



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

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www.abschools.org

Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Meeting

October 20, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Administration Building Auditorium To view only: <https://www.youtube.com/actontv1>

DUE TO UNEXPECTED QUORUM ISSUES, THIS MEETING WILL CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. AND THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WILL BE HELD AT THE END AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Ben Bloomenthal, Adam Klein, Ginny Kremer, Amy Krishnamurthy, Tessa McKinley, Andrew Schwartz, Yebin Wang

Members Absent: Evelyn Abayaah-Issah, Kyra Cook, Liz Fowlks, Rebeccah Wilson

Others: Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Peter Light, Beth Petr, Dave Verdolino

1. **Call to Order (7:01)**

The Acton Boxborough Regional School Committee was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Amy Krishnamurthy. Amy noted that due to unexpected quorum issues, the meeting was being called to order at 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. as originally posted, and the executive session would be held at the end at approximately 8:30 p.m. Members of the public who wished to watch the meeting online were directed to Acton tv's youtube channel. It was stated that the meeting was being recorded by Acton TV.

2. **Chairperson's Welcome - Amy Krishnamurthy**

- a. Public Participation – Steve Ballard spoke regarding the September meeting after the High School lockdown. He criticized the Committee for putting off the decision about the School Resource Officer program stating that in his opinion, they effectively decided to keep the program for this calendar year.

- b. Superintendent's Update - *Peter Light*

After the incident at the High School there were questions about what some of the terms used in the communications meant. A guide was created regarding safety procedures and will be sent to families and posted on the website. Mr. Light thanked everyone who worked hard to make last Saturday's Grand Opening of the Boardwalk Campus such a community success. There will be a public service announcement regarding "Next Generation 911" that the State is moving to. A text to 911 will now have a feature for people that cannot speak. "Silent Call" allows someone to call and press a number to respond. The next Community Coffee is Oct 26 at 8:30 a.m.

3. **New Business**

- a. Overview of Annual Superintendent's Evaluation Process - *M. Altieri*
Marie Altieri reviewed the process using reference material from MASC.

Mr. Light shared summary slides from the previous meeting's presentation. He proposed three district goals, which were a continuation of prior work with district strategy, and one professional practice goal (focused on community engagement). This would begin a gradual shift to "outcome-oriented" (vs. output-oriented) goals. The three overarching areas are: Social Emotional Learning/Mental and Behavioral Health, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support to improve Literacy/Math outcomes, and Culturally Responsive Practices. Mr. Light did not hear much feedback that changed the direction of his thinking, with the exception of being careful about how many things he wants to do.

As part of broadening understanding and community engagement, Mr. Light has shared the goals and strategy information with both of our Senior Centers and will be bringing some seniors in to the High School next month to give them a tour, lunch and small group conversations with students as a way to learn more about each other.

After approval of the goals, Mr. Light will share the School Improvement Plans with the Committee for comment, then they will go back to the schools for finalizing. This is the last year of the late pandemic process. After this, goals will be set in the spring. It was agreed that the challenge will be to find a clear and concise way to communicate these goals to all stakeholders. As they move forward in the budget approval process, the Committee needs to explain what the District is doing and why it is important.

Andrew Schwartz moved, Ginny Kremer seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the Superintendent and District Goals.

- b. Budget Update - *Dave Verdolino*

- i. FY22 End of Year Report
- ii. FY24 Budget Development Schedule

Dave Verdolino presented the FY22 Yearend Financials reporting revenue surplus of \$437K (0.45%), expenditure surplus of \$679K (0.68%) and total generated turnback of \$\$1.12M (1.12%). The eight-year average replenishment since full regionalization is \$1,248,125. He noted that the FY22 revolving fund balance has stabilized back to the FY20 (pre covid) levels. In response to a question, Dave said the plan regarding All Day Kindergarten was to continue to charge \$1800 for the year. To move from that means those costs would have to revert to the budget.

