

Superintendent's email response to Robert Curtin, 10.27.16

Rob,

This is a formal follow up to the comments I shared with you a few days ago. My Executive Team and I have carefully reviewed the revised draft of the Accountability Report that you sent me by email on October 19, 2016. I first want to sincerely thank you and your staff for the efforts made to address our concerns. We are very satisfied with the changes made to date.

However, we remain concerned about the contents and thrust of the Executive Summary.

Here's why:

1. I continue to believe that comments or recommendations about the School Improvement Plan simply don't belong as the lead sentence in this Report.
2. As a fundamental procedural issue, we had been told that the Center for District and School Accountability (CDSA) review would be a **targeted review** addressing three (3) standards: Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment, and Student Support. District and school improvement planning is covered in Standard I of the CDSA standards, Leadership and Governance. This Standard was NOT a target of our review. Why then should the Report begin with a finding arising from Standard I?
3. As for the substance of the Team's concerns with our School Improvement Plan, the Minuteman District has a clearly-defined, widely understood set of overarching School-wide/District-wide goals that the school is closely following. (I have attached a copy of the latest version.) As mentioned by the Principal during the visit, the School Improvement Plan was being revised at the time of the visit. Further, we believe the team overstated the case when it wrote that: "There is little correspondence between Minuteman's SIP and the school's current activities." A fair amount of the SIP in place at the time of the visit addressed MCAS. As you duly noted in the Report, Minuteman has worked to improve its MCAS scores and re-established its Level 1 Accountability Rating.
4. I feel strongly that several far more important findings are either buried in the tables in this Report or have been overlooked entirely. They should be highlighted in the Executive Summary.
5. Specifically, as now noted in the revised "District Profile", Minuteman has the highest percentage of Students with Disabilities of any school district in Massachusetts. As now noted in a footnote, Minuteman is also now a Level 1 school district. These are highly significant facts, certainly far more significant in attempting to judge our effectiveness as an educational institution than anything a Review Team might glean about our performance from reading a School Improvement Plan.
6. Minuteman has had extraordinary success with students on IEPs and students in the high needs category (68% in the 2016 MCAS administration). That success should be duly noted

in the Executive Summary. Right now, that success goes entirely unmentioned in the text of the document.

For the aforementioned reasons, I must continue to express my concerns regarding the Executive Summary as currently drafted. It strikes me as incomplete in its presentation of the school and could be interpreted as unfair to my staff and to the District. I'm happy to discuss it further with you.

Best Regards

Ed

**Edward A Bouquillon PhD**  
**Superintendent-Director**



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758 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02421  
T 781.861.6500 x7301  
F 781.863.1747  
C 413.537.6451