

**ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Minutes** (approved 11/18/10)

**Library**  
**AB Regional High School**

**November 4, 2010**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Acton-Boxborough Regional Meeting**  
**Followed by Joint SC Executive Session**  
**Followed by APS Meeting**

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*Members Present:* Mike Coppolino, Herman Kabakoff, Xuan Kong, Terry Lindgren, John Petersen  
*Members Absent:* Sharon McManus  
*Others:* Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

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The Acton Public School Committee meeting was called to order at 10:20 p.m. by John Petersen, chair. This began the Joint School Committee meeting.

Herman Kabakoff asked if we should continue as planned, given the late hour. John said that the APS meeting to follow the Executive Session would be brief.

**JOINT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:25 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

**VOTED by role call:** that the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

**YES** (Bieber, Coppolino, Kabakoff, Kong, Lindgren, Neyland, Petersen, Sabot)

This was done after Brigid Bieber declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board. She said the meeting was to discuss contract negotiations with the AEA union.

At 10:26 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

**VOTED by role call:** that the **Acton Public School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

**YES** (Coppolino, Kabakoff, Kong, Lindgren, Petersen)

This was done after John Petersen declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board. He said the meeting was to discuss contract negotiations with the AEA union.

At 10:50 p.m., the Committees were polled and voted to go out of Joint Executive Session. The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee adjourned.

## ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Acton Public School Committee discussion began at 10:56 pm.

### STATEMENT OF WARRANT

APS warrant #201109 dated 11/2/10 in the amount of \$122,738.64 was circulated for signatures and approved.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The APS Minutes of October 7, 2010 were approved as amended.

### FY'12 APS Budget

- Level of service
- Use of reserves
- Waterfall redux
- ALG recommendations

With the election now over, John Petersen asked for opinions on the budget assumptions and how much reserves should be used for FY12. He and Xuan Kong will take the APS Committee's opinions to the next ALG meeting.

Herman Kabakoff stated that the assumptions outlined in 6.4.a and b of the packet are good estimates to use at this time. John asked for a sense of the Committee to bring to ALG. Herman said they need ALG to see how all of the numbers come together. He thought that ALG had agreed that \$2 million in reserves would be used. Don Aicardi noted that he has used \$3 million as a placeholder. Herman doesn't think we know enough at this stage to have a clear opinion on use of reserves.

Terry Lindgren stated that the formulation is fine and that with time we will converge on the numbers. Reserves are a function of what expenditures will be. Reserves cannot be decided until we know what expenses are, so he can't express an opinion yet. Mike Coppolino agreed and does not have an answer right now. He feels the question is too vague and tends to agree with whatever ALG is proposing right now. Xuan asked how we define a "level service" budget. He believes an investment should be made in professional development and class size improvements. Whatever would lead to that result, that would be the budget requirement that he would advocate for, and that would drive the level of reserves to be used. He stressed that a multi year plan is needed.

Heather Harer spoke from the audience and commented on how unclear so many of the issues are right now for everyone. She urged the School Committee to give the message to ALG that whatever it takes to get what is needed for our schools, is what should be brought to the ALG table. It is not black and white. She said that the priority of the School Committee is to save every dollar for the schools and support the educational program. Tax payer relief is not as important as supporting the schools' needs in our current situation.

Herman Kabakoff disagreed and advocated for the waterfall model. The waterfall gives some relief to the tax payers and also honors the commitment that the School Committee made politically. Herman feels it will be to our advantage to support the waterfall and return back whatever the calculated amount would be.

Paul Murphy spoke from the audience and stated that by being on the School Committee, members have made a commitment to support the schools and let the Finance Committee worry about the finances.

Terry Lindgren wants John Petersen to tell ALG that the waterfall is not our model anymore and we do not want to return money to the tax payers. Xuan Kong advocated to fulfill the waterfall commitment that was made last spring. He explained it as insurance. Six months ago, the School Committee wanted to protect our education by buying an insurance policy to cover our shortfall so we didn't have to fire teachers. In exchange, he felt that the Committee agreed to pay the Town in the future, and it is wrong to change our minds now. He feels that it is about getting support behind us for the educational resources that we need.

Mike Coppolino asked if we actually have a dollar amount on this. Herman Kabakoff said that the amount doesn't really matter for this discussion. It is the principal of the commitment that is why we should agree to it.

John Petersen summed up that a variety of opinions have been expressed on the waterfall model and what was meant by the decisions made in the past. Some say it relates only to chapter 70 funding, or only this year or many other things. It falls to the public officials to say what we thought we had agreed to. The Committee could say that we made a mistake. The FinCom was divided on the waterfall model definition, including some that say it was for last year only.

It was moved, seconded and

**VOTED:** The waterfall was last year's news.

The motion lost 4 - 1. (NO: Coppolino, Kabakoff, Kong, Petersen and YES: Lindgren)

A Yes vote would instruct school committee to ignore the Waterfall policy for FY2011 as previously adopted. A No vote would re-affirm the Waterfall policy for FY2011.

Lauren Rosenzweig (BOS Representative) asked for some solid numbers for the BOS to take to ALG by the end of November. John Petersen said that the vote and discussion are the input he will take to ALG.

Heather Harer spoke from the audience and asked for a better description of the waterfall model to help the community understand it. John agreed that this would be valuable, but this discussion was to get input to take to ALG. He's happy to take this up again at the next APS meeting to answer any questions. Amy Hedison spoke from the audience and said that this is an important discussion to have in front of the public, at a decent hour with a reporter there. It was almost 11:30 pm and the reporter had left. Xuan Kong pointed out that all of the waterfall discussions were in last year's public record and posted in minutes on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 p.m.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** November 18 - 7:30 pm, APS Meeting, Merriam School Library

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Petr

**ACTON PUBLIC AND  
ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES MEETING**

**Library  
AB Regional High School**

**November 4, 2010  
7:00 pm  
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Followed by Joint SC Executive Session  
Followed by APS Meeting**

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**AGENDA with addendum**

- 1.0 AB SC CALL TO ORDER (7:00)
- 2.0 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION
- 3.0 APPROVAL of MINUTES of October 7, 2010 (addendum) and STATEMENT of WARRANT
- 4.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- 5.0 EDUCATION REPORTS
  - 5.1 School Business Partnerships, Anne Kingan (7:10)
  - 5.2 Educational Technology 3 Year Plan, Amy Bisiewicz (7:30)
  - 5.3 Freshman Orientation Update, Alixe Callen (7:40)
- 6.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - 6.1 ALG Report – John Petersen/Xuan Kong (7:45)
    - a. Packet for 10-28-10 Meeting
  - 6.2 BLF Report – Maria Neyland (7:50)
  - 6.3 FY'11 Budget Update – Steve Mills (7:55)
    - a. Use of Reserves – FY11 Final Table 6 Regional School Assessment (addendum) possible **VOTE** on revised assessment
  - 6.4 FY'12 Budget – Steve Mills
    - a. FY'12 Operating Budget Assumptions/Key Decisions
    - b. FY'12 Revenue and Expenditures Assumptions
    - c. Budget Timeline (no changes)
  - 6.5 Health Trust Report – John Petersen (8:05)
  - 6.6 Recommendation to Approve Additional SMART Goal #9: Successful Attainment of AYP for the Special Education Subgroup in Mathematics at RJGJHS – **VOTE** – Steve Mills
  - 6.7 Recommendation to Approve Revised School Committee Nondiscrimination Policy and Statement (File: AC) – **SECOND READING** – **VOTE** – Liza Huber
  - 6.8 Policy Subcommittee Update – Brigid Bieber (oral)

7.0 NEW BUSINESS (8:20)

- 7.1 Recommendation to Approve School Calendar, 2011-12 – **VOTE** - *Steve Mills*
- 7.2 Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Girls Ice Hockey Team Trip to Falmouth, MA, December 3-4, 2010 – **VOTE** - *Steve Mills*
- 7.3 Recommendation to Accept Gift from the Friends of the Acton Memorial Libraries – **VOTE** - *Steve Mills*
- 7.4 Recommendation to approve a \$2. charge to families requesting that RJG JHS send transcript materials to a private school for purposes of admission and for a new dedicated Junior High Counseling Transcripts account to be set up as outlined in Stephen Hitzrot’s letter – **VOTE** - *Don Aicardi*
- 7.5. Recommendation to Create a new Long-Range Planning Subcommittee – **VOTE** - *Xuan Kong*
- 7.6 Policy Revisions
  - a. Recommendation to Approve Revised School Committee Policy on Bullying Prevention and Intervention (File: JICFB), Exhibit (File: JICFB-E), Plan (File: JICFB-R) – **FIRST READING** - *Liza Huber*
  - b. Recommendation to Approve Revised School Committee Policy on the School Committee Annual Organizational Meeting (File: BDA) – **FIRST READING** - *Steve Mills*
- 7.7 Recommendation to Accept \$600 Gift from the Commonwealth Ballet – **VOTE** - *Steve Mills (addendum)*

8.0 FOR YOUR INFORMATION (8:40)

8.1 ABRHS

- a. Discipline Report, October 2010 (*addendum*)
- b. Gift of HP color laser printer from Selina Maitreya
- c. Class of 2010 Profile
- d. Thank You Letter for Honoring Richard Dow, Naming of ABRHS Track (*addendum*)

8.2 RJ Grey Junior High

- a. Discipline Report, October 2010 (*addendum*)

8.3 Pupil Services

- a. ABRSD ELL Student Population, October 2010
- b. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Community Symposium, 10/20/10

8.4 Curriculum Update

- a. Teacher to Teacher Initiative – Leadership Institute Action Step #2, SMART Goal #1
- b. Protocol used for Visits, *National School Reform Faculty*
- c. Professional Day for Staff, 11/2/10

8.5 FY’11 Monthly ABRSD Financial Reports

- a. Object Summary
- b. AB Regional High School
- c. SPED Financial

8.6 Dismissal Schedule for 11/24/10

8.7 Recent External Evaluations of our Schools

- a. NEASC
- b. Coordinated Program Review (CPR)

8.8 Correspondence from the Community

- a. "Use of Fed Ed Jobs and transportation money", *Amy Hedison*
- b. "Clarification of Waterfall Proposal", *Heather Harer (addendum)*

9.0 ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

10.0 JOINT APS and ABRSC EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:45)

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, AEA union

11.0 ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING (9:15)

11.1 FY'12 APS Budget

- Level of service
- Use of reserves
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- ALG recommendations

12. NEXT MEETINGS:

November 9 - 7:00 pm, Interschool Council Meeting, RJG JH Classroom 408

November 18 - 7:30 pm, APS Meeting, Merriam School Library

December 2 - 7:30 pm, ABRSD Meeting at RJ Grey JH Library

13. ADJOURN (9:30)