

**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

March 20, 2014
7:30 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC Executive Session
7:50 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC Open Meeting
8:00 p.m. Joint APSC/ ABRSC/ABTSC meeting
Followed by APSC meeting

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Maria Neyland, Paul Murphy, Deanne O’Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
Members Absent: none
Others: Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, many members of the AEA and staff were in the audience

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland. The Acton Public School Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Bruce.

1. JOINT APSC/ABRSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30 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, 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.

At 7:30 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 - 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.

The ABRSC and APSC were polled to go out of Executive Session at 8:22 p.m.

JOINT APSC/ABRSC OPEN MEETING

2. Acton Education Association (AEA) Negotiations Update

ABRSC Chair Maria Neyland read a statement on behalf of the Committee in response to the Acton Education Association (AEA)’s public comments made at the 3/6/14 School Committee meeting regarding the ongoing teacher contract negotiations. She concluded that “School Committee members have a total of 21 children in the Acton Boxborough school system..... We respect our teachers and all that they do for the children in this district... and have a vested interest in bringing these negotiations to a favorable conclusion, for both sides, as soon as possible.” Many emails were sent to the School Committee on the day of the meeting urging that the contract be settled.

JOINT APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC OPEN MEETING

The ABTSC was called to order at 8:26 p.m.

3. Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes will be done at the next meeting.
2. APS warrant #201419 dated 3/18/14 in the amount of \$143,876.25 was signed by the chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.
3. AB warrant #14-019 dated 3/20/14 in the amount of \$1,879,976.54 was signed by the chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.

4. Public Participation

Bill Guthlein, co-chair of the ABSped PAC, felt the Committee should have spent more time considering the grade 6-8 special education coordinator position that was not funded for next year. Before hiring the Assistant Principals, he asked whether the Committee could consider whether one of the Assistant Principal positions could be used for this coordinator position instead for next year. He stated that the current coordinator is taking on the Boxborough work load and he believes this person is being stretched too far. The Committee discussed the responsibilities of the Assistant Principals and confirmed that some of them would be doing evaluations.

Elisa Lauffer, a senior at ABRHS spoke in support of the teachers' union and urged the Committee to agree to a contract. She stated that "appreciation and support for those around you are the themes we have at AB."

5. Policy Subcommittee Update

1. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #4 - **SECOND READING – APS/ABRSC/ABTSC VOTE** - *Maria Neyland (incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD)*
 - i. Section G: Personnel (*selected policies*)
 - ii. Section I: Instructional Program (*selected policies*)

ABTSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** to approve the policies in consent agenda #4

ABRSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Brigid Bieber seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** to approve the policies in consent agenda #4

APSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Kim McOsker seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** to approve the policies in consent agenda #4

The ABRSC adjourned at 8:38 p.m. and the APSC was suspended at 8:38 p.m.

ABTSC OPEN MEETING

6. Recommendation to Approve ABRHS French Students' Field Trip to France

Brigid Bieber moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the ABRHS French Students' Trip to France

Brigid noted that it is a huge responsibility for adults to take students on these trips and she thanked all those involved.

7. FY15 Budget Update

1. Recommendation to **REVOTE** decrease in FY15 Budget and Assessment
2. Revised Assessment Table 6

Dr. Mills presented a reduction in the FY15 proposed budget of \$177,673 and asked the Committee to revoke the numbers they voted on 2/12/14. This is due to a decrease in the Middlesex County Assessment (\$67,042), final FY15 Health Insurance Rates (\$20,600) and revised FY15 debt service due to recent refinancing (\$90,031). This makes the numbers inconsistent with the Acton Town Meeting warrant, but it was agreed that the change was significant and could be explained.

The Committee discussed that next year the FY16 budget will start with a \$384,000 hit because in FY15, there was a cost sharing shift per the Regional Agreement. Mary Brolin advocated for discussing this issue much earlier in the process next year.

ABTSC VOTE:

Brigid Bieber moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: that the total appropriation for the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District for the fiscal year of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 be set at \$76,003,826 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 \$49,690,145, Boxborough \$10,594,577, remainder to be accounted for by the Anticipated Chapter 70 Aid in the amount of \$13,714,944, Anticipated Charter School Aid in the amount of \$67,707, Anticipated Regional Bonus Aid in the amount of \$139,000, Transportation Aid, Chapter 71, Section 16C in the amount of \$1,296,794, a transfer from E&D Reserves in the amount of \$500,000, and a transfer from the Junior High School Project Premium on Loan in the amount of \$658.

8. ABTSC PreK – 12 Regionalization Update

1. Update on Intermunicipal Agreements (IMA) and Acton Town Meeting Warrant Articles

After several long meetings about the IMA with Acton, the Board of Selectmen have authorized Janet Adachi to sign the documents. Minor details are being resolved through the attorneys, but Dr. Mills is confident that all will be signed by April 7 when Town Meeting begins.

9. FY15 Kindergarten Update

Marie Altieri reported that 285 students have enrolled with a projection of 317. They are distributed well among the schools.

10. School Committee Member Reports

1. Health Insurance Trust (HIT)
 - iii. Dennis Bruce moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED:** that Mary Brolin serve on the HIT committee effective immediately and through FY15.
2. Acton Finance Committee
Dennis thanked the members who attended the FinCom meeting on March 11th where they voted 6-3 to recommend the proposed ABRSD FY15 budget.
3. Acton Board of Selectmen
Paul Murphy reported that a vote on the ABRSD budget was deferred until the next BOS meeting on 3/24/14. Dennis will attend to answer questions and other members are urged to join him.

11. Recommendation to Disestablish the Superintendent Search/Preliminary Screening Committee

ABTSC VOTE:

Paul Murphy moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: to disestablish the Superintendent Search/Preliminary Screening Committee

Maria thanked all who were involved and specifically recognized Andrew Shen's contributions.

12. Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting Reminder

13. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Acton-Boxborough Regional School District was ranked #2 Public District in MA by the *Boston Business Journal* on 3/6/14. Dr. Mills stated that Lexington was #1 and they spend much more per pupil than our District does.
2. Dr. Mills has reconvened the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee (LRSP). The original plan goes through FY16. Four new people are needed including an Acton member of the School Committee, an ABRHS teacher and a Blanchard teacher. JD Head will chair a new space subcommittee that will be part of the LRSP committee.

The ABTSC adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The APSC reconvened at 9:18 p.m.

APSC OPEN MEETING

14. FY14 APS 2nd Quarter Report

Don Aicardi reported a \$2,033 projected year end fund balance, stating that this is the tightest projection he has come up with at APS. That is a concern and will affect year end spending.

Dennis Bruce thanked Kim McOsker for serving on the Acton Public School Committee. He emphasized the amount of time that Committee members have to give. Dennis thanked Kim, her spouse and her kids for their dedication to our schools and community. Kim thanked everyone and emphasized that it is very valuable and important work.

The Acton Public School Committee adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda