

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

**Acton Town Hall  
Room 121**

**October 3, 2011  
6:30 p.m. Joint SC Meeting**

*Members Present:* Brigid Bieber (6:38), Dennis Bruce, Mike Coppolino, Xuan Kong, Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Maria Neyland, John Petersen, Bruce Sabot  
*Members Absent:* none  
*Others:* Marie Altieri, Mike Gowing, Marc Lewis, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, members of the public including representatives from the Acton Education Association (AEA) and Office Support Association (OSA)

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The Acton Public and Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committees were called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mike Coppolino and John Petersen, respective Chairs.

**2.0 SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS – Municipal Health Care Reform**

John Petersen introduced the topic of Municipal Health Care Reform. Recent changes in Health Insurance offerings for our APS and ABRSD staff began three years ago when costs began shifting from employer to employees to reduce the impact on the school budgets and encourage more cost-effective use of medical services. This included an increase from 15% employee contribution to 25% employee contribution for health care.

The Governor recently signed legislation creating a new mechanism for town governments and regional school committees to modify the health care insurance they provide to their employees. The schools employ almost 700 individuals who are eligible for health insurance. Approximately 60% of them work for the AB Regional School District and 40% work for the Acton Public Schools. Some of these are non-union positions and some are included in the three school unions (AEA, OSA, ASFCME). The School Committees have negotiated with each union, without distinction between employees of the Region and the local schools. School employees represent about 2/3 of the enrollees in the Acton Health Insurance Trust. The reform process has several major steps, as outlined in John's memo.

School Committee members expressed concern that the Acton Board of Selectmen were potentially moving too quickly, without thoroughly understanding the implications of some decisions and without communicating them to all involved. John Petersen feels strongly that once the Segal report is finalized (approximately two weeks), the Health Insurance Trust should schedule presentations to the Town of Acton, the ABRSC and the Acton Finance Committee so each group can determine their potential savings associated with the modifications, per John Murray's original plan.

Serious concern was expressed for any action that would result in different health insurance offerings to employees of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District and the Acton Public School District.

**Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee VOTE**

The motion proposed in the agenda, with the addition of “/APS” added after “ABRSC”, was moved and seconded. An amendment was made and approved not to include “/APS”.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously,

**VOTED**: that the Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee request that the Acton Board of Selectmen schedule a consideration of the Chapter 69 Municipal Health Care Reform H3085 in a joint session of the Acton BOS and ABRSC so:

the Acton Health Insurance Trust may present analysis of its findings from the Segal study final report of Municipal Health Care Reform to the Acton BOS and ABRSC and

that the Acton BOS and ABRSC may jointly consider the findings before taking any action with respect thereto.

John Petersen was asked to make this statement to the Acton Board of Selectmen at their meeting scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. AEA President Marc Lewis thanked John Petersen, and everyone who participated in calling this meeting so quickly to talk about the importance of slowing down the process and making sure everything was being handled properly.

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

**Acton Public School Committee VOTE**

It was agreed that the APS SC should also voice their opinion.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously,

**VOTED**: that Mike Coppolino should read the following statement at the Acton Board of Selectmen meeting:

Please understand that, though it has no legal role in implementing the Municipal Health Care Reform Act, the Acton Public School Committee would greatly appreciate being included in any discussions and information sharing that the Acton Board of Selectmen may engage in regarding APS employees.

Historically, the Acton Public School Committee and ABRSC have negotiated health benefits jointly with the Acton Education Association, AFSCME and OSA as separate contracts amongst those parties, regardless of the staff member’s employer, whether that is the Town of Acton or the AB Regional School District. We sincerely request that the Acton Public School Committee be given the opportunity to maintain that relationship and involvement in any actions that may affect the compensation of staff members employed at the Acton Public Schools. We have successfully negotiated as one School Committee with each of those three unions in the past, and endeavor to maintain that relationship in the future.

The Acton Public School Committee adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Petr

**Documents Used:**

- 2.1 Municipal Health Care Reform – Acton Process, Intergovernmental Coordination Petersen Memo to ABRSC dated Oct 2, 2011
- 2.2 Chapter 69 Acts of 2011 – H3580
- 2.3 New Regulations – 801 CMR 52.00 Municipal Health Insurance (Administration and Finance)
- 2.4 John Murray Powerpoint Health Insurance Reform presented to the Acton Finance Committee July 20, 2011
- 2.5 Acton Health Insurance Trust – Segal MA Health Reform Study. Initial draft, discussed at the meeting of the Health Insurance Trust 9/29/11