

**ACTON PUBLIC and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (with Boxborough School Committee)**
(approved 5/3/12)

**Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School**

**March 1, 2012
7:00 pm Joint APS, ABR and Boxborough SC Meeting
followed by Joint APS, ABR SC Meeting
followed by AB SC Meeting
followed by APS SC Meeting**

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Xuan Kong, Kim McOsker (arrived 10:15 p.m.), Maria Neyland, John Petersen, Bruce Sabot (arrived 7:09 p.m.)
Members Absent: Paul Murphy
Others: Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, Dorsey Yearley, Curtis Bates

The Acton Public and Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committees were called to order by Michael Coppolino and John Petersen, respective chairs, at 7:03 p.m.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

John Petersen read a statement regarding "local optimum".

STATEMENT of WARRANT

APS Warrant 201217 dated 2/21/12 in the amount of \$187,085.00 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the committee for signatures. AB warrant #12-016 dated 2/9/12 in the amount of \$1,490,606.46 and warrant #12-017 dated 2/23/12 in the amount of \$1,727,309.58 were signed by the chair and circulated to the committee for signatures.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

The Joint School Committee Budget Meeting minutes of January 28, 2012 were approved by both committees as amended. The Joint minutes of February 2, 2012 will be voted at the next meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none

BOXBOROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALLED TO ORDER

Vice Chair, Maria Neyland, called the Boxborough School Committee (Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Maria Neyland) to order at 7:08 p.m. Bruce Sabot arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Mike Coppolino read a statement from Kim McOsker, explaining her absence from the meeting.

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 EDCO Discussion re Compliance with Pending Collaborative Legislation with AB Regional School Committee (SC), APS SC and Boxborough SC

Dr. Mills introduced Dorsey Yearley, EDCO Executive Director, and Dr. Curtis Bates, Boxborough Superintendent and Chairman of the EDCO Board of Directors. Ms. Yearley explained that collaborative law now requires that any collaborative that has an affiliated not-for-profit corporation must separate itself from that entity.

Materials for this meeting are posted at <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml>.

She appreciated the chance to discuss this issue prior to the Committees' voting at a future meeting. She was thanked for her very thorough memo in the packet. She said that the issue is a 2 step process. School Committees only vote on the dissolution of the private corporation (ECGB). As the School Committee rep to EDCO, Xuan posed a question to the APSC. He stated that to him as a School Committee member, he is really looking at whether EDCO should continue the two contracts with the private entity that do not benefit APS students. He feels these will be a future liability, like OPEB and other issues, although the dollar amount is not much. Xuan urged the APS SC to seriously consider whether to continue this liability. He will vote however the School Committee directs him. John Petersen asked if OPEB is a liability for EDCO and she responded that EDCO has a fully funded trust with a surplus.

John said that this issue will come back to the School Committees with a dissolution motion and request for a vote. Xuan stated that without direction, he is not comfortable voting anything that could add liability to APSC. He agrees with Dorsey's short term outlook, but emphasized the need to look long term as well. John asked the Committee if as an APS member, is the Committee better served by deciding, or delegating the decision to a representative (Xuan) to vote on the issue. Mike Coppolino prefers waiting for more information before answering this question.

6.2 Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) Update

6.2.1 Upcoming Presentations

6.2.2 Warrant Article for Acton Town Meeting

6.2.3 Additional RSDSC materials found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/abregionalstudycmt/>

Mary Brolin updated the Committees. The RSDSC is doing a number of public forums. The goal is to have people well educated for voting at the Town Meetings. When asked if the same text should be used in the Acton and Boxborough warrant articles, Bruce Sabot explained that the warrant question is a little different for Boxborough. Their warrant includes questions about continuing to explore further regionalization, continuing with job sharing, or not doing anything further. The Committee agreed on the basic regionalization text to be used. The Committee agreed that Mike and John would do the final version based on Peter Ashton's draft.

Brigid Bieber will draft an opinion for the AB Regional School Committee to consider regarding support of the Regionalization Study going forward. Although the Committees agreed to continue the effort at their last meeting, it would be helpful to have a statement from each School Committee from their own perspective. This would be a consensus statement voted on by the ABRSC, even if everyone is not all in agreement.

Brigid reminded the Committee that a vote on whether members feel a new regional agreement is a good thing or not is not the goal, because the task is not done yet. A consensus from everyone is needed whether it is a good thing to move forward with the study or not. Bruce agreed stating that the various boards are being asked to give their opinions of whether the Regional Study Committee should continue their work. Dennis Bruce will draft a statement for the APS SC to consider at their next meeting.

Maria Neyland said she is unable to attend the 3/22/12 School Committee meeting. As a member of the Boxborough School Committee, she feels different than as an Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee member about this issue. John emphasized that this is what he means that different people in different seats may have different opinions on regionalization and it is important to try to capture the different perspectives. He believes that the Committees need to decide if doing something will help kids, or not help kids.

Marie Altieri announced that a public form will be held on March 5th to present a possible new option of Acton kindergarteners attending Blanchard in September.

John Petersen stated that the first article on Tuesday night of Acton Town Meeting is the Acton2020 presentation followed by the APS Budget. He asked the Committee for their preferred order of the warrant. The Committees' preference is: 1. APS Budget 2. AB Regional Assessment 3. Lower Fields article 4. Regionalization article.

Boxborough School Committee adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Joint APS/AB Regional SC continues.

6.3 Policy Subcommittee Update

6.3.1 Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members File: BHE – **SECOND READING**

Maria Neyland explained that this revision includes a change from School Committee members' First Class email addresses to ABSchools.org gmail addresses. All School Committee members will use their school gmail account for Committee business. This address will not be forwarded to any other email address to ensure that all Committee emails are archived in the new system. Xuan Kong moved that the revised policy be adopted and it was seconded. A friendly amendment was made and it was seconded that the new policy would be effective March 15th.

ABR SC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and *unanimously*,

VOTED: to accept the revised policy BHE as amended.

APS SC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and *unanimously*,

VOTED: to accept the revised policy BHE as amended

6.3.2 Remote Participation by Committee Members File: BEDJA – **FIRST READING**

Brigid Bieber said that this new policy is a recently enacted law. Under minimum requirements, Xuan requested that (a) and (b) be switched to emphasize the importance of having a quorum. He also asked what the cost of adaptive technology would be if it was needed and if the Committee would be at risk if it was not available. Because there are so many different possible scenarios the Committee agreed not to speculate beyond the scope of the policy discussion.

6.3.3 Pregnant/Parenting Students File: JIE – **FIRST READING**

Liza Huber stated that Federal law Title 9 applies to this policy and has been expanded to include pregnant students. Policy language in 10 other school districts was reviewed.

6.3.4 Fuel Efficient Vehicles File: DJ – text clarification **VOTE**

Brigid Bieber explained that this request is a slight revision to the technical reference contained in the current policy. The MA DOER Green Communities Grant Program, Fuel Efficient Vehicles Criteria 4, was revised on 10/17/11. The revision refers to this new document.

ABR SC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and *unanimously*,

VOTED: to accept the revised policy DJ as amended to include the formal legal references

APS SC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and *unanimously*,

VOTED: to accept the revised policy DJ as amended to include the formal legal references

6.4 AEA Coaching and Activities Stipend (Schedule B) revision – **VOTE**

John Petersen thanked Peter Montelbano for his significant work on this topic. Marie Altieri said that some of the stipends that were in the contracts were 15 years old. Stipends have been frozen at FY10 rates due to equity issues until the issue could be addressed. The School Committees discussed this in Executive Session on 2/2/12 and are now prepared to discuss in open session.

Xuan Kong moved, “to accept the revised Compensation for Coaches & Activity Leaders, Schedule B, with categories and compensation as provided in Coaches and Activity Advisor Stipends, Attachment A and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement, dated 3/1/12.” It was noted that the side letter being approved would be in effect July 1. The motion was seconded by Bruce Sabot.

Brigid Bieber stated that it was a very thorough process with everyone involved, and excellent analysis. John referred to the comparables slide, drawing attention to how equity was achieved by increasing some positions and decreasing others. Saying he was very pleased, he called it “a major restructuring that was not always easy.”

ABR SC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and *unanimously*,

VOTED: to accept the revised Compensation for Coaches & Activity Leaders, Schedule B, with categories and compensation as provided in Coaches and Activity Advisor Stipends, Attachment A and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement, dated 3/1/12.

APS SC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and *unanimously*,

VOTED: to accept the revised Compensation for Coaches & Activity Leaders, Schedule B, with categories and compensation as provided in Coaches and Activity Advisor Stipends, Attachment A and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement, dated 3/1/12.

6.5 New Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Process

Marie Altieri presented the new Educator Evaluation Process to the Committees for their use in negotiating teachers’ contracts and doing the Superintendent’s evaluation. The Districts would like to pilot these evaluations for some teachers next year, and use it for all teachers the next year. Dr. Mills would like it used for his evaluation this year as well. Marie asked the Committees to familiarize themselves with the materials and prepare to use it for Dr. Mill’s evaluation. She asked the Committees to be prepared to vote new language on Evaluations before September. The AEA teacher’s contract voted in March 2011, included a separate follow on process to review and update the APS/AB teacher evaluation process and tools.

The State is calling for use of SMART Goals as one of the tools, which the Districts already use. The School Committees will be asked to adopt temporary language for the 2012-2013 pilot program, and more extensive language for FY13. Model documents are provided that can be used. Brigid stated that while getting timely feedback seems like a very positive change for teachers, she is concerned about the amount of time that the process will take to do. Marie agreed that this will increase evaluators’ time significantly. John stated that all growth is dependent on constructive criticism, even if it is hard to take at times. Dr. Mills thanked Marie for this important effort. He stated that this is a massive cultural change in the profession and that the first rule of leadership is modeling. High School student representative Jacob Johnson likes the new teacher evaluation process and asked what the role of the students will be. Marie replied that there is a piece for student input at the High School level, but she is not sure exactly what it will look like. She said there is lots of research about how valuable student input is. Jacob feels this is really important due to the subtle interactions between teachers and their students.

6.6 Superintendent Evaluation

Marie reminded the Committees that the Superintendent’s Evaluation is read at the June meeting. She asked who would coordinate this activity given that John Petersen is retiring at the end of his term. Mike Coppolino stated that given that John has been a School Committee member for awhile, it seems logical that he be involved in the process and take on the leadership role. The process used in previous years states, “The evaluation process will be managed by the chairs then current as of the February meeting of the Regional Committee. Participants will include Committee members as of that meeting.” Xuan echoed Mike’s statement that John should lead the Superintendent’s evaluation process. John is happy to lead the

evaluation process if the Committee would like him to do it. The Committees were in consensus that John should lead this process.

6.7 ALG Report

The draft minutes of the 2/16/12 and 1/30/12 meetings were reviewed. ALG is looking at revenues generally and trying to achieve the Finance Committee's objectives. The \$1.5 m use of reserves has now become \$1.7 m of reserves. Health care plan design change savings have really helped to close a gap. A long discussion of FY14 and FY15 took place and it is very difficult to estimate confidently. OPEB contributions continue to be a very large issue. ALG settled on numbers for FY14 and FY15 but they are soft and still under consideration.

6.8 BLF Report

Bruce Sabot reported that BLF met on Tuesday and reviewed the regional assessment. They are in the process of waiting to hear back from FEMA regarding grants for the Blanchard School and a well that could make Blanchard a shelter. The budget looks good right now.

6.9 Acton FinCom Report

John Petersen reported that FinCom spent a lot of time on municipal issues this week. They concluded that the School budgets have closed on target and are most concerned about what the Long Range Plan will look like. They are still looking for feedback from the School Committees on FinCom's Long Range Planning Model. John recommended that the Committee revisit it after Town Meeting, in May or June.

6.10 Acton Health Insurance Trust (HIT) Report

The Trust met twice in February to set insurance premium rates for FY13. John summarized information relevant to rate setting for the HMO plans – NetBlue and HPHC HMO offered by the Acton HIT for FY13. These HMO plans are expected to represent more than 95% of the contracts insured by the Trust in FY13. The HMO guidance is based on the HMO experience from FY09-FY12 disaggregated from the other insurance plans offered by the Trust. If plan design change had not happened, rates would have gone up 4%, but because change did occur, rates went down 7%. This was critical to success.

Xuan asked if Trust members had a sense going forwarding for setting rates. John said that there is no mechanism in place to say what process is required for setting rates. A question was asked about appropriate work for boards and volunteers to do compared to staff work. Understanding current resources, John feels that staff should do much of this work. Xuan asked about the additional 1% discount. John said that some calculations might get to a different number and the system is acceptable. The trustees did not have a common view on the 1%.

6.11 Health Insurance Working Group Update

Meeting minutes are found at: <http://www.acton-ma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=142&Type=&ADID=> Marie Altieri said that this work is coming to a conclusion. All 8 town and school unions have ratified the proposals. The savings estimates total over \$900,000 in the first year and growing. The Memorandum of Agreement is in the packet and Committee members were asked to sign it.

6.12 Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Don Aicardi presented on OPEB as outlined in MA General Laws, Ch. 32B: Section 20. The ABRSD is a separate legal entity and is responsible for payment of a portion of ABRSD retiree health insurance. The District has been meeting this obligation with a "pay-as-you-go" system. A vote to establish an OPEB trust fund would augment the current system. The proposed FY13 Table 6 includes the first installment of this trust fund. The Town of Acton set a goal of \$500,000 for their first OPEB contribution.

All of this is new so the District is proceeding with our attorney's advice. Don believes it will show up as a revenue source on Table 6. Payments must be used only to fund retirees' health insurance because it is an irrevocable trust.

