

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES (Approved 10/1/09)

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

September 3, 2009
(following JT meeting)

SC Attendees: Brigid Bieber, Mike Coppolino, Xuan Kong, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith
McManus, Maria Neyland, John Petersen, Bruce Sabot
Absent: Jonathan Chinitz
Other Attendees: Marie Altieri, Susan Horn, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr, Tess Summers,
Members of Acton FinCom, Members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Sharon McManus at 7:30pm.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT - none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - none

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gift to RJG Junior High Theater and Theater Program

Steve Mills introduced one of the most generous gifts ever donated to our school districts. Bernard Haan is a local parent who chose to memorialize his wife, Jennifer Haan, with a significant donation to benefit the Acton-Boxborough district theater programs and to strengthen the schools' ties to the Open Door Theater community group. This gift is a donation of up to \$500,000 over the next fifteen years. A portion will be used to make significant upgrades to the junior high auditorium. The rest will be used to support theater programs, creating additional opportunities for students for years to come. RJ Grey JHS has had a wonderful relationship sharing our theater with Open Door Theater in the past and we look forward to continue working with them on this project. Open Door was very important to Mrs. Haan. At the performance in January, an unveiling ceremony will take place with a plaque naming the auditorium the "Dragonfly Theater".

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously:

VOTED: The School Committee having been offered a monetary gift by Bernard Haan to (i) enhance the physical condition of the theater at the Jr. High School and (ii) support the District's theater programs and having received advice on the subject, and after due deliberation and consideration of the same, hereby votes to accept Mr. Haan's generous gift and to enter into the Restricted Gift Agreement related thereto which has been presented to the School Committee for review and discussion.

The School Committee further authorizes and directs the Superintendent to sign the Restricted Gift Agreement, and upon signing by the Superintendent the terms of such gift and Restricted Gift Agreement shall be deemed hereby approved and the same shall be conclusive evidence that the terms thereof have been duly authorized by the School Committee on behalf of the School District. This School Committee further authorizes and directs the Superintendent to from time to time designate the District member of the "gift committee" under the Restricted Gift Agreement.

The School Committee hereby expressly thanks Mr. Haan for this thoughtful and generous gift which will redound to the benefit of the students and the residents of the District and the theater arts in our communities.

The Committee members thanked Mr. Haan for choosing this very generous way to memorialize his wife. Our community has a very strong focus on drama and inclusiveness and allowing as many children as possible to participate in the drama program. This wonderful gift will ensure that that focus continues into the future.

WENT INTO JOINT MEETING AT 7:40.

The meeting of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee resumed at 9:30 p.m.

BOYS' JUNIOR VARSITY AND VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Athletic Director, Steve Desy, and volleyball coach, Mark Starr outlined their proposal. In spite of the difficult financial times, Steve recommends this new team. The program would be totally self-funded for the first three years. Mark has volunteered to coach the team. (He currently coaches the girls' team.) This new program would give 30 more student athletes an opportunity to participate. Girls currently have 17 programs and 40 teams. Boys have 16 programs and 35 teams. This would give more male athletes a chance to play.

Bruce asked about the cost for a trainer. Steve Desy said the trainer is on staff during these normal times, so there is no additional cost. Xuan asked what the cost would be after the first three years. What if we have to eliminate the teams at that point due to expenses? Steve Desy asked that he be allowed to decide which programs are higher priority than others and make the funding decision at that point. The teams would be cost neutral for the first 3 years. After that, it would be part of the normal budget discussion. Mark and Steve said that with the athletic fee being \$190 per student, they continue to be sensitive to students whose families have difficulty paying the fee.

John asked Steve Desy to prepare a report on the finances of all of the athletic programs. Sharon suggested that it be done as part of the current budgeting process – at the end of November when all staff comes in and talks about their areas. Steve Desy agreed to do this.

At 9:45 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To establish a junior varsity and varsity boys' volleyball team at the High School for the 2010-2012 seasons.

Boxborough/BLF Report - FY'10 Budget

Brigid will send the Boxborough teachers' contracts to the Committee electronically. A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for November 15 to provide an additional \$50,000 for this year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Steve Mills thanked the staff who are involved in the work of the Student Assistance Team at the High School. Xuan asked if in the future, some data from the previous year(s) could be provided to compare for trends.

Steve thanked Liza Huber and Susan Horn for an excellent September edition of the Lamplighter.

Terry Lindgren feels that the *For Your Information* items in the School Committee packets do not need to be distributed in hard copy. They could be posted and the links could be listed in the packet. Bruce Sabot and Principal Chris Whitbeck do not want paper packet copies starting next month. The packet must be posted online early enough for this to work.

John Petersen asked if new APS/AB email shells could be created that would include only the 6/9 School Committee members. Currently these email shells include the 5 Central Office members as well (Liza, Marie, Steve, Susan, and Tess). Beth is also included. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 1 - 7:30 pm, JH Library

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr