

**JOINT ACTON PUBLIC (APSC) and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL (ABRSC)
and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABTSC)
MEETINGS Minutes (approved 5/1/14)**

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

January 15, 2014
7:30 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC
Followed by Joint Executive Session

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Maria Neyland, Deanne O'Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
Members Absent: none
Others: Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

The Acton-Boxborough Regional and Acton-Boxborough Transitional and Acton Public School Committees were called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Maria Neyland and Dennis Bruce, respective Chairs.

1. Statement of Warrant (none) and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 1/7/14 meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. Public Participation - none

3. Danny's Place Update

Cindy McCarthy spoke about the 10 year history of Danny's Place and their move from a drop-in center to a new programming approach based on the 4-H Club model. The organization's name will be changed to Danny's Place Youth Services (DPYS). April 25th is the closing date in the current location due to the lease not being renewed. Some questions will be addressed at the next meeting when Liza Huber returns. Committee members thanked the McCarthys for creating such a wonderful resource for our young people and offered their support for the new direction that DPYS is taking.

4. ABTSC Superintendent Search Update (Marie Altieri left the room)

1. Search Committee Recommendation to **VOTE** finalists

ABTSC VOTE:

Brigid Bieber read the memo from the Search Subcommittee dated 1/14/14 proposing Marie Altieri, Glenn Brand and Brett Kustigian as finalists.

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the three finalist candidates put forward by the Subcommittee.

2. The draft schedule for the Saturday, 1/25/14 ABT School Committee meeting for the finalist interviews was acceptable to the Committee.

3. Screening Committee interview questions

The School Committee reviewed the proposed questions for the finalists.

Additional questions may be sent to Maria and she will compile them for the 25th.

The Committee agreed that the same questions would be asked of all three finalists, but follow up questions would be permitted. Brigid stated that there will be public forums and feedback from the public and the administration would be requested.

4. Site Visits and Community Forums

The Committee discussed whether or not site visits to the finalists' schools were necessary given the tight schedule. Kristina spoke to Sharon Smith McManus and Heather Harer, who did them for the previous search, and they said they were not very valuable because they tended to only reveal positive information. Mike Coppolino stated that if members have time to do visits, he feels they are an important part of due diligence. The Committee agreed that visits would be done.

Community forums are scheduled between January 16th and 23rd. As soon as dates are confirmed with the finalists, this will be publicized. Maria encouraged the public to come, ask questions and give feedback to the Committee before Saturday's meeting. Feedback forms will be distributed at all forums and then made available to all School Committee members.

Brigid explained that FMS will make reference calls and do background checks on the finalists and give a report to the Chairs. Maria will send the site visit schedule out as soon as it is done.

5. **ABTSC FY15 Budget**

Don Aicardi presented the new K-12 ABRSD budget book format. There are many differences from previous years due to the combining of the three budgets (APS, Blanchard, ABRSD) and some items do not make for easy comparisons. Important information is also still pending. The Governor's proposed FY15 budget is not expected until January 22nd.

The Committee asked about the very large increase in CASE tuition for next year. Some may be due to circuit breaker, and/or the Blanchard numbers being added. Dr. Mills will ask the other CASE districts what they are seeing. Liza Huber is reviewing this. Brigid reported that there are a lot of "moving pieces" in CASE right now, including a change of methodology, and they are trying to put cost numbers around each program. Depending on the nature of the program, there are different costs associated with it. Brigid, the Committee rep on the CASE Board, has a lot of questions around this as well. The old system was based on the previous year's students so districts could prepare for a large increase, but now that is changing. The state is requiring some of these changes for all collaboratives.

If anyone has financial questions before Budget Saturday (2/1/14), send them to Don.

6. **ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization**

1. Transitional Administrative Team Weekly Meetings Update

Dr. Mills reported that the meetings are going well. See memo in packet. He thanked Marie Altieri for an excellent Kindergarten Registration Night noting the emphasis that we are all one region now with six schools to choose from.

2. Intermunicipal Agreements

Progress is being made. The school's legal counsel has received a proposed document for discussion from Acton's counsel.

7. **APS/ABRSC/ABTSC Policy Update**

1. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #3 – **SECOND READING – VOTE** - *Maria Neyland* (incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD, see separately posted document)
 - i. Section D: Fiscal Management (*selected policies*)
 - ii. Section E: Support Services (*selected policies*)

Maria read the list of policies to see if anyone wanted to hold any of them.

ABTSC VOTE

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously
VOTED: to approve the policy consent agenda #3 as proposed.

ABRSC VOTE

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously
VOTED: to approve the policy consent agenda #3 as proposed.

APSC VOTE

Paul Murphy moved, Kim McOsker seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the policy consent agenda #3 as proposed.

8. School Committee Member Reports

1. Health Insurance Trust (HIT)– Kim McOsker reported that the HIT met on 12/19/13. They will make a determination on the rates soon.
2. Acton Finance Committee - Dennis Bruce reported that Don Aicardi attended last night's meeting to begin the FY15 ABRSD budget discussion. Dr. Mills will attend the next FinCom meeting.

9. Demographics Report Prioritization Request

Mike Coppolino asked Committee members to respond to Beth by Friday with their priorities list so he can send them to the BC professors who are doing the pro-bono analysis. (Due to the large number of items in the survey, they asked for the Committees' top priorities.) Mary Brolin said that some of the items were two sides to the same coin. She suggested that they might do a factor analysis so it could be cross tabbed to make it clearer. Mary will email this to Mike so he can forward it to the professors.

10. Acton and Boxborough Local Elections

Dennis and Maria reviewed the details and dates. An additional School Committee member from both Acton and Boxborough will join the Committee starting on July 1st.

11. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Committee agreed to schedule an additional meeting on Tuesday, January 28th at 7:30 p.m. in case it was needed. The superintendent search would be the only agenda item.

The ABTSC was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

12. Joint Executive Session

At 8:57 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

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

(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session solely to adjourn.

At 8:57 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

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

(YES – Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, O'Sullivan, Rychlik)

Dennis Bruce declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session solely to adjourn.

The ABRSC and APSC were polled to go out of executive session and adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Saturday, January 25, 9:00 a.m. ABTSC meeting, Public Interviews of Superintendent Finalists and **VOTE**, Junior High Library
- Saturday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC meeting, ABRSD PreK- 12
FY' 15 BUDGET MEETING, Junior High Library

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents used: see agenda