The Regional School Committee will vote on two motions:

1. Acceptance of Section 20 establishing an OPEB Liability Trust Fund
2. Statutory language that the District is meeting all requirements of the law to authorize creation of the trust

Funding the trust occurs when the Regional School Committee votes the FY13 budget.

Brigid asked if this was the only way to fund the future liabilities and Don said that it was. Dennis asked about accounting methods and Don stated that there are many variables and that the Department of Revenue (DOR) is providing guidance. Xuan asked for more clarity on how money in the trust can be invested. Don said that there are still questions about specifics and things that the statute does not address. John said that the Segal Group will be engaged on an annual basis to do this reporting per new MA General Laws.

Amy Heddison spoke from the public. She stated that not enough is known yet about the details of this kind of trust. She asked, "What if we cannot touch it, with all the educational expenses that we now have?" John said that many of these questions will be answered once the trust is set up.

Dick Calendrella spoke from the audience saying that the amounts being discussed are a drop in the bucket for what the Town and School District will owe. He believes it will lead to an override, and advocated for putting \$2 million into the trust account.

ABRSC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and unanimously,

VOTED: that the Regional School District accept the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the Massachusetts General Laws providing for the establishment of an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

ABRSC VOTE:

It was moved, seconded and unanimously,

VOTED: that an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund be established as a segregated fund on the books of the District and administered in accordance with the requirements of and for the purposes of Section 20 of Chapter 32B, such fund to be in the form of an irrevocable trust or such other form as shall be determined by counsel as appropriate to meet the requirements of Section 20 and of Government Accounting Standards Board standard 45.

With the trust fund now established for the Region, Don stated that \$236,000 is shown as a contribution in our upcoming FY13 budget slides. A member stated that the liability is so huge, it seemed like any number would work or not work.

Don was asked if the number in the budget obligates the District to move that money to the trust. Given that the state budget isn't finalized yet, and numbers may change, he was asked if there would still be flexibility to address that question, if necessary. John Petersen cautioned that when the School Committees approve the budget, they expect that unless something radically changes, the Superintendent and staff will make good decisions. Once the trust fund is established, before money is transferred, he asked if the School Committee could be given another chance to get answers to these questions. Dick Calandrella asked if the \$500,000 recommended by the FinCom to be set aside for OPEB, includes the \$200,000. John said that it does and that the ALG vetted it and school budget numbers are in line with these ALG discussions.

6.13 Town Elections

The Acton election is March 27th. Three School Committee candidates are running for 2 seats: Dennis Bruce, Adria Cohen, and Deanne O'Sullivan. The Boxborough deadline is April 2nd for filing nomination papers. Boxborough election day is May 21. The League of Women Voters is taping a forum at the Acton TV studios to be shown on cable tv.

The APS SC was suspended at 9:53 p.m. The ABR SC continued.

7.0 AB SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 FY12 Budget – 2nd Quarter Report

Finance Director, Don Aicardi, projected that the ABRSD ended the second quarter of FY12 with a \$251,405 projected year end fund balance. See memo for highlights. Don cautioned the Committee to be prepared that if the Lower Fields Project proceeds, there may be some additional expenses. E&D has still not been certified by the DOR. He will notify the Committee and Finance Committees of both towns when that happens.

7.2 Lower Fields Project Update – *vote to be at 3/22/12 SC meeting*

Steve Mills gave an update based on the recent presentation in Boxborough. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the AB Regional School District and the Friends of the Lower Fields (FOLF), and a FOLF Lower Field Programming Agreement are in the packet. Language for the vote to be taken at the 3/22/12 School Committee meeting and Town Meeting Warrant text were distributed.

Dr. Mills said that the project changed when decision was made to proceed without CPA funding from the Town of Acton. FOLF is ready to donate \$200,000 and a one million dollar bank loan. Bond Counsel has said it will be a \$3 million bond (total). Director of Community Education, Erin Bettez has committed \$125,000 annually from Community Education. ABRSD would run and operate the concession stand. The level of details needs to be worked out before revenue generated can be estimated. Dr. Mills thanked Dave Wilson and Chip Orcut for being in the audience. This project is totally consistent with the recently approved Long Range Strategic Plan. An extensive presentation on the project will be done at the 3/22/12 School Committee meeting.

Dr. Mills said that he read Nancy Sherburne and Bill Guthlein's letter of concern about the project. He stated that there are important things that are not funded in this school budget but there are priorities and this particular chunk of money is an investment that should be made. Xuan asked if the High School and Junior High principals agreed with this decision. Dr. Mills affirmed that the two principals agreed with this and understood the tradeoffs made to finance the project.

(Kim McOsker arrived at this point, 10:15 p.m.)

Dr. Mills said that the District is partnering with FOLF on this project and that it is a risk to use some of the regional budget towards it. Xuan stated that in his opinion, this is not a risk, it is a choice that the District is making. He said that if the Administration chooses this as a priority, it would be reasonable for him to support it. When asked how this project would impact our future borrowing capability if we take out this loan, Don stated that unlike a town, there is no debt limit for a Regional School District. If we had to borrow for another project in the future, we could still do that. Marie Altieri added that major borrowing was done for the High School and Junior High School projects at \$50 million and that debt will be paid off soon. Dr. Mills emphasized that FOLF is giving the District such an income stream that it is a great opportunity for ABRSD, the students and the communities of Acton and Boxborough.

Maria Neyland said that she was initially opposed to this project but is happy at how it is turning out. She has concerns about the money but given the partnership, it is a great opportunity.

Alex Horovitz spoke from the public. He initially was in support of the project when he thought most of the funds were coming from the private sector. Knowing that our schools lack important educational items like librarians and other simple things, he is opposed. He feels that the community could accomplish this project on their own, instead of borrowing money. Alex said that one way to support athletics would be to give athletes like football and lacrosse players credit for their 990 hour requirement, as band members are given.

Nancy Sherburne spoke from the public. She would support the project if the money was available but is against it because she believes that direct services are not being provided to students to pay for this project. Advocating for the needs of special education students at the High School who would benefit from a Connections program, she said that basic educational needs are critical. She stated that this project hampers the District for the next few years knowing how state aid and circuit breaker funding fluctuate. She asked if the District can afford to commit \$300,000 a year for this project and to weigh the educational needs of our students with these athletic enhancements.

Bill Guthlein spoke from the public asking if this is a fair deal for the schools, emphasizing that he feels the District is taking on \$3 million of risk. Commitments from the third party groups that will pay rental fees make the project work, but are still risky.

John Petersen stated that this is similar to the OPEB discussion in that a series of events has to occur for this to all actually happen. He described it as a gate that must be passed through with some firm things in place before the event will happen and that will reduce some of the risk. He believes there are some quite good estimates involved in the proposed project. Dave Wilson stressed that one lesson learned from the Leary Field Project is that it took a lot of little checks that added up to the total cost. He believes it would take 10 years to raise that amount in today's economy. There is a strong demand for this kind of field use. Not many projects have a net 0 balance. He stated that the school will get all of their money back. Xuan stated that Bill raised a valid concern and noted that the contract is silent on future rates to be charged.

Brigid reminded the School Committee that they will be asked to vote on the bond for this project at their meeting on March 22, 2012. Further questions and comments should be addressed to Steve Mills, Brigid Bieber, or anyone on the Committee.

7.3 FY'13 Budget Update

Don Aicardi presented the FY13 budget and recommendation to approve the revised FY'13 ABRSD Budget and Assessments. The FY13 ABRSD proposed budget totaled \$39,114,804. Don explained that slide 7 showed a Lower Fields amount of only \$125,000 because initial start up costs were covered in FY12. An updated split or ABRSD costs is used in Table 6, pertaining to a change in Boxborough population per the Regional Agreement.

Bruce Sabot read the motion found in attachment A and Xuan seconded it.
It was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the recommended FY'13 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Budget and Assessment found in attachment A.

7.4 New Arts Graduation Requirement

Deborah Bookis, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, met with ABRHS Principal Alixe Callen, Performing Arts Director Mark Hickey and Visual Arts Director Diana Woodruff numerous times over the past year to consider an arts graduation requirement at ABRHS. It was determined that no additional staff, classes or space would be needed to satisfy this new requirement. 88% of our High School students in 2012 have taken an arts course at ABRHS. Twelve other districts were surveyed. They all have arts graduation requirements ranging from one semester to two years. Both the faculty and school council fully support an arts graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2016.

Alex Horvitz spoke from the audience saying that he worked for Steve Jobs and Steve always appreciated a computer person that had a good design eye. Alex said that anything we can do to expose students to more art like this is good. It was noted that if approved, the School Committee will need to revise their Graduation Requirements Policy.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the addition of an arts graduation requirement at ABRHS of 2.5 credits in: Communication Arts, Industrial Arts, Performing Arts or Visual Arts beginning with the Class of 2016.

7.5 Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Exchange Trip to France, Fall 2012/Spring 2013

It was noted that this trip will be for current 10th and 11th graders. Mike Coppolino stated that he will vote in favor of the trip because it appears very cost effective. Dr. Callen said that it costs less because it is an exchange and students stay in homes. There are no lodging costs.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED: to approve the ABRHS Exchange Trip to France in Fall 2012/Spring 2013

7.6 Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Community Service Learning Trip to Peru

Dr. Callen stated that this is a first time trip with lots of curricular follow up. The chance to travel with our teachers like this is wonderful and the start of a great service project. This trip is different from the China trip that the Committee did not approve because although it is still expensive, it is for seniors. The China trip was for 8th graders. Xuan asked if the school could help with subsidized cost. He feels it is a very valuable experience and doesn't want to shut students out due to cost.

It was agreed that the School Committee has had some underlying concerns about some trips and they have not articulated this to the staff making the proposals. This will be put on the Committee's Summer Workshop agenda.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: to approve the ABRHS Community Service Learning Trip to Peru
(YES: Bieber, Bruce, Kong, McOsker, Neyland, Petersen, Sabot
ABSTAINED: Coppolino)

8.0 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

8.1 ABRHS

8.1.2 ABRHS Child Development Preschool 2012-2013 posted at <http://ab.mec.edu/>

Dr. Callen explained that this program is connected to a class offered at the High School and they are trying to publicize registration for the fall so the class can continue. It is self-funded.

8.1.3 Concussion Information – John thanked Dr. Callen for this data.

8.7 Pledge Case Update – Steve Mills reported that there has been a lot of publicity, but no updates.

AB Regional SC adjourned at 11:25. APS SC reconvened.

9.0 ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

9.1 Recommendation to Approve Revised FY13 APS Budget – **VOTE**

Don Aicardi reported that the proposed FY'12 to FY'13 annual increase is 1.72%.

Highlights include:

- Use of total reserves is lowered from \$1.853m in FY'12 to \$1.7m in FY'13
- Items from the LRSP have been addressed totaling \$385,000 from the Investment Budget
- OPEB Liability has begun to be addressed by allocating \$282,000 for Acton's Municipal & Elementary Schools in FY'13

Four new full time positions are added in this proposal, plus one for the Douglas special education position.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the FY13 APS budget of \$26,562,103 as proposed.

NEXT MEETINGS:

March 15 – 7:00 pm, APS SC meeting at GATES SCHOOL

March 22 – 7:30 pm, JT/ABR/APS SC meeting at RJ Grey JH Library

April 2 – Acton Town Meeting begins

May 3 – 7:30 pm, ABRSC meeting at RJ Grey JH Library

May 14 – Boxborough Town Meeting begins

May 17 – 7:00 pm, APS SC meeting at CONANT SCHOOL

The Acton Public School Committee adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

Attachment A: FY'13 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Budget and Assessment dated 3/1/12

List of documents used: Agenda, Statement read by John Petersen, Attachment A

**ACTON PUBLIC and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (with Boxborough School Committee)**

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AGENDA with addendum

1.0 JT APS/AB REGIONAL SC CALL TO ORDER (7:00)

2.0 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

3.0 STATEMENT of WARRANT

4.0 APPROVAL of MINUTES

4.1 JT SC Budget meeting, January 28, 2012 (*addendum*)

4.2 JT SC meeting, February 2, 2012 (*next meeting*)

5.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (7:05)

Boxborough School Committee call to order.

6.0 JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS (7:10)

6.1 EDCO Discussion re Compliance with Pending Collaborative Legislation with ABRSC, APS SC and Boxborough SC – *Dorsey Yearly, EDCO Executive Director, Curtis Bates, Steve Mills, Xuan Kong*

6.1.1 Memo from EDCO Executive Director, Dorsey Yearly

6.2 Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) Update – *Xuan Kong* (7:25)

6.2.1 Upcoming Presentations

6.2.2 Warrant Article for Acton Town Meeting

6.2.3 Additional RSDSC materials found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/abregionalstudycmt/>

Boxborough School Committee adjourns. Joint APS/AB Regional SC continues.

6.3 Policy Subcommittee Update (7:40)

6.3.1 Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members File: BHE – **SECOND READING** – *Brigid Bieber*

6.3.2 Remote Participation by Committee Members File: XX – **FIRST READING** – *Brigid Bieber*

6.3.3 Pregnant/Parenting Students File: JIE – **FIRST READING** – *Liza Huber*

6.3.4 Fuel Efficient Vehicles File: DJ – text clarification **VOTE** – *JD Head*

6.3.4.1 Proposed revision with memo (*addendum*)

6.3.4.2 MA DOER Green Communities Grant Program, Fuel Efficient Vehicles Criteria 4, revised 10/17/11

6.4 AEA Coaching and Activities Stipend (Schedule B) revision – **VOTE** – *Marie Altieri* (7:55)

6.4.1 AEA / NSC Proposal Slides, 2/2/12 (*revised with attachment*)

- 6.5 New Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Process – *Marie Altieri* (8:00)
 - 6.5.1 Standards for Administrators
 - 6.5.2 Standards for Teachers
 - 6.5.3 New Massachusetts Frameworks for Educator Evaluation, *slides*
- 6.6 Superintendent Evaluation – *Marie Altieri* (8:10)
 - 6.6.1 Implementation Guide for Superintendent Evaluation, January 2012
 - 6.6.2 Appendix A: Superintendent Rubric, January 2012
 - 6.6.3 Previously used process and rubrics
- 6.7 ALG Report – *John Petersen/Xuan Kong* (8:20)
 - 6.7.1 Draft minutes of 2/16/12 and 1/30/12 meetings
- 6.8 BLF Report – *Maria Neyland* (*oral*) (8:25)
- 6.9 Acton FinCom Report – *John Petersen/Xuan Kong* (*oral*)
- 6.10 Acton Health Insurance Trust (HIT) Report – *John Petersen* (8:30)
 - 6.10.1 Guidance for Acton HIT HMO Premiums FY13, *J. Petersen*
 - 6.10.2 HIT Report on Rate Setting – February 2012
- 6.11 Health Insurance Working Group Update - *Marie Altieri* (8:35)
 - 6.11.1 Health Insurance Memo of Agreement
(*Originals will be brought to meeting for signature*)
 - 6.11.2 Meeting minutes are found at:
<http://www.acton-ma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=142&Type=&ADID=>
- 6.12 Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) – *Don Aicardi, John Petersen* (8:40)
 - 6.12.1 Establishing Trust Account – **VOTE** (*addendum*)
 - 6.12.2 MA General Laws, Ch. 32B: Section 20 (*addendum*)
 - 6.12.3 OPEB Presentation slides (*addendum*)
- 6.13 Town Elections – *John Petersen* (*oral*)(8:45)
 - Acton election is March 27th. 3 School Committee candidates running for 2 seats:
Dennis Bruce, Adria Cohen, Deanne O’Sullivan
 - Boxborough deadline is April 2nd for filing nomination papers. Election is May 21.

APS SC is suspended. AB SC continues.

- 7.0 AB SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS (8:50)
 - 7.1 FY12 Budget – 2nd Quarter Report – *Don Aicardi* (*addendum*)
 - 7.2 Lower Fields Project Update – *Steve Mills* (*vote at 3/22/12 SC meeting*) (9:05)
 - 7.2.1 Draft Memorandum of Understanding between AB Regional School District and the Friends of the Lower Fields (FOLF) (*revised in addendum*)
 - 7.2.2 Draft FOLF Lower Field Programming Agreement
 - 7.3 FY’13 Budget Update – *Steve Mills/ Don Aicardi* (9:15)
 - 7.3.1 Recommendation to Approve revised FY’13 ABRSD Budget and Assessments – **VOTE** – *Steve Mills* (*addendum*)
 - 7.4 New Arts Graduation Requirement – **VOTE** - *Deborah Bookis* (9:25)
 - 7.4.1 Memo from D. Bookis
 - 7.4.2 John Maeda: Innovation is born when art meets science, *Tom Lamont*
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2010/nov/14/my-bright-idea-john-maeda>
 - 7.4.3 Your Life in 2020, *John Maeda*
http://www.forbes.com/2010/04/08/john-maeda-design-technology-data-companies-10-keynote_print.html
 - 7.4.4 Cultivating the Imagination, *Martha Nussbaum*
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2010/10/17/do-colleges-need-french-departments/cultivating-the-imagination>
 - 7.5 Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Exchange Trip to France, Fall 2012/Spring 2013 – **VOTE** – *Steve Mills* (9:40)

7.6 Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Community Service Learning Trip to Peru – **VOTE** –
Steve Mills

8.0 FOR YOUR INFORMATION (9:45)

8.1 ABRHS

8.1.1 Discipline Report, February 2012 (*next meeting*)

8.1.2 ABRHS Child Development Preschool 2012-2013 posted at
<http://ab.mec.edu/> (*addendum*)

8.1.3 Concussion Information

8.1.4 Knowing the Score on Concussions graph, B. Globe 2/19/12 (*addendum*)

8.2 RJ Grey Junior High

8.2.1 Discipline Report, February 2012 (*next meeting*)

8.2.2 Project Wellness, March 21, 2012

<http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/projectwellness.shtml>

8.3 Pupil Services

8.3.1 ELL Student Population, February 1, 2012

8.4 Monthly ABRSD Financial Reports

8.5 Monthly Enrollment Report – February 1, 2012

8.6 Acton 2020 Presents “The Plan” – March 6th at 7:00 pm, Acton Town Hall

8.7 Pledge Case Update – *Steve Mills* (*oral*)

8.8 Correspondence from the Community

8.9 School Committee Invitations: 20 Year Chair Ceremony, March 21st at 5PM
All Staff Retirement Party, June 7th at 3PM

AB Regional SC adjourns. APS SC is reconvened.

