Good evening and welcome to Back-to-School Night (the 53rd) I am Steve Donovan, Principal of Acton-Boxborough and I thank you for joining us tonight. I am confident that you will enjoy your evening and come away with a better sense of how your child spends his or her day. You will also have a clearer picture of our building, our teachers, our curriculum and our core values.

Meeting the Education Reform Act’s 990 Mandate in September of this year gave the high school the opportunity to examine its culture and structures in and effort to both meet the expectations of the Department of Education and to maintain the student-centered environment Acton-Boxborough has worked hard to achieve. The mandate was seen as both a challenge and an opportunity. Over the course of the year, we will be open to modifying our strategy to meet the mandate in the best interest of staff and students.

We will continue to work toward a balance of allowing students increasing levels of autonomy while also insure that students are appropriately challenged and scheduled during the school day. We hold high academic standards for all students, and we continue our efforts to develop and sustain a humane, sensitive, attractive, and comfortable atmosphere for faculty, staff, and students.

As our student population and community demographic become more diverse, we are committed to a high school environment that values diversity, fosters respect and understanding, and offers a safe, supportive environment for teaching and learning.

Now I’ll turn to a few introductions and announcements so you, in turn, can move onto classes.

Superintendent of Schools – Bill Ryan

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Community Education – Dr. Susan Horn

Translators 3 Languages available outside the auditorium, Spanish, Korean and Portuguese

Assistant Principals
Susan Atwater – Rhodes: Grade 9 and Grade 12 (A-G)
Larry Dorey: Grade 10 and Grade 12 (P-Z)
JoAnn Campbell: Grade 11 and Grade 12 (H-O)
Steve Desy: Athletic Director

My Assistant – Lani DeRome
Student/Faculty Support Coordinator – Kay Steeves

Department Leaders
English – Dianne Telicki
Mathematics – Bill Noeth
Social Studies – Pam Lynn
World Languages – Claire Dix
Science – David McClung
Counseling & Psychological Services – Stephen Hitzrot
Performing Arts – Mark Hickey
Visual Arts – Diana Woodruff
Librarian – Renee Voorhees

Counselors – Available throughout the evening’s program
Linda Murphy
Lindsay Rosenmann
Stephen Hitzrot
Brian Doherty
I’Esha Brown
Jennifer Gabel
Sara Clinton
Susan Serino
Violetta Pawlowska
Jodi Chu
Nancy Cohen, School Psychologist
Kate Aleardi, School Psychologist
Elizabeth Warren, School Psychologist
Kirsten Kunz – 990 Coordinator

Tonight is not the appropriate time for a formal conference with the counselors, but please plan to stop by the Petkewich Counseling Center and meet your son or daughter’s counselor.

School Profiles are available in the Counseling Center.

I would like to mention your School Council representatives:
Parent Reps: Jim O’Neil
              Pat Easterly
Our School Council meets monthly to discuss school improvement issues and progress towards goals as well as to review what is going on at the high school.

The PTSO serves as a communications and support vehicle for parents and for the school.

Co-Chairpersons: MaryAnn Ashton (high school)

*Membership dues fund the monthly newsletter sent to parents. If you want to pay your dues tonight, you may do this at the PTSO tables in the Commons. You may also purchase a student directory. I suggest two (one for you and one for your child).

**ABSAF – Acton-Boxborough Student Activity Fund**

- Scott Apgar – Chairperson
  - 26th year
  - to help support the shortfall of extracurricular programs
  - academic teams
  - interscholastic athletics
  - performing arts program (band, chorus, drama)
  - community service groups

**Proscenium Circus**

The student drama club has announced their fall play, “The Laramie Project” begins November 2.

The musical this year is *Brigadoon* held in the first two weeks of February.

We will be treated to an April dinner theater presentation of *Murder at the Prom* set in 1955, and student directed plays in May.

Season tickets are available on line. *Please visit the Proscenium Circus table in the commons area for tickets and more information.*

**Graduation Requirements** – A reminder that the School Committee approved an increase in graduation requirements beginning with the class of 2008. The graduating class of 2008 will be required to earn a total of ninety (90) credits in order to receive a diploma. The Class of 2009 and all classes thereafter will be
required to earn a total of one hundred (100) credits in order to receive a diploma.

**Academic Integrity Committee** – The Academic Integrity Committee has worked for the past two years on modifying and updating the Academic Integrity Policy at the high school. A copy of the new procedure is located on the PTSO link from the school’s website. Many of the teachers may be addressing this in classes this evening.

**Emergency Card Information** – Parents should have received in the mail a letter with instructions for the school system’s new on-line emergency card system. All families are required to submit this information. Any parents wishing to fill out their cards this evening or who have questions about the process can stop at the table in the Commons area.

**Your Handouts Include:**
Class schedule for this evening. Important school dates. Attendance procedures on the back of dates. Please call on the day of the absence. There is a supply of magnets with important phone numbers available at the tables in the commons where you pick up your student’s schedule.

**Map** – Separate for those who want one – see one of the student guides.

This Evening’s Program

Schedule Day D of the cycle

**Freshmen Physical Education (Fitness for Living)** –
*The Fitness Center (Hayward Road…)*

**Physical Education** – *Upper Gymnasium – Grades 10, 11, 12*
Mr. Marashio, Mr. Ammendolia, Mrs. Flannery, Ms. Hoag, and Ms. Miller

**Directed Studies** – *Enjoy refreshments in the Commons – You should not attend this class!*

Dan Drinkwater is in the radio/TV studio area

**Student Guides** – We have student guides situated throughout the building this evening for any parent needing help in finding their child’s classrooms.

*During free periods in your schedule you may want to visit the World Language Lab (109E), the computer lab (233S), and the School Store where you can do some shopping or pick up a gift certificate. It is also the site of the “AB Express” where parents drop off appropriate items or call in an emergency message to be delivered to a classroom, which helps to avoid intercom interruptions.*
This year refreshments will be served from 1st period through 7th period in the Commons. The PTSO and others will have tables set up this evening in the commons area, library, and front hallway.

Finally, you should check our website regularly, (ab.mec.edu/abrhs) particularly parents of seniors. We look more and more to the site as an important communication vehicle. Email addresses …ab.mec.edu/abrhs

ENJOY THE EVENING!