

**ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

(approved 9/17/09) #5 of 5

**Library
RJ Grey Junior High School**

**August 6, 2009
6:40/10:30 pm (following Jt. Meeting)**

Members Present: Jonathan Chinitz, Michael Coppolino, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith
McManus, John Petersen

Others: Marie Altieri, Liza Huber, Susan Horn, Stephen Mills, Beth Petr

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Michael Coppolino.

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 litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the governmental body and to approve and release minutes with respect to strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel."

The Acton Public School Committee was polled and voted to go out of Executive Session at 8:11 pm.

VOTED: at 8:15pm, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to suspend the Acton Public School Committee meeting.

The Acton Public School Committee meeting resumed at 9:05 for the Joint Committee Open Session.

The Acton Public School Committee meeting continued at 10:30 pm.

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

Recommendation to Appoint Beth Petr as Acton Public School Committee Secretary, 2009-2010

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: to appoint Beth Petr as Acton Public School Committee Secretary, 2009-2010

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 18, 2009 were approved as presented.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

The following warrants were signed by the chairperson and circulated to the rest of the Committee for signatures: Warrant #2009-27 in the amount of \$102,002.71, Warrant #2009-28 in the amount of \$139,695.49, Warrant #2010-01A in the amount of \$257,970.24, Warrant #2010-1 in the amount of \$107,283.31, and Warrant #2010-2 in the amount of \$84,574.73.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Student Enrollment Update**

Marie Altieri said that as of 8/6/09, 106 new students had enrolled in our schools this summer. By the same date last year, we had enrolled 96 students. Kindergarten and the first grades are looking very large. We have added 35 first graders compared to last year when we added 24. Phone calls keep coming from families moving, or considering moving, to town. Marie confirmed John Petersen's observation that none of our second or third grade classes are within the School Committee class size guidelines.

2. **Staffing Update**

Marie Altieri said that 10 new certified staff members have been hired for the elementary schools (the equivalent of 7.7 FTEs). 7 certified staff members retired, 5 others are not returning, and 8 are taking leaves of absence. 2 staff members are returning to APS. Lynne Laramie has been appointed as Interim Elementary Pupil Services/Special Education Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Recommendation to Approve Food and Related Products (TEC) Bid**

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Food and Related Products (TEC) Bid.

2. **Recommendation to Approve McCarthy-Towne Field Trip to Merrowvista, October 28-30, 2009**

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the McCarthy-Towne Field Trip to Merrowvista, October 28-30, 2009.

3. **Recommendation to Accept Gift from Merriam School**

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept, with gratitude, funds of \$36,068 from the Merriam School After Hours Program to be used to purchase and install 6 Smartboards and a wireless internet system at the Merriam School.

4. **Recommendation to Accept Gift from Douglas School**

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept, with gratitude, funds of \$59,501.69 from the Douglas at Dawn & Dusk program to be used to purchase 2 Mobile computer labs, a wireless Internet system, and 3 Smartboard replacement bulbs.

5. **Recommendation to Accept Gift from AB Community Education**

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept, with gratitude, the generous gift of \$2,082.05 from AB Community Education.

This check represents the additional surplus from the All