- c. FY24 Budget - *Peter Light*

- i. Preliminary discussion of FY24 staffing and class size targets

Mr. Light requested preliminary feedback re Class Size guidelines IIBA before the FY24 budget is developed. The Committee has not given any guidance re secondary level classes, and these are not addressed in the policy. The Administration beliefs maintaining the upper elementary grade guidelines are

appropriate for secondary as well. A revision to the Elementary Class Size Guidelines policy IIBA will be considered by the Policy Subcommittee.

Members asked for input from the educators and students. The Administration has initially met with department leaders at the Jr High and High School. Financial constraints must also be kept in mind. It is harder to address this at the Jr High level due to teaming. An informed decision is needed. When reducing class sizes, there is not a lot of research on how this affects student outcome unless you have very large numbers. Policy subcommittee will look at this. Anecdotally, there is a difference in experiences.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. **District Goals 2022-2023** - Second Read/VOTE - *Peter Light*
 - b. **Superintendent's Goals 2022-2023** Second Read/VOTE - *Peter Light*
- These votes were combined and taken during item 3.a.

- c. **Consent Agenda/Action Items** - VOTE - *Amy Krishnamurthy*
 - i. Approval of ABRSC Meeting Minutes of 10/06/22
 - ii. Approval of Pool Renaming Subcommittee Minutes of 10/12/22
 - iii. Approval of Regional PTSO budget

Tessa McKinley moved, Adam Klein seconded and it was unanimously, VOTED: to approve the Consent Agenda.

d. Subcommittee and Member Reports

- i. Pool Renaming Subcommittee Recommendation - VOTE - *Peter Light*

Given the large number of people in the audience, this item was taken out of order at the beginning of the meeting. Ben Bloomenthal submitted a unanimous recommendation from the subcommittee in support of naming the pool after Coach Johnson. This was supported by a number of public speakers from several towns and whose experiences and friendships with Coach Jeff spanned as many as 40 years.

Ben Bloomenthal moved that in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the students and communities of Acton and Boxborough, the High School swimming pool be named in honor of former Coach Jeff Johnson as the "Coach Jeff Johnson Swimming Pool". Adam Klein seconded and there was discussion.

The subcommittee was thanked for their efforts, as well as the members of the public who kept up their focus during the three year waiting period and pandemic. Mr. Light especially thanked Coach's wife, Marj Johnson who was in attendance and had also worked for the District for many years.

The School Committee unanimously, VOTED: in favor of the motion.

Mr. Light will connect with Facilities Director Steve Desy keeping all informed.

Adam Klein reported that the Budget Subcommittee had reviewed tonight's numbers, draft budget calendar and guidelines, and would be asking for feedback from the Towns' Boards at the joint meeting next Tuesday night.

- e. **Statement of Warrants and Recommendation to Approve -VOTE** – *A.Krishnamurthy*
Adam Klein moved, Ben Bloomenthal seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the warrants (see memo)

FYI

- Monthly Student Enrollment, 10/01/22 - highlighted given the class size review coming up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:30 p.m., Amy Krishnamurthy stated the need to meet in Executive Session pursuant to: MGL Ch 30A, sec.21(a) Purpose 3: to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Acton-Boxborough Education Association (ABEA) because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. She also stated that the Committee will not return to open session.

Ginny Kremer made the motion, Andrew Schwartz seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED by roll call: to enter executive session for the reason stated.
(YES: Bloomenthal, Klein, Kremer, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Schwartz, Wang)

5. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: Agenda, Agenda item summary pages, Superintendent Evaluation Slides (MASC), District and Superintendent's Goals 2022-2023 slides, FY22 Yearend Financial Report Slides, Budget Memo (D.Verdolino), ABRSC Meeting draft minutes (10-06-22), Pool Renaming Subcommittee draft minutes (10-12-22), Regional PTSO Budget memo, Warrants memo (D. Verdolino), Monthly Student Enrollment (10-01-22)