration Specialist



What we do in the Technology Department

- Manage, monitor and maintain:
 - ~2200 laptops, desktops, etc.
 - ~130 projectors, touchscreen displays
 - ~140 printers, copiers
 - District network including ~250 network switches, wireless access points, etc.
- Support and train staff on use of all district software including Canvas, Aspen and all educational subscriptions
- Work with various district departments to improve processes, discover new products and implement new workflows to help optimize workflows

Support ticket statistics

The technology department uses a ticketing system called IncidentIQ to track help requests, resolve issues and alert our “customers” when their issues have been resolved. Staff, students and families (through our website/online form) can enter tickets to be addressed by technology staff.

Year over year stats:

- August 15, 2021 – June 30, 2022: Tickets closed = 4157
- August 15, 2022 – April 11, 2023: Tickets closed = 3153 (estimate 3941 total at year end)

Reasons for the decrease:

- Support from the staff in the library media center
- Alerting families to student laptop damage

Technology Projects

- Through funding provided by Town Meeting, the school district can provide each 5th and 9th grader with a new laptop, bag for the device and earbuds with microphone to be used through their time at AMS or AHS.
- With school budget funds, we are working to replace staff laptops, many of which were purchased as part of the building project.
- This year we rolled out the Aspen parent portal to families K-12, allowing the families to view their student information in one portal instead of the previous process requiring them to log in as each individual student.
- Will be working to roll out a significant update to the emergency phone call system this summer, with opportunities to use that system to send email and SMS messages as well as phone calls.



Cybersecurity

- District applied for and was rewarded a State funded grant for staff cybersecurity training through an online portal, covering topics such as password hygiene and how to recognize phishing emails.
- Technology monitors district systems to ensure they are patched and there are no vulnerabilities to be exploited on district systems.
- Implemented improved web filtering this year to comply with CIPA and protect district devices from accessing malicious websites.
- Working to complete migration of all district devices to Microsoft's Azure cloud to improve device updating and allow technology better vision into any device issues.
- Developed a process of off-site backups to ensure school continuity in the event of a catastrophe.

Physical Security

- With funding from the 2021 Town Meeting, we worked with the maintenance department and our outside security vendor to add cameras and electronic door locks at both Beaver Brook and Woodsdale, connecting those schools to the security system that was installed at 201 Gliniewicz Way during the building project.
- In 2023, APS applied for an additional security grant to add more cameras to both schools and one additional electronic door to further improve the building security posture.

Curriculum, Instruction, Special Education

- Worked with Abington Early Education Program to test, implement and train staff on the use of large touchscreen monitors to provide new interactive technology experiences for our smallest students.
- Implemented systems to manage our Out of District iPads and other devices to provide services as needed to these students.
- Worked with Dr. Basta to determine if various subject area pilot programs will integrate with existing district programs like Canvas and Clever to ensure the best possible experience for students and staff.
- Developed list of software products in use district-wide to evaluate their impacts, costs and how to best utilize these systems.
- Continue to develop best practices to provide accessibility to APS resources for all students and families.

Woodsdale Elementary School



School Improvement Plan 2023-2024

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WES School Council Members

Chairperson/Principal: Jennifer Barresi

Staff Representative: Andrea Doyon, Meghan Eddy (Year 1)

Parent Representative: Shawna Torpey, Vicki Graham (Year 1)

School Committee Representative: Chris Coyle

Mission Statement

The mission of the Abington Public Schools is to provide all students with relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community.

District Guiding Beliefs

We believe in...

- making decisions in the best interests of students.
- supporting all students in achieving success.
- fostering the physical, intellectual, technological, social, emotional, and artistic development of our students.
- creating a safe, tolerant, supportive, organized, and equitable learning environment.
- providing challenging educational experiences that build character.
- developing self-discipline and personal responsibility.
- promoting creativity, problem solving, effective communication, and critical thinking skills.
- cultivating the educational partnership among home, school, and community.
- nurturing a culture of collaboration, collegiality, and mutual respect.
- encouraging staff initiative and innovation.
- implementing professional development that is essential for effective instruction and improved student learning.
- reviewing and updating curriculum, instruction, and assessment in a regular cycle.
- recognizing that effective and appropriate technology is essential for teaching and learning.
- inspiring all students to become life-long learners.

District Goals and Objectives

Teaching and Learning

1 To improve student performance through curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

- 1.1 Provide rigorous and relevant curriculum and instruction in an optimal learning environment.
- 1.2 Analyze student performance data from a variety of sources to make informed decisions.
- 1.3 Commit time and resources for meaningful collaboration and high-quality professional development.

Technology

2 To maximize opportunities provided by technology to transform teaching and learning.

- 2.1 Provide all staff and students access to current hardware and software, achieving a one-to-one computing ratio.
- 2.2 Develop technology literacy curriculum for all students.
- 2.3 Continue to provide professional development in instructional technology.
- 2.4 Provide appropriate instructional technology support.
- 2.5 Commit to a regular plan to evaluate, consider, and acquire emerging technology.

Finance and District Operations

3 To obtain and responsibly manage equitable, predictable, and sustainable funding for educational programs, facilities, and operations.

- 3.1 Collaborate with the community, local, state, and federal officials to obtain sustainable and predictable financial support.
- 3.2 Provide transparency and encourage community participation in the budgetary process.
- 3.3 Plan and secure funding through traditional and alternative sources, in order to provide state-of-the-art facilities, infrastructure, technology, and other capital projects.
- 3.4 Provide relevant professional development in the area of technology to maximize data management and business continuity.

Facilities

4 To provide state-of-the-art facilities.

- 4.1 Secure the necessary votes to support the renovation, expansion, and /or construction of school facilities.
- 4.2 Present required Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) applications and have them accepted and funded.
- 4.3 Begin work on MSBA and town funded projects as soon as possible.
- 4.4 Continue to avail ourselves of alternative funding sources for maintenance and upgrades to school facilities.

Community Support

5 To generate strong community support for the school district.

- 5.1 Create and implement a plan to effectively communicate the achievements of the students and staff of the Abington Public Schools.
- 5.2 Increase family and community participation in the educational process and the life of the schools.
- 5.3 Broaden our students' awareness of their responsibility to participate in their community.
- 5.4 Build strong community support for education through the approval of the annual budget and special budget requests at town meeting.

Summary of 2022-2023 Goals

Goal 1: Implement practices to challenge, support, and celebrate the achievement of students and staff

- Implemented Reading Workshop as our Tier 1 core curriculum for ELA. Staff received in-depth monthly training and coaching sessions from Jen Yaeger – a consultant from Teaching Learning Alliance (TLA.)
- Promoted the effective integration and use of technology in classrooms, lessons, and other applications; a ratio of one technology device to one student, or 1:1, was achieved.
- Utilized data driven decision making to ensure students have what they need to achieve success within the domains of behavior and academics.
- Adjusted service delivery/cohorting to better meet the academic needs of our students.

Goal 2: Create opportunities for increased community connections

- Continued providing consistent communication through a variety of mediums, such as bi-weekly newsletters to families via Constant Contact and social media.
- Continued to foster community involvement at Woodsdale through Open House, Parent Conferences, Curriculum Night and MCAS Information Night.

Goal 3: Provide a healthy and safe learning environment through effective leadership and operations

- Woodsdale Owl Awards - highlighted the positive social culture and behavioral supports students achieved in response to a monthly core value focus.
- Implemented ALICE emergency response protocols and provided student and staff training.
- Expanded on SEL offerings, including monthly school meetings with individual grade levels, *Morning Meetings*, snack groups and lunch bunch.

