

ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes (approved 7/28/10)

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

June 17, 2010
7:30 pm

Members Present: Michael Coppelino, Xuan Kong, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith
McManus, John Petersen
Others: Marie Altieri, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, Tess Summers

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by John Petersen, Chair of the APS School Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

John thanked AB student, Mike Perry for being our cameraman all year. Mike's dependability and professionalism have been very much appreciated by the Committees. John and Steve Mills thanked Tess Summers for her many years of devoted service. Tess thanked everyone and in particular, her Finance team. She is retiring at the end of July.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #201025 dated 6/15/10 in the amount of \$124,870.91 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 20, 2010 were unanimously approved as written.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Acton Leadership Group (ALG) Report - No meeting since the last SC meeting.
2. Acton Finance Committee Report - Sharon McManus reported that the June 8th meeting included a short discussion of Minuteman Tech High School and the upcoming Special Town Meeting articles.
3. FY'10 APS Budget Update - Steve Mills
Approximately \$120,000 is expected to be turned back to Free Cash. We've had several late retirements. The new auditor for APS is Guisti and Hingston. Audit reports are posted on the website. Warrants are circulated at every meeting and scrutinized by the School Committee ahead of time as another check and balance.
4. FY'11 APS Budget - Steve Mills
The state numbers got a little better last week, but not a lot. Work has begun on our FY12 budget and it will be another difficult year financially.
5. Health Insurance Trust Report - John Petersen reported that next week's meeting will include a vote on next year's reinsurance rates (reinsurance protects the Trust against large claims).
6. Staffing Update - Marie Altieri reported that we have fewer openings than in previous years. Most are replacing retirees. It was announced that Priscilla Kotyk will be the Assistant Principal at Conant and Gates Schools. Matthew McDowell from Stow will be the new Assistant Principal at Merriam and McCarthy-Towne. Terry Lindgren encouraged hiring at lower levels. Mike Coppelino wanted to agree with Terry but said he can't because he feels the decisions should be made by the Administration. Marie Altieri said they are being very cognizant of salary this year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resignation of Jonathan Chinitz from School Committee
 - a. Resignation Letter, 6/7/10
 - b. Acceptance of Resignation, Draft Letter
 - c. Unexpired Term Fulfillment Policy (File: BBBE)

John Petersen recognized Jonathan's expertise and valuable service to our schools and community. He said that Acton is special because of the enormous amount of community service that so many people contribute. Xuan Kong talked about the impact that Jonathan had on Xuan's participation on School Committee. He learned that to do a good job on the Committee, you have to understand the subject, not just know the subject. Xuan thanked Jonathan. Mike Coppolino called attention to two eloquent letters from Dr. Mills and Heather Harer in today's Beacon thanking Jonathan for his service.
 - d. Process for Filling Acton Public School Committee Vacancy Memo from John Petersen

Town and School officials have reviewed the legal advice given the last time this type of vacancy occurred and agree that it is still applicable. The School Committee has 30 days to inform the Board of Selectmen of the resignation. Once the BOS is officially informed, after a minimum of one week, they will call a joint meeting of the BOS and School Committee to pick the new member. The appointment is until the next election (Spring 2011). In that election, someone will be elected for a one year term to fill Jonathan's term.

A quorum of School Committee is available for the July 12 BOS meeting (Mike Coppolino is not available.) The Committee agreed to start informing people about the process in as many ways as possible. (cable tv, email lists, PTO chairs, etc.) John Petersen will inform BOS Chair, Lauren Rosenzweig of the vacancy next week. Interested candidates should send John Petersen a written statement of interest and any other materials by July 2. John will forward a packet of the materials to the BOS/SC on July 3.

2. Appointment of School Committee Reps to ALG for FY 11

Terry Lindgren would like a team approach of three. Terry and John Petersen will serve as the SC representatives to ALG. Xuan Kong said that one of the outstanding ALG issues was the COPS in schools program.
3. Appointment of School Committee Rep to Rep. Jennifer Benson's District Advisory Group - John Petersen is the current representative and he will continue in that role.
4. Recommendation to Accept Gift from Community Education to Conant School
It was moved, seconded, and unanimously
VOTED: to Accept a Gift of \$1,821 from Community Education to the Conant School (Surplus from Enrichment Classes) with gratitude.
5. Recommendation to Accept Gift from Rebecca Allen to Acton Public Preschool
It was moved, seconded and unanimously
VOTED: to Accept a Gift of a new air conditioner from Rebecca Allen to the Acton Public Preschool

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Monthly APS Financial Reports
 - a. Budget Status Summary

- b. Budget Status Summary - SPED
2. Student Enrollment Numbers/Class Size - June 1, 2010
It was noted that nine new Kindergarteners enrolled yesterday (6/16/10).
3. ELL Student Population Report - June 1, 2010
4. School Committee Members List, 2010-2011
5. Summer R&Ds
6. Summer Hours - ABRHS Cafeteria
7. School Newsletters -
Acton Public School Preschool:
<http://ab.mec.edu/Preschool/index.htm>
Conant Crier: <http://conant.ab.mec.edu/pto/newsletter.html>
Douglas Digest: <http://douglas.ab.mec.edu/index.html?pto/pto>
Gates Gazette: <http://gates.ab.mec.edu/gazette.html>
McCarthy-Towne Bulletin:
<http://www.mctptso.org/bulletin/>
Merriam Community News:
<http://merriam.ab.mec.edu/newsletters.html>
8. Summer *Interaction* is found at <http://comed.ab.mec.edu>
9. *Lamplighter* - June 2010
<http://ab.mec.edu/about/publications>
10. School Committee Policy Revision and Review (File: BGC)- Steve Mills said that we have a number of policies that warrant review next year, including: the Kindergarten Entrance Age, Foreign Exchange Students, and the Calendar and religious holidays policies.
11. Revised Open Meeting Law, effective July 1, 2010
 - a. Record Management Tips, Eva Taylor, Acton Town Clerk 6/14/10
 - b. The Open Meeting Law, Chapter 28
12. Revised APS and ABR School Committee Meetings 2010-2011 Schedule (July 28th Joint/AB/APS meeting replaces July 8th and August 5th)

NEXT MEETINGS -

- Joint /AB/APS School Committee Summer Meeting - Wednesday, July 28th, 6:00 p.m. at Sargent Library in Boxborough
- Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Meeting - Thursday, Sept 2, 7:30 p.m. at RJGJHS Library
- Acton Public School Committee Meeting - Thursday, Sept 16, 7:30 p.m. at Merriam School

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr
Secretary