

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

Library

May 22, 2014

R.J. Grey Junior High School

7:00 p.m. Joint ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Executive Session

7:30 p.m. ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Open Meeting

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin (7:45 p.m.), Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppelino, Amy Krishnamurthy, Maria Neyland, Paul Murphy, Deanne O’Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik

Members Absent: none

Others: Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, members of the AEA and staff

The Acton-Boxborough Regional and Transitional School Committees were called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland. The Acton Public School Committee was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Dennis Bruce.

JOINT ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:03 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, Bruce, Coppelino, Krishnamurthy, 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 7:03 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, Bruce, Coppelino, Krishnamurthy, 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 7:03 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, Coppelino, Krishnamurthy, 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 School Committees returned to Open Session at 7:35 p.m.

JOINT ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC OPEN MEETING

Brigid Bieber recognized Blanchard teacher, Jason Dimen, who was just named a finalist for MA STEM Teacher of the Year. Mr. Dimen has been teaching for 12 years, including the last eight as a sixth grade science teacher at Blanchard. He is a member of the Blanchard School Science Committee and past president of the Boxborough Teachers Association. His students have been

finalists in the state's Siemen's Solve for Tomorrow STEM competition. His “Parent University” taps into local parents working in STEM careers to teach lessons in his classroom that reinforce the message that the engineering design process and scientific method are used daily by science professionals.

1. Chairmen’s Introduction – Maria Neyland

Dennis Bruce read a statement from the School Committees regarding several McCarthy-Towne School parents’ comments made at 5/1/14 School Committee meeting. Dr. Mills spoke as well in complete support of Principal David Krane and his leadership of the school.

2. Approval of Minutes and Statement of Warrants

The minutes of the ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC meetings of 5/1/14 and 5/14/14 will be done at the next meeting. AB warrant #14-023 dated 5/15/14 in the amount of \$1,933,469.01 and APS warrant #201423 dated 5/13/14 in the amount of \$882,336.54 were signed by the chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.

3. Public Participation

Tracy Smith spoke as an involved McCarthy-Towne School parent about her family’s love of their school and what a safe and enriching environment it is. Parent Paul Malchodi requested that JD Head consider removing the fence in lane 6 on the track because he feels it has been moved back far so the bleachers are not useable.

4. Negotiations Update

1. **Possible VOTE on FY’14 Acton Education Association (AEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement – APSC/ABRSC VOTE**
2. **Possible VOTE on FY’15 – FY’17 Acton Education Association (AEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement – ABTSC/ABRSC VOTE (Both agreements were brought to the meeting)**

Marie Altieri presented the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Acton Education Association (AEA), a process that began in August 2012. Joining Marie on the Negotiations Subcommittee were School Committee members Maria Neyland, Dennis Bruce and Kim McOsker. Two agreements are proposed – a one year agreement and a three year agreement, that would end on June 30, 2017. See slides for detail. (Mary Brolin arrived at 7:45 p.m.)

Marie noted that the FY14 and FY15 costs are fully covered by the budgets that were recently voted. The AEA has changed their name to the ABEA (Acton Boxborough Education Association) for FY15.

Allen Nitschelm had emailed the School Committees asking that the ratification vote be delayed for public review because he feels it is a process and transparency issue. Due to the restrictions of collective bargaining, the School Committees are not able to do this. Mike Coppelino stated that the school’s attorney has advised that to give this time between the votes would break confidentiality. School Committee members are voted in by the public and they appoint a negotiating team to do this work. Marie Altieri answered a number of specific questions asked by Mr. Nitschelm about the agreements.

As required, Acton Town Manager Steve Ledoux has been kept up to date with the negotiation process. He has been on vacation and was invited to send a designee to the meeting but he did not choose to do that. Marie stated that Mr. Ledoux is well aware of the contract terms and is supportive of it.

ABRSC VOTE

Brigid Bieber moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: that the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee ratify the one year Memorandum of Agreement with the Acton Education Association for FY' 14 effective September 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

APSC VOTE

Paul Murphy moved, Michael Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: that the Acton Public School Committee ratify the one year Memorandum of Agreement with the Acton Education Association for FY' 14 effective September 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

ABRSC VOTE

Mary Brolin moved, Brigid Bieber seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: that the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee ratify the three year Memorandum of Agreement with the Acton-Boxborough Education Association for FY' 15 through FY' 17, effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

ABTSC VOTE

Dennis Bruce moved, Michael Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: that the Acton-Boxborough Transitional School Committee ratify the three year Memorandum of Agreement with the Acton-Boxborough Education Association for FY' 15 through FY' 17, effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

5. Recommendation to Approve FY15 Food Service lunch prices

Kirsten Nelson brought samples of the new “smoothie” drinks being offered by Food Services. They are very popular. A new Gateway/Medicaid program has led to 6.75% of our students now being eligible to receive free or reduced lunch. She explained that due to the Paid Lunch Equity, our average lunch prices must be at least \$2.65.

ABTSC VOTE

Mary Brolin moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the FY' 15 ABRSD lunch at \$2.75 with tiered pricing to \$3.00 at the Junior High (Smoothie Lunch) and with tiered pricing to \$3.75 at the High School (Premium Lunch).

6. Recommendation to Approve Clare Jeannotte as FY15 Interim ABRSD Finance Director and Business Manager– VOTE

Due to the lateness of learning of Don Aicardi's resignation, Dr. Mills recommended that Clare Jeannotte be appointed as an interim for next year.

ABTSC VOTE

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

VOTED: to approve Clare Jeannotte as FY15 Interim ABRSD Finance Director and Business Manager effective 7/1/14 – 6/30/15.