Woodsdale School Improvement Plan

The Woodsdale School Improvement Plan aligns with the mission statement, guiding principles, goals, and objectives of Abington Public School's 2020 Strategic Plan. This plan identifies the following goals as the primary areas of focus for the 2023-2024 school year:

Goal 1	Teaching and Learning: To improve student performance in reading and math through curriculum, instruction, and assessment. (District Goal 1)
Goal 2	Facilities: To provide state-of-the-art facilities that promote a healthy and safe learning environment. (District Goal 4)
Goal 3	Community Learning: Broaden our students' awareness of their responsibility to participate within their school community and build strong partnerships with the Abington Community. (District Goal 5.3)

Woodsdale School Improvement Goal 1

Teaching and Learning: To improve student performance in reading and math through curriculum, instruction, and assessment. (District Goal 1.)

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
<p>1. Continue implementing Reading Workshop to help students develop a love of Reading, while providing a tailored responsive approach to reading and talking about authentic, complex texts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading – Units 1-4 in Grades 3 and 4. • Continue coaching staff by strengthening their small group instruction and assessment. • Classroom teachers will continue participating in bi-weekly Peer Observation cycles to showcase best practices and receive feedback for improvement. • Curriculum is aligned to Massachusetts English Language Arts and Literacy Framework - Reading Standards 1-10 for Reading Literature (RL) and Reading Informational Texts. (RI) 	<p>June 2024</p>
<p>2. Implement an explicit phonics and spelling program (i.e., Foundations) that provides critical foundational skills in reading to complement higher level skills taught during Reading Workshop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction in chosen phonics and spelling program. • Woodsdale staff to participate in explicit training and coaching to strengthen their teaching of foundational reading skills. • Curriculum is aligned to Massachusetts English Language Arts and Literacy Framework - Reading Standards 3 and 4 for Foundational Skills. (RF) 	<p>June 2024</p>

<p>3. Use data driven decision making to inform instruction - examine statewide testing data, benchmark data, and ongoing student performance data to create goals, provide intervention cycles, and progress monitor performance for at-risk students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff ○ Reading Specialists ○ Math Interventionists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule and host fall, winter, and spring data meetings for ELA and math, including two additional sessions to analyze MCAS and ACCESS results. ● Identify students falling below benchmark and progress monitor based on data through the use of the following supports: IST, LAT, Reading and Math intervention. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4. Continue to integrate 21st century skills in every subject to creatively use technology to solve problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Director of Technology ○ Technology Staff ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continued utilization of technology integration by classroom teachers. ● Students continue to create and collaborate using Microsoft365 products and Canvas. 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>5. Continue to use processes & protocols to support the academic needs of all Woodsdale students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Director of ELE ○ Director of SPED ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize block scheduling so students are not removed from core curriculum instruction to participate in Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions/supports. ● Continue to use ESL staffing to support EL levels effectively (combination of push-in and pull-out services) ● Continue to maximize Partial Inclusion and TLC integration to the extent possible (based on success & capacity of the individual student.) 	<p>Ongoing</p>

Woodsdale School Improvement Goal 2

Facilities: To provide state-of-the-art facilities that promote a healthy and safe learning environment. (District Goal 4)

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Partner with the new district-wide Safety Team, comprised of parent volunteers, to keep Woodsdale a safe place to learn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Central Office ○ District Safety Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New gates to be installed in the back of the school to keep the campus playground safe. • Volunteer Greeters are present at the front entrance to reduce the number of people in the building and to ensure all visitors check-in at the main office. 	Ongoing
2. Collaborate regularly with members of the Police and Fire Departments to ensure Woodsdale School participates and practices Fire and ALICE drills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Staff ○ Woodsdale Students ○ School Building Maintenance Foreman ○ SRO Officers c/o Abington Police Department ○ Abington Fire Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all classrooms have signs that are up-to-date for directing students out of the building in case of an emergency. • Create universal materials for teaching ALICE drills so all students have access to the same information and vocabulary. • Use Morning Meeting as a space to discuss the purpose of both types of drills – fire and ALICE – to keep students safe in the event of a dangerous emergency. • Participate in pre-scheduled fire and ALICE drills two times per year. 	Ongoing
3. Collaborate with families to ensure transportation routines are safe for all students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ First Student Bus Service ○ Woodsdale Families ○ Woodsdale Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Bus Behavioral Expectations, including Bus Evacuation drills in the fall and spring. • Communicate regularly with parents to help message the importance of safety during arrival and dismissal. 	Ongoing

Woodsdale School Improvement Goal 3

Community Learning: Broaden our students’ awareness of their responsibility to participate within their school community and build strong partnerships with the Abington Community. (District Goal 5.3)

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Establish core values as the foundational underpinnings for fostering a positive culture and climate at Woodsdale School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff ○ Woodsdale Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use school meetings in grade level teams to identify and embody core traits of an Outstanding Owl. • Use classroom daily <i>Morning Meetings</i> to reinforce core values and positive behavioral expectations. • Daily recognition by staff, with follow-up/outreach extended to families through social media – e.g., Woodsdale Facebook page. 	Ongoing
2. Develop social emotional and behavioral supports to encourage Woodsdale students to be positive role models and outstanding school citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ School Psychologist ○ BCBA ○ School Nurse ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff ○ Woodsdale Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly SST meetings with behavioral support team to provide social emotional and behavioral interventions for all students as needed. • Weekly offerings of Lunch Bunch and Snack Club to all students as needed to strengthen social skills. • Check-ins with the School Psychologist as needed. 	Ongoing
3. Prioritize communication with families to foster strong parent engagement, break down barriers, and provide support for all students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Support Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom teachers will provide weekly/biweekly communication to families. • Create biweekly, digital Woodsdale School newsletters, which are translated for families whose primary language is not English. • Utilize the School Messenger phone system to keep families updated with important dates and events at Woodsdale. • Host information sessions to help families learn about teaching and learning at Woodsdale. Events 	Ongoing

		include Open House, Curriculum Night, and MCAS Night.	
4. Collaborate with outside organizations to promote family support and community engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ Woodsdale Families ○ Abington Community Members ○ Woodsdale Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partner with <i>Care Solace</i> to boost familial connections with mental health supports. ● Grade 3 and 4 classrooms partner with <i>The Colony Center for Health & Rehabilitation</i> and create cards and crafts to bring joy to the elderly. ● Partner with Massachusetts General Hospital to collect new bedding to support <i>The Sheets from Home Organization</i>. ● Abington Public Schools has partnered with a translation agency for those families in need, whose first language is not English. 	Ongoing
5. Partner with PTO to strengthen connections between home, school and the Abington community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principal ○ PTO ○ Woodsdale Teachers and Staff ○ Woodsdale Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partner with <i>The Abington Food Pantry</i> to feed the homeless. ● Connect with DCF to provide toys to children in need during the holiday season. ● Host enrichment activities, such as <i>Amazing Hero Art</i> with Rob Surette to change the way kids look at the world. 	Ongoing

ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2023-2024
SCHOOL CALENDAR

August and September (21)

M	T	W	TH	F
		16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	*15
18	19	20	21	22
**25	26	27	28	29

Aug. 16 - New Teacher Orientation
 Aug. 28 - Teachers' Meetings
 Aug. 29 - Professional Development for Staff
 Aug. 30 - Grades 1-12 Report
 Aug. 30 & 31 AEEP/Kindergarten Orientation
 Sept. 1 - No School
 Sept. 4 - Labor Day - No School
 Sept. 5 - AEEP/Kindergarten Begins
 Sept. 21 - Inservice/Early Release Day

October (21)

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Oct. 3 - Inservice/Early Release Day
 Oct. 9 - Columbus Day - No School
 Oct. 12 - AHS Conferences
 Oct. 13 - Conferences, AHS Early Release
 Oct. 19 - BBES Conferences
 Oct. 20 - Conference, BBES Early Release
 Oct. 26 - WES Conferences
 Oct. 27 - Conferences, WES Early Release

November (18)

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Nov. 1 - Teacher Inservice - No School
 Nov. 2 - AMS Conferences
 Nov. 3 - Conferences, AMS Early Release
 Nov. 10 - Veterans' Day Observed - No School
 Nov. 22 - Early Release Day
 Nov. 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving - No School

