

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES (approved 10/6/11)

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

September 21, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Dennis Bruce, Mike Copplino, Xuan Kong, Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Maria Neyland, John Petersen, Bruce Sabot
Members Absent: none
Others: Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Beth Petr

John Petersen called the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Budget – *Don Aicardi*

Finance Director, Don Aicardi, presented three FY12 Budget Options in preparation for a decision to be made at the October 6th AB School Committee meeting. This is the result of:

- final amount of ABRSD Cherry Sheet Items (State Aid) is now known (total increase of \$187,422)
- ABRSD's undesignated fund balance is now estimated to be \$2,050,000, resulting in an amount of \$125,867 over the 5% cap required by law

Option 1: Reflect final state aid numbers, Decrease Fy12 E&D use, Keep both towns' assessments same

Option 2: Reflect final state aid numbers, Keep Fy12 E&D the same, Lower towns' assessments

Option 3: Reflect final state aid numbers, Increase Fy12 E&D, Lower towns' assessments

Don asked the Committee to consider for next month, whether they should sculpt a solution that lowers both towns' assessments for Fy12, or a solution that directs E&D capacity towards use by Fy14. A decision must be made by the end of October.

2 Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) Update

John Petersen welcomed and thanked the six applicants for this new Committee:

- Acton applicants: Peter Ashton, Adria Cohen, Xuan Kong
- Boxborough applicants: Mary Brolin, Kristin Hilberg, Mac Reid

The applicants each made a statement of interest. John read Peter Ashton's statement because he was not able to attend.

Bruce Sabot moved, Brigid Bieber seconded, and it was *unanimously*,

VOTED: that the Regional School Committee appoint Peter Ashton, Adria Cohen and Xuan Kong from Acton and Mary Brolin, Kristin Hilberg and Mac Reid from Boxborough as members of the Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC).

The Committee thanked all of the applicants for committing their time and effort for this important study. It was noted that the new members have a wonderful variety of experience and expertise that will be invaluable. Several members appreciated that the members are all going in unbiased and with an open mind. Xuan Kong offered to serve as Acting Chair until the committee meets for the first time. John will add RSDSC as a standing item for monthly meeting updates as needed.

The charge of the Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) is to research, evaluate, and report back to the ABRSC its findings with respect to the viability of expanding the current Regional School District to include grades pre-K through 12 for Acton and Boxborough. This charge also

includes the review of all of the elements of the current Regional Agreement and that the RSDSC should bring up any other issues that they feel should be addressed, not only the pre-K through 6 question. The Regional Agreement is supposed to be reviewed every five years so this is part of that plan. It was stated that a goal for the first year should be to go back to the Acton and Boxborough communities and outline what the Committee thinks they could move forward with, or not, and why. The communities should then be asked to weigh in on the options. The School Committee would like to have as much transparency and communication with the community as possible so that there are no surprises with this work.

John thanked the new members of the RSDSC again.

NEXT MEETINGS: October 6 - 7:30 p.m., JH Library, ABRSC Meeting
 October 20 – 7:30 p.m., McCarthy-Towne Library, APS SC Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

Documents Used:
See agenda attached

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September 21, 2011
7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. CHAIRMAN'S INTRO
3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
4. SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS
 - 4.1 Budget – *Don Aicardi (7:30)*
 - 4.1.1 Options for E&D
 - 4.2 Regional School District Study Committee (RSDSC) Update – *Bruce Sabot (7:45)*
 - 4.2.1 Appointment of Members
 - Acton applicants: Peter Ashton, Adria Cohen, Xuan Kong
 - Boxborough applicants: Mary Brolin, Kristin Hilberg, Mac Reid
5. NEXT MEETINGS: October 6 - 7:30 p.m., JH Library, ABRSC Meeting
 October 20 – 7:30 p.m., McCarthy-Towne Library, APS SC Meeting

ADJOURN (8:30)