Mary Brolin and Brigid Bieber stated that Clare has been outstanding at the Blanchard School. Clare thanked the Committee and looks forward to working in the District. She has spoken with Glenn Brand about this and he is in support.

7. Policy Subcommittee Update

ABTSC/ABRSC/APSC Policies (*incorporating Blanchard policies, see separately posted document*)

1. Consent Agenda #5 – **SECOND READING**

ABTSC VOTE

Brigid Bieber moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the Policy Consent Agenda #5 as proposed.

ABRSC VOTE

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brodin seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the Policy Consent Agenda #5 as proposed.

APSC VOTE

Paul Murphy moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the Policy Consent Agenda #5 as proposed.

2. Consent Agenda #6 – **FIRST READING** (*postponed to next meeting*)

8. Regionalization Update

1. ABRSD and the Town of Boxborough Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) –
ABTSC VOTE
2. ABRSD and the Town of Boxborough Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – **ABTSC VOTE**

Dr. Mills reported that the IMA and MOU are ready to sign with the Town of Boxborough. Their Board of Selectmen signed at a meeting that morning. Maria Neyland explained that regarding the IMA, there are only a few items that are different from Acton's IMA (from 5/20/14 email from Atty Brian Falk):

- Acton: 5 schools, plus one strip of land near Gates E.S.
- Boxborough: 1 school
- Acton: Utility and roadway easements for MacPherson and Hart Fields
Boxborough: Easements for shared septic system and District's right to draw from the Hagar well.
- Acton: Town Meeting vote for land transfers, as custody of several properties retained by Acton were transferred from APS to Board of Selectmen.
- Boxborough: No Town Meeting vote needed to transfer land.
- Acton: Pre-closing approvals may include special permits, variances, etc (but not likely).
- Boxborough: Pre-closing approvals do not specifically include special permits, variances, etc., although they would be required of Boxborough if deemed necessary.
- Acton: Dispute resolution limited to specific performance of the property sales.
- Boxborough: Dispute resolution has broader options available to both parties, due to the septic and well easements.
- Acton: IMA requires compliance with Uniform Procurement Act (requested by Acton).
- Boxborough: IMA silent on compliance with Uniform Procurement Act (transaction is exempt, so Boxborough did not request).

The only difference in the MOUs is that 300 school chairs are used for Boxborough's annual Fifer's Day.

ABRSC VOTE

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

1. To approve that certain Intermunicipal Agreement (the "Agreement") between the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (the "District") and the Town of Boxborough (the "Town"), with its Exhibits, in the form presented to the Committee at its May 22, 2014 meeting.

2. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Committee.
3. To approve that certain Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) between the District and the Town in the form presented to the Committee at its May 22, 2014 meeting.
4. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the MOU on behalf of the Committee.
5. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to take all actions on behalf of the Committee that are reasonably necessary, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools, to complete the acquisition of property and the conveyance of various easements in accordance with the Agreement, including without limitation executing all deeds, easements, a bill of sale, assignments of contracts, closing forms, closing documents, and settlement statements.

ABTSC VOTE

Dennis Bruce moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED:

1. To approve that certain Intermunicipal Agreement (the “Agreement”) between the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (the “District”) and the Town of Boxborough (the “Town”), with its Exhibits, in the form presented to the Committee at its May 22, 2014 meeting.
2. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Committee.
3. To approve that certain Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) between the District and the Town in the form presented to the Committee at its May 22, 2014 meeting.
4. To authorize the Chair of the Committee to execute the MOU on behalf of the Committee.
5. To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to take all actions on behalf of the Committee that are reasonably necessary, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools, to complete the acquisition of property and the conveyance of various easements in accordance with the Agreement, including without limitation executing all deeds, easements, a bill of sale, assignments of contracts, closing forms, closing documents, and settlement statements.

Maria thanked Vince Amoroso, Boxborough BOS Chairman for meeting this morning to make this happen.

13. School Committee Member Reports

Dennis Bruce will attend the next Acton Finance Committee meeting to explain the new teachers’ contract.

14. Annual Superintendent’s Evaluation

Maria Neyland will do Dr. Mills’ review at the next meeting.

15. Boxborough Local Election/Town Meeting Update

Maria Neyland reported on the successful Boxborough Town Meeting and that Kathleen Neville will be the new School Committee member from Boxborough starting July 1st.

16. School Committee Meetings

The Summer Workshop will be Thursday, July 24th at 6:30 p.m with business starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr High Library. The date of the August Business meeting is not set yet. The proposed FY15 ABRSC Meeting Calendar will be discussed at the next meeting. It appeared that the start time will be 7:30 p.m.

Kristina Rychlik submitted a memo suggesting a new structure of School Committee officers for FY15 given that it is the first year of full regionalization. Several members thanked Kristina for her thoughtful suggestions and said that next year will still be a transition year so having an Acton vice-chair and a Boxborough vice-chair would be a good way to be responsive to the two town’s needs. It was the sense of the Committee that this could be tried for next year and then the Committee could decide whether to change their policy or not. It was agreed that at the next meeting, the Committee would vote on suspending their policy BDA (School Committee Annual Organizational Meeting), and then vote on FY15 School Committee leadership.

17. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

After 3 ½ years, Dr. Mills announced that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has decided in favor of the APS/ABRSD regarding the “Pledge of Allegiance” case issuing their opinion on 5/9/14. Dr. Mills stated that \$65,000 has been spent on legal fees by the School District. He noted that there is a similar case going on right now in New Jersey.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- June 5, 7:00 p.m. ABRSC/ABTSC/APSC meeting, Junior High Library
- ~~June 19~~, 7:30 p.m. APSC meeting, Junior High Library – ***CHANGED to Tuesday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Junior High Library, APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC meeting***

The three School Committees adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents used: see agenda