December (16)

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Dec. 6 - Inservice/Early Release Day
 Dec. 25 - Holiday Vacation Begins

January (21)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	27
29	30	31		

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - No School
 Jan. 11 - Inservice/Early Release Day
 Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School

February (16)

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

Feb. 19 - Winter Vacation Begins
 Feb. 16 - Inservice/Early Release Day

March (21)

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	**29

Mar. 26 - Inservice/Early Release Day

April (17)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

April 15 - Spring Vacation Begins

May (22)

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

May 22 - Inservice/Early Release Day
 May 27 - Memorial Day - No School

June (12)

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19		

June 18 - Tentative Last Day of School (Grades AEEP-11) - Early Release Day
 June 19 - Juneteenth - No School
 Includes 5 Snow Days

Total 185 Days
 2023-2024 School Year

*Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
 September 15th
 **Yom Kippur begins at sundown
 September 24th
 *** Good Friday - School in session
 March 29th

ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2023-2024
SCHOOL CALENDAR

Aug. 28 - Teachers' Meetings
Aug. 29 - Professional Development for Staff
Aug. 30 - Grades 1-12 Report
Aug. 30 & 31 AEEP/Kindergarten Orientation
Sept. 1 - No School
Sept. 4 - Labor Day - No School
Sept. 5 - AEEP/Kindergarten Begins
Sept. 22 - Inservice/Early Release Day
Oct. 3 - Inservice/Early Release Day
Oct. 9 - Columbus Day - No School
Oct. 12 - AHS Conferences
Oct. 13 - Conferences, AHS Early Release
Oct. 19 - BBES Conferences
Oct. 20 - Conferences, BBES Early Release
Oct. 26 - WES Conferences
Oct. 27 - Conferences, WES Early Release
Nov. 1 - Teacher Inservice - No School
Nov. 2 - AMS Conferences
Nov. 3 - Conferences, AMS Early Release
Nov. 10 - Veterans' Day Observed - No School
Nov. 22 - Early Release Day
Nov. 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving - No School
Dec. 6 - Inservice/Early Release Day
Dec. 25 - Holiday Vacation Begins
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day - No School
Jan. 11 - Inservice/Early Release Day
Jan. 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
Feb. 19 - Winter Vacation Begins
Feb. 16 - Inservice/Early Release Day
Mar. 26 - Inservice/Early Release Day
April 15 - Spring Vacation Begins
May 22 - Inservice/Early Release Day
May 27 - Memorial Day - No School
June 18 - Tentative Last Day of School (Grades AEEP-11) - Early Release Day
June 19 - Juneteenth - No School

Total 185 Days *Includes 5 Snow Days*
2023-2024 School Year



ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The mission of the Abington Public Schools is to provide all students with relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community."

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1071 Washington Street
Abington, MA 02351-2096
www.abingtonps.org

PETER SCHAFER
SUPERINTENDENT

FELICIA MOSCHELLA, Ph.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

CHRISTOPHER BASTA, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM,
INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT
(781) 982-2150
FAX (781) 506-9651

JAMES ROBBINS, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES
(781) 982-2175
FAX (781) 506-9651

April 20, 2023

Melissa Merrick C/O Green Wave Boosters
308 Linwood Street
Abington, MA 02351

Dear Melissa and the Green Wave Boosters:

On behalf of the students and families of the Abington Public Schools, thank you for your thoughtful, kind and supportive work for our student athletes. Your dedicated and creative collaboration with us has always provided benefits to our students that we could never achieve without you.

Most recently, you generously provided Abington High School Varsity Letterman jackets to the members of our Unified Sports Team. This gesture was a special moment for the individual students, the Unified Program and the Abington Public Schools. Beyond that significant moment, we will continue to feel a heartfelt benefit. Those jackets will be worn by the receiving students for many years to come with the purest Green Wave Pride!

Sincerely,

Peter Schafer
Superintendent of Schools

PGS:deg