

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES (#1 of 5) – Approved 10/1/09

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

August 6, 2009
6:30/8:15 pm (followed Jt. Executive Session)

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Jonathan Chinitz, Michael Coppelino, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith
McManus, John Petersen
Others: Marie Altieri, Susan Horn, Liza Huber, Stephen Mills, Beth Petr

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Sharon Smith McManus.

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee was polled and voted unanimously to go into Executive Session according to Chapter 39 Section 23A Paragraph 3, “To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the governmental body.”

(See AB REGIONAL EXEC SUMMARY MINUTES)

At 6:40 pm, the Committee was polled and voted to go out of Executive Session.

At 6:40 pm, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee was polled and voted unanimously to go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) according to Chapter 39 Section 23A Paragraph 3, “To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the governmental body and to approve and release minutes with respect to strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.”

At 8:10 pm, the Committee was polled and voted to go out of Joint Executive Session.

CHAIRPERSON’S INTRODUCTION

Recommendation to Appoint Beth Petr as Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Secretary, 2009-2010

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: to appoint Beth Petr as Acton-Boxborough School Committee Secretary, 2009-2010

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 18, 2009 were approved as presented.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

The following warrants were signed by the chairperson and circulated to the rest of the Committee for signatures: Warrant #09-028 in the amount of \$229,937.68, Warrant #09-028A in the amount of \$75.98, Warrant #10-002 in the amount of \$959,847.43, Warrant #10-003 in the amount of \$540,300.79.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marie Altieri said that we are fully staffed. We have hired ten teachers at the Region and 21 teachers total K-12 to replace teachers who have retired or resigned. World Language teachers have been difficult to find. On the other hand, 118 people applied for a Social Studies position.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2009-10 Student Handbook Modifications/Additions

It was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: To accept the 2009-10 Student Handbook Modifications/Additions

(Terry Lindgren abstained) Terry Lindgren and Michael Coppolino were concerned with the “without limitation” wording used in the “Search and Seizure” section. Dr. Callen said that this was suggested by the school attorney. Peter Ebb will be asked about this language. Dr. Callen agreed to give the Committee periodic updates on how this is applied.

2. Recommendation to Accept Gift from Amgen, Inc.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept, with gratitude, the generous gift of \$5,000. from Amgen, Inc. in honor of the 2009 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence (AASTE) winner, Brian Dempsey.

This gift will be used to purchase equipment that will allow all Biology teachers to incorporate more labs into their curriculum.

3. Recommendation to Approve Food and Related Products (TEC) Bid

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Food and Related Products (TEC) Bid.

4. Recommendation to Accept Gift from SADD

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept, with gratitude, the generous gift of \$600. from SADD, Inc.

This gift will be used toward the cost of the bus that provided transportation for students who attended the prom in May.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. ABRHS Info

Dr. Callen reported briefly on the Culminating School Improvement Report for 2008-09 and the School Improvement Plan for 2009-10, as well as the June 2009 Discipline Report. She gratefully acknowledged gifts from the MA Bluebird Association and Acton Memorial Library. A letter from CAFY supporting the breathalyzer purchase was mentioned.

2. RJGrey Info

Craig Hardimon provided the School Improvement Report, 2008-09 and School Improvement Plan, 2009-10 as well as the June 2009 Discipline Report. Mandarin classes will be offered as an elective now. A significant review of scheduling at the Junior High has been done. The 2009-10 Student Handbook Modifications/Additions were reviewed.

3. Letter from MA DESE re: Meeting Highly Qualified Teacher Goal

Dr. Mills commended the staff on having 100% Highly Qualified Teachers.

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

Letter from Maynard re: Regionalization Option

Dr. Mills has spoken to Maynard Superintendent Mark Masterson about meeting and will keep the Committee updated on the discussions.

(9:05 See JOINT SC OPEN MEETING MINUTES)

NEXT MEETING: September 3 - 7:30 pm, JH Library

The Acton-Boxborough meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm. The Acton Public School Committee continued.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr, Secretary