9.0 ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS (9:50)

9.1 Recommendation to Approve revised FY13 APS Budget – **VOTE** – *Steve Mills* (*addendum*)

9.1.1 Early Childhood Services memo re Boston Globe article “Special Needs
Preschoolers on Rise in Boston”, *Liza Huber* (*addendum*)

10.0 NEXT MEETINGS:

March 15 – 7:00 pm, APS SC meeting at GATES SCHOOL

March 22 – 7:30 pm, JT/ABR/APS SC meeting at RJ Grey JH Library

April 2 – Acton Town Meeting begins

May 3 – 7:30 pm, ABRSC meeting at RJ Grey JH Library

May 14 – Boxborough Town Meeting begins

May 17 – 7:00 pm, APS SC meeting at CONANT SCHOOL

ADJOURN – 10:00 PM

Office of the Superintendent
Acton Public Schools
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
(978) 264-4700 x 3211
<http://ab.mec.edu>

Approved
3/1/12
ABRSC Mtg

TO: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee
FROM: Steve Mills, Superintendent
DATE: March 1, 2012
RE: Recommendation for FY'13 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Budget and Assessments

Recommendation for FY'13 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Budget and Assessments

Attached is a copy of the Analysis of Assessments for FY'13. The Administration recommends that the total appropriation for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District for the fiscal year of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 be set at \$39,114,804 and that member towns be assessed in accordance with the Education Reform Law and the terms of the Agreement and amendments thereto as follows: Acton \$25,193,314, Boxborough \$5,901,118, remainder to be accounted for by the Anticipated Chapter 70 Aid in the amount of \$6,616,437, Anticipated Charter School Aid in the amount of \$39,229, Transportation Aid, Chapter 71, Section 16C in the amount of \$594,048, a transfer from E&D Reserves in the amount of \$770,000, and a transfer from the Junior High School Project Premium on Loan in the amount of \$658.

CC: Donald Aicardi, Director of Finance
Marie Altieri, Director of Personnel

Table 6
ACTON-BOXBOROUGH RSD
 Analysis of Assessments
 Projected State Aid Numbers
 School Year 2012-2013

	GROSS BUDGET	ACTON	BOXBOROUGH
	2012-2013	80.67%	19.33%
INSIDE DEBT LIMIT:			
OPERATING BUDGET	\$34,666,617	\$27,965,560	\$6,701,057
REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	\$1,328,994	\$1,097,509	\$231,485
OPEB TRUST CONTRIBUTION	\$236,000	\$190,381	\$45,619
LOWER FIELDS CONSTRUCTION	\$150,000	\$128,505	\$21,495
SPED TRANSPORTATION	\$842,021	\$679,258	\$162,763
TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT	\$37,223,632	\$30,061,214	\$7,162,418
OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT:			
CONST DEBT SERVICE (JHS&SHS/OUTSIDE 2 1/2)	\$464,528	\$397,961	\$66,567
JH CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION	\$1,426,644	\$1,222,206	\$204,438
SH CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION	\$1,891,172	\$1,620,167	\$271,005
TOTAL OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT	\$3,782,344	\$3,240,334	\$542,010
GROSS BUDGET	\$39,114,804	\$31,681,381	\$7,433,423
DEFERRAL OF TEACHER SALARIES	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL BUDGET INCLUDING DEFERRAL	\$39,114,804	\$31,681,381	\$7,433,423
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:			
CHAPTER 70 BASE AID	\$6,969,133	\$5,622,000	\$1,347,133
CHOICE/CHARTER SCHOOL ASSESSMENT	(\$352,696)	(\$284,520)	(\$68,176)
CHARTER SCHOOL AID	\$39,229	\$31,646	\$7,583
REGIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (Cherry Sheet)	\$594,048	\$497,218	\$96,830
TRANSFER FROM PREMIUM ON LOAN-JHS	\$658	\$564	\$94
TRANSFER FROM RESERVES (E&D)	\$770,000	\$621,159	\$148,841
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$8,020,372.00	\$6,488,067	\$1,532,305
ASSESSMENTS	\$31,094,432	\$25,193,314	\$5,901,118

*Premium must be used to reduce debt service costs.