

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE/JOINT/ACTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES (approved 2/4/10)**

**Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School**

**January 7, 2010
7:30 pm**

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Jonathan Chinitz, Mike Coppolino, Xuan Kong, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith McManus, Maria Neyland, John Petersen, Bruce Sabot (7:50 pm)
Members Absent: None
Others: Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, Tess Summers

The Joint Executive Session was not held.

The AB meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Sharon McManus.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #10-013 in the amount of \$1,336,512.68 and Warrant #10-014 in the amount of \$1,504,866.81 were signed by the chairperson and circulated to the Committee for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The AB section of the minutes of 12/3/09 were approved as written.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

EDUCATION REPORT

Acton Police Chief Frank Widmayer spoke about the COPS Program Funding Youth Officers Jim Goodemote, Keith Campbell, and Dan Silva also attended, as well as officers Parisi and Grey. The town has funded one of the officers since the 1980s. A 2005 grant added two more officers. The 3 year COPS grant paid \$250,000. FY10 Town paid for all 3 officers because of an agreement between the School Superintendent and Town Manager. In FY11 the goal is for the school to pay for one and the town to pay for two. Would the program change if the schools did not fund one officer? The Chief said that it would because he would have to lay off one of the officers.

Everyone on the School Committee, including the student reps, agreed on the value of having officers in the schools. Liza Huber said they are "critically important" to our school system due to their connectiveness. There is disagreement among Committee members whether police officers should be funded by the school budget. They are not staff that report to the schools. Steve Mills said that the fulltime Police officer at Millbury was paid for by the town. Several Committee members said they would fund it for FY2011, but not after that.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. BLF Report – Maria Neyland reported that there is a \$570,000 deficit. The Blanchard feasibility Sub Committee will meet on Jan 13 to discuss what a different Administrative structure might be.

3. FY'10 Budget Discussion – Steve Mills reported that the Governor's office will not be making 9C cuts in January. It was requested that he continue on with savings and "lack of spending" for the second half of this year, despite the good news from the Governor.

OBRA and Social Security are not collective bargaining issues, but would like to inform the unions to keep them in the loop. This will be a significant savings..

Xuan Kong asked when the Committee would vote on OBRA. For every month that the committee waits, it is more money that is not recovered. Steve Mills recommended voting right away. Sharon McManus said based on legal counsel she wants to vote it at the February meeting. Jonathan Chinitz suggested they wait until next month.

4. Athletic Budget/Corporate Sponsorship Update – Steve Desy presented on his budget. Cy Marrion from ABSAF presented how ABSAF is considering taking on this new activity (corporate sponsorship). They will vote at their next meeting. (See powerpoints posted with packet.)

RESUMED APS - JOINT MEETING BEGINS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Joint section of the minutes of 12/3/09 were approved as written.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Joint

5. FY'11 Budget Discussion – Steve Mills' powerpoint is posted with the packet. He emphasized that the school budget is a very dynamic, living thing that changes month to month. It's important to keep it transparent for the public as we move forward. He encourages discussion of all of this, and welcomes input now and at subsequent meetings.

A letter addressed to Dr. Mills and the School Committee and signed by 31 APS Professional staff members was submitted in support of the Curriculum Specialists.

It was agreed to have an all day Saturday meeting on February 6th to hear from all of the school departments. It would be very much appreciated if questions are submitted ahead of time to the Administration. It was asked that the presentations include: What other alternatives did you consider? Why is this plan the best one in your opinion? What was the deliberation process that you used to decide on your cut list?

9. Race to the Top Program Overview

Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee:

It was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: to authorize Dr. Mills and the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and participate.

(Vote: YES – Bieber, Coppolino, Kong, Lindgren, McManus, Neyland, Petersen, Sabot NO – Chinitz)

Acton Public School Committee:

It was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: to authorize Dr. Mills and the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and participate.

(Vote: YES – Coppolino, Kong, Lindgren, McManus, Petersen, NO – Chinitz)

Xuan Kong requested that the School Committee get an update on this program by March or April before it goes into effect.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Search Committee – Sharon “Tess” Summers Retirement

Dr. Mills thanked Tess Summers for her 10 years of service with confidence, class, and integrity. This is a critical position with responsibility for every penny in the district. He asked the Committee to review the “Director of Finance/Treasurer” job description handout and contact him if they had comments on it. He plans to run an ad on Sunday Jan 17, 2010.

1.5 Consolidating Financial Software re: Management Letter from Borgatti Harrison Report

John Petersen and Terry Lindgren want to move forward with this. The districts use Power School, MUNIS, School Dude, and other software, but often they cannot talk to each other. Steve Mills agreed that this is a significant issue.

SUSPENDED APS – AB OPEN MEETING CONTINUES

2. Recommendation to Approve Baseball Trip to Pennsylvania

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the ABRHS Baseball Trip to Easton, PA, 4/16/10 – 4/18/10

3. Recommendation to Accept Gift from Community Education

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED: To accept with gratitude a \$14,130 gift from Community Education to the ABRSD

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

1. Changing Demographics Update

This presentation will be titled “Educational Values and Interests” and will take place on Jan 28 at 7:30PM in Junior High Library.

NEXT MEETINGS: February 4 – 7:30 pm, JH Library – **Open Budget Hearing
February 25 – 7:30 pm, JH Library – Joint meeting – **Open Budget Hearing****

Sharon McManus invited the Acton and Boxborough Finance Committees to both of these meetings. A first vote on the budget may be taken on February 4th.
At 10:52 pm the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee adjourned.

APS MEETING:

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #201013 in the amount of \$178,925.92 was signed by the chairperson and circulated to the Committee for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Social Security/the Town of Acton Adopting OBRA (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990)

The Acton Board of Selectmen wants a formal request for this action.

It was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: to authorize Tess Summers to draft a letter for Xuan Kong, School Committee Chair, to sign requesting that the Board of Selectmen adopt the Mass General Laws Section 64D of Chapter 29.

(Vote: YES – Coppolino, Kong, Lindgren, McManus, NO – Chinitz, Petersen)

2. Recommendation to Accept Gift from Douglas School PTO

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED: To accept with gratitude \$1732. from the Douglas School PTO to support additional Library Assistant time.

At 11:02 pm the Acton Public School Committee adjourned.