

**JOINT ACTON/ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES (approved 5-6-10)**

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

March 25, 2010
7:00 Joint Executive Session
7:30 Joint AB/APS Meeting
followed by Regional Meeting
followed by APS Meeting

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Jonathan Chinitz, Mike Coppolino, Xuan Kong, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith McManus, Maria Neyland, John Petersen,
Members Absent: Bruce Sabot
Others: Marie Altieri, Sue Horn, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, Tess Summers

The Joint meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Sharon McManus and Xuan Kong, respective chairpersons.

JOINT EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:06 p.m., the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee was polled and voted unanimously to go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) according to Chapter 39 Section 23A Paragraph 3, "To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the governmental body, and to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to discuss the filing of criminal complaints."

At 7:07 p.m., the Acton Public School Committee was polled and voted unanimously to go into Executive Session (Joint School Committee) according to Chapter 39 Section 23A Paragraph 3, "To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, and to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to discuss the filing of criminal complaints."

At 7:35 p.m., the Committees were polled and voted to go out of Joint Executive Session.

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.
There was no public participation.

APPROVAL OF JT/AB/APS MINUTES

The Joint and AB minutes of October 5, 2009, October 29, 2009, November 4, 2009, February 4, 2010 (as amended) and March 4, 2010 were unanimously approved by the Acton-Boxborough School Committee. The Joint and APS minutes of October 5, 2009, October 29, 2009, November 4, 2009, February 4, 2010 (as amended) and March 4, 2010 were unanimously approved by the Acton Public School Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Director of Finance Recommendation

Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee VOTE

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED - that the School Committee enter into a contract of employment with Donald Aicardi as school business administrator, and that Superintendent Dr. Stephen

Mills be authorized to negotiate such a contract in accordance with Section 41 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws.

Acton Public School Committee VOTE

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED - that the School Committee enter into a contract of employment with Donald Aicardi as school business administrator, and that Superintendent Dr. Stephen Mills be authorized to negotiate such a contract in accordance with Section 41 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws.

Dr. Mills said that Mr. Aicardi was the first choice of all of the groups that met the finalists and that his municipal experience will be very valuable. Mr. Aicardi thanked the community and the Search Committee and said that he is honored to accept the position. He noted that the genuine passion for education and excellence, as well as the intensity of parental support in our community was particularly impressive to him.

2. FY'11 Budget Update

Acton Town Meeting begins April 5. The AB and APS Budget Books are posted on the website.

3. Health Insurance Trust Report

John Petersen reported on the 3/18/10 meeting. Rates will remain as set on March 4th. There is a strong preference for making all rate adjustments part of the annual rate setting process.

4. Realignment of Administrator Positions

Xuan Kong and Maria Neyland presented their recommendations for realigning positions currently covered by the Administrator Manual into three groups: Senior Administrator, Administrator, and Salaried Employee. John Petersen noted that this is a significant change. It was agreed that some tweaking still needs to be done. Mike Coppolino asked how the Worcester school system handled these types of positions. Dr. Mills stated that Assistant Principals in Worcester are not 12 month positions.

Maria asked if the new class of "Administrators" should be created and the benefits as proposed are reasonable. The Committee agreed. They would like to vote on the manual in May or June. Changes will apply only to new hires, not existing staff.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Acton's "Green Community" Designation

Kate Crosby, Green Advisory Board Co-chair presented on an unexpected opportunity to possibly receive grant funding if the schools and town achieve the DOER's five Green Community criteria. Two criteria are relevant to the schools:

Criteria #3 Establish an energy use baseline inventory, and put in place a program designed to reduce this baseline by 20% within five years

Criteria #4 Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles whenever such vehicles are practical
Facilities Director, JD Head, spoke in favor of this goal. The deadline for the initial round of applications for "Green Community" designation is May 14, 2010. For more information, see www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The March/April Lamplighter is posted at <http://ab.mec.edu/about/publications>

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

1. School Committee Meeting Schedule, 2010-2011

The July meeting will be decided after the elections. Terry Lindgren does not want to spend money on a facilitator. One of the AB meetings should be in Boxborough, assuming that the cable connection is suitable.

2. Superintendent's Evaluation

Sharon McManus invited the public to send input for Dr. Mills' annual evaluation. Comments may be emailed to the chairs, Xuan Kong (xkong@mail.ab.mec.edu) and Sharon McManus (smcmanus@mail.ab.mec.edu). The Superintendent's Evaluation process will be reviewed again at the May meeting along with a progress report on the School Districts' goals.

AB REGIONAL OPEN MEETING BEGINS

At 8:40 p.m., the Acton Public School Committee meeting was suspended and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Meeting began.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #10-019 in the amount of \$1,395,102.02 and warrant #10-020 in the amount of \$1,596,188.52 were signed by the chair and circulated to the committee for approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. BLF Report

Maria Neyland reported that the BLF meets next week. They plan to cover the budget deficit with Free Cash.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Calendar:

- a. Recommendation to Accept \$4000 Gift from AB Travel Basketball – **VOTE**
- b. Recommendation to Accept \$1270 Gift from AB Girls Youth Lacrosse – **VOTE**
- c. Recommendation to Approve ABRHS Academic Decathlon National Championship Trip to Omaha, Nebraska, April 20-26, 2010 - **VOTE**
- d. Recommendation to Approve *possible* ABRHS New England Regional Drama Competition Trip to Falmouth High School, April 15-17, 2010 – **VOTE**
- e. Recommendation to Approve ABRHS National Science Olympiad Trip to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 20-23, 2010 – **VOTE**

Dr. Mills read the five recommendations, noting the outstanding nature of all of them.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: to accept the consent calendar gifts with great gratitude and approve the three trips with amazement for the achievements.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. RJGJHS Info

Dr. Mills noted that Project Wellness was held on March 10th and recommended that the Committee consider including the \$20,000 cost for the "outstanding event" when doing the budget for FY 12.

ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING RESUMES

At 8:55 p.m., the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee adjourned and the Acton Public School Committee resumed.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #201019 in the amount of \$262,411.23 was signed by the chair and circulated to the committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 18, 2010 were approved as written.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Acton Finance Committee Update

Jonathan Chinitz noted that Article 22 of the Acton Town Meeting Warrant incorrectly proposes that \$56,000 be approved to fund the COPS program. This amount is in the municipal budget, Article 11, so Article 22 is not needed. FinCom recognizes the error and the BOS will discuss it on Monday.

2. ALG Update

ALG met yesterday morning (3/24). There was a one time adjustment this year so they worked through the wording. The three boards have taken a vote on the waterfall proposal. ALG consensus was to agree to support levels 1-3 of the waterfall.

3. Kindergarten Enrollment Update

The Administration continues to recommend going forward with 16 sections. A lottery will be held in mid April.

4. Conant Principal Search Update

Marie Altieri reported that 55 applications were received before today's deadline. Interviews will be the week of April 5th. Dr. Mills plans to have a recommendation by the beginning of May. He appreciates that the hiring process is moving along so effectively so we do not lose any good candidates to other districts.

Catherine Suess spoke from the audience saying that she hopes that candidates still find the job attractive when they learn of the benefits and conditions (including not having an assistant principal).

NEXT MEETINGS

April 5 – 7:00 pm, Acton Town Meeting begins
May 6 – 7:30 pm, AB SC Meeting, JH Library
May 10 – Boxborough Town Meeting begins
May 20 - 7:30 pm APS SC Meeting at CONANT School

The Acton Public School Committee adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr