

## **General Assembly Meeting of Conant PTO 4/28/23**

Started at 9:05 am

Notes taken by Jaime Roberts

-Tricia O'Reilly - new principal starting July 1st, excited to come  
Joe Russo, Alisson Lahey, Debby Lee, Catherine Reichert, Jaime Roberts, Megan Spencer, Andrew Jones, Melissa Cottone, 12 parents

### **-Friday, April 28, 2023 9:00 AM – 9:15 AM Principal's Update Joe Russo, Interim Principal**

Updates: Staffing: a 6th grade teacher opening trying to fill this last minute, retired filled back in or answer soon. Shifting next year 5th and 6th grade next year. Lower Connections Teacher for next year, Team Chair or Special Ed Coordinator position for next year.

Tricia will be part of the hiring proces for next year.

Summer- **Asbestos** abatement tiles (all ceiling tiles will be removed in the building)

-teachers have to take everything out of the classrooms-last week of school packing boxes and moving company and library coming, Parent volunteers that last week may be needed, Tricia won't be in the building this summer, mid August she will returning. August 9th will hopefully be back to building. Principal will be in Acton but not in the building due to the construction.

-Parent Volunteers in PTO and Polar Pride.

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### **9:15 AM – 9:30 AM PTO Business**

Budget Votes Andrew Jones, Treasurer

- Teacher Appreciation Week: Fleece Jackets -- \$3,996.38 (prev approved: \$2400)  
all staff got them, bought a nice weight, total units, teachers thrilled, love them, pictures of them, 84 teachers so \$28 per teacher.
  - Teacher Appreciation Week: Food truck -- \$2,435 (prev approved: \$1,000)
  - 6 th Grade Dance: Food - \$1,000 (partially offset by School Store proceeds)
  - 3-year Quickbook Subscription - \$1,500, going back to 2021, so need to add that.
- \$9000, Walter 2nd and then we had this all approved.

**Board Elections Debby Lee, President** • No nominations received. Need 4-5 parents to volunteer or we will rethink support of school-wide events next year and instead just support teacher appreciation efforts. • Please email [president@conantpto.org](mailto:president@conantpto.org) with interest.

-Ryan Nominated to join the board

-5/31 meeting may have to restructure the PTO, offer support to school enrichment, but fundraising and check writing instead of community building. WE don't want that to happen but we need parents to step in.

-Andrew will stay on to stay on as Treasurer, just that

- Melissa is staying on a VP
- Kalpana will step up as secretary
- Google Drive is all set up
- Room parents will reach out to teachers

**Spring Events** • Teacher Appreciation Week is next week, May 1st – 5th !

- School Lunch Hero Day: Friday, 5/5 (make a card for them if kids can)
- School Nurse Appreciation Day: Weds, 5/10 (make a card for her)

• **Sun, 5/21 Carnival – sign-up by grade!** o Kindergarten Parents run the Kiddie Pool/Fishing Game o 1st Gr Parents run the Ball Toss o 2nd Gr Parents run the Obstacle Course o 3rd Gr Parents run the Drip-Drip-Drop Game o 4th Gr Parents run the Corn Hole Game o 5th Gr Parents run the Limbo o 6th Gr Parents run the Target Board Game o Parents or college/high school siblings of any grade needed to help setup, cleanup, and face painting, giant slide, food trucks, Polar Pride Gear sales, etc.!

**Fri, 5/12 Sixth Grade Dance** o Students should RSVP so we have enough food. o Still seeking a volunteer photographer!- tshirts for 6th graders too, 2023, kids are excited 50/75 kids signed up already, we won't turn any kids away, we need just #'s for food.

**Weds, 5/31 Final PTO Meeting of the Year at 7:30PM in the Conant Library** •Elections will happen  
Kalpana and Ryan vote

**Thurs, 6/8 Scoops & Stories Night** – save the date for an evening of fun in West Acton.  
Teachers will read and we will communicate this

**8/28 to spend scholastic** money-teachers may want to spend \$3000 Andrew will send Tricia an email to see what she wants to order

-**Volunteers**, how do we get more- get \$15 per the book fair if you volunteer, or how do we attract more people. Volunteer appreciation to all people who helped this year. Social thing in the fall ,

Jackets for volunteers.

-invite special volunteers to the food truck

**9:30 AM – 10:00 AM Special Presentation by Town of Acton Finance Committee** Christi Andersen and Christine Russell

-Budget Vote in May in Acton

-No operational override this year

-The town can't tax you more than 2 1/2 unless there is an override like new twin school

-the town is spending in a few years more than they are taking in so it is a challenge

- compensation is the biggest budget item 79% is the school budget (salary and fringes)
- recommendations: for 2026.. need: capital projects needed for 5 years.. raise taxes more since we have a lots of projects. Capital Projects: Current Debt: Minuteman- we are part of that program, so we have to pay for that, North Acton Fire Station, Boardwalk Campus, JR High Updates, Public Safety, Parker Damon , Schools, Nara Park/Library
- Recommendations: try to not have new debt, look for grants and state funding, and prioritizing projects
- Taxpayers: 71% of houses in Acton don't have school age kids in Acton
- Median tax bill has increased \$900 per year in past few years
- teacher cuts in budgets
- more business need here
- more need for EL services and Special education- State needs to support us
- Conant will not be considered for renovations for at least 5 years , every year they apply to the state MSBA, pays sometime 40% of the costs. Conant will cost \$100 million and hope they will pay 40%, will need to presented a need.. better revenue in town bring in business , funding from state, and then will have to look for budget override, more than 2 1/2.
- 40 FTE (assistants) cut last year..
- link on town website (see slides)

<https://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8667/FY24-Point-of-View-final>

Town meeting: May 1, 2023, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

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**Acton-Boxborough High School**

**36 Charter Road**

[More Details](#)