

**JOINT ACTON PUBLIC (APSC) and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL (ABRSC)
and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABTSC)
MEETINGS Minutes** (approved 6/24/14)

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

May 1, 2014
7:00 p.m. Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Meeting
8:00 p.m. ABTSC School Choice Public Hearing
Followed by ABRSC/APSC Executive Session

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Amy Krishnamurthy, Maria Neyland, Paul Murphy, Deanne O’Sullivan
Members Absent: Kristina Rychlik
Others: Marie Altieri (7:45), Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

JOINT APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC OPEN MEETING

1. The Acton-Boxborough Transitional and Regional School Committees were called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland. The Acton Public School Committee was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Bruce.
2. **Chairmen’s Introduction** – *Maria Neyland*
 - Welcome to new Acton School Committee member, Amy Krishnamurthy
 - Thank you to School Committee student representatives: Coco DeFrancesco, Jennie He, Josh Reinstrom and Raymond Yu
3. **Recommendation to Accept Acton Boxborough Student Activities Fund (ABSASF) Donation of \$75,000** – **ABTSC VOTE** – *Steve Mills*

Dr. Mills thanked the ABSAF group for their large annual contribution. He also thanked Marie Altieri and the School Committee for their continued support of ABSAF. It was moved, seconded and,

VOTED: to accept the ABSAF donation of \$75,000 for FY15 with gratitude.
4. **Approval of Minutes and Statement of Warrants**
 1. APS Warrants #201421 dated 4/15/14 in the amount of \$174,127.39 and #201422 dated 4/29/14 in the amount of \$108,452.25 were signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.
 2. ABRSD Warrants #14-021 dated 4/17/14 in the amount of \$2,070,168.79 and #14-022 dated 5/1/14 in the amount of \$1,465,341.64 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.
 3. The meeting minutes of 4/3/14, 3/20/14, 3/6/14, 2/1/14, 1/15/14 and 1/7/14 were approved by the ABRSC, ABTSC and the APSC. Amy Krishnamurthy abstained because she was not a member at the time.
5. **Public Participation**

Mary Ann Ashton spoke about the strong interest of the Acton Finance Committee to meet with the Selectmen and School Committee regarding capital planning for next year. They would like to get to know members before the serious budget discussions begin.

May is Lyme Disease Awareness month. Citizen Sandra Bogzani shared information. She is happy to address any groups and may be reached at sbonz@verizon.net. Liza Huber and Sandra will connect regarding having information in the schools.

Several parents from the McCarthy Towne School spoke about bad experiences that their families have had at the school (Adam White, Eric Hudson, Richard Trombetta and John Pierce). Maria Neyland was very clear with the speakers that they could not address individual children's issues or any staff personnel issues at the open meeting. She confirmed that the Committee had received emails from 3 of the 4 families and a thorough investigation was being done. Parent Hilary Dorner came in late and asked that a letter she had written in 2009 be shared again with the Committee.

6. FY14 Budget Update

Dr. Mills explained for Don Aicardi that budgets continue to be very tight. The track project is right on schedule. It has been a very expensive year for legal expenses due to negotiations, regionalization, and special education tuitions. No year end spending projects are expected.

7. ABTSC PreKindergarten – Grade 12 Regionalization Update

1. Town of Boxborough Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ABRSD
2. Boxborough Transfer Warrant Articles for 5/12/14 Town Meeting

Agreements have been reached with Boxborough on the IMA and MOU. The septic system and well are different from Acton so there are somewhat complicated easements. The documents will be ready for the May 22 School Committee meeting.

Brigid explained that a couple of old warrant articles still hold some money in Boxborough's revolving accounts. They are trying to finish the work before June 30, but if not, any money left under those 3 specific articles, will pass to the ABRSD to complete the projects. Once the projects are complete, if any funds remain, that money will go back to the town of Boxborough.

8. Kindergarten Update

Marie Altieri reported that in some schools there is just not enough space to accommodate all the families who want All Day Kindergarten. She explained that historically class assignments have been done keeping class size the same in all the schools. She spoke about balancing two values – school choice vs class size and the Administration has always kept class sizes equal.

9. Long Range Strategic Plan Update (LRSP)

Steve Mills reported that the original LRSP was 2011 – 2016 and it set the budget for the next year. He is proud of reconvening the Committee and the work that has gone into it stating that it will be Glenn's responsibility to build out the plan once they are finished.

10. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound) Goals Update

Dr. Mills reviewed this year's progress. He spoke about the LRSP, full regionalization with Boxborough, and that fact that all grade level meetings have been held and DDMs have been decided. He noted that JD Head's goal was not achieved and that it is ok not to accomplish everything. Dr. Mills looks forward to a presentation on the LRSP at the next meeting that will build on the success of the SMART goals.

11. ABRSD SCHOOL CHOICE PUBLIC HEARING (8:05)

Participation in School Choice 2014-2015

ABTSC VOTE

Brigid Bieber moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To approve the Administration's recommendation that the Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools participate in the State's School Choice program in academic year 2014-2015 by only accepting siblings of existing Acton-

Boxborough Regional School Choice students, and siblings of existing
Boxborough Public School Choice students.
The hearing was closed at 8:12 p.m.

12. **Recommendation to Approve FY15 The Education Cooperative (TEC) Bid**
ABTSC VOTE
Mary Brolin moved, Michael Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the FY15 Education Cooperative (TEC) Bid as presented.
Dennis Bruce abstained due to the appearance of a potential conflict of interest.
13. **Policy Subcommittee Update**
 1. ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Policies – Consent Agenda #5 – **FIRST READING**
– *Maria Neyland (incorporating Blanchard policies)*This group of policies is expected to be voted at the May 22 meeting.
14. **School Committee Member Reports**
 1. Acton Leadership Group (ALG)
Dennis asked if there are updated revenue numbers from the State.
 2. Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF)
Brigid reported that they have been reviewing the Town Meeting warrant.
 3. Health Insurance Trust (HIT)
Mary attended her first HIT meeting. Cash flow is looking better than anticipated.
 4. Acton Finance Committee
Dennis reported that the Capital Plan was the big item of discussion.
 5. Acton Board of Selectmen
Paul Murphy reported that the Town Manager announced at the meeting that Don Aicardi had accepted another position.
15. **New Staff Fingerprinting Requirement**

Marie Altieri reported that a new policy will be coming soon. Law was passed a year ago that everyone who works in schools and has unmonitored contact with children must be fingerprinted to check for national issues. CORI covers only Massachusetts. Employees have been notified. There is a cost. Dennis wondered if School Committee members should have security badges like the staff. Dr. Mills will look into this.
16. **Recommendation to Approve Anonymous Gift to High School Nordic Ski Team –**
ABTSC VOTE
Dennis Bruce moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED to accept the anonymous gift to the ABRHS Nordic Ski Team.
17. **Acton and Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting Updates -Dennis Bruce & Maria Neyland (July 1 addition of School Committee members per K-12 Regional Agreement)**
 1. Acton Town Meeting slides, 4/8/14
 2. Statement read at Acton Town Meeting from the Regional Financial Oversight CommitteeMaria asked Committee members who would like to sit at the table at Boxborough Town Meeting for the budget discussion to let her know.
18. **Annual Superintendent’s Evaluation**

Maria asked Committee members to send evaluations to her by Monday.
19. **School Committee Meetings**
 1. The May 15 APSC meeting is rescheduled to May 22 for
APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC

2. The Summer Workshop will be in July, and Business Meeting in August. The Committee agreed on twice monthly meetings starting in September on approximately the first and third Thursdays. Beth will survey the Committee.

3. The Committee discussed the election of FY15 ABRSC Officers and whether it would be at the June or July meeting. Policy BDA will be reviewed and a decision will be made at the May 22 meeting about how and when to decide.

Beth will survey the Committee for the last week of June to replace the June 19th meeting due to conflicts.

Dr. Mills noted that the DESE must be informed by June 30th whether the District will administer the PARCC or MCAS tests next year.

At 8:37 p.m. the ABTSC was adjourned.

20. JOINT ABRSC/APSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:37 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, Krishnamurthy, Murphy, Neyland, O’Sullivan,)

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 8:37 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously **VOTED** by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee** go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, Krishnamurthy, Murphy, Neyland, O’Sullivan)

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 8:37 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, Krishnamurthy, Murphy, O’Sullivan)

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 School Committees returned to Open Session at 9:32 p.m.

Both committees adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of documents used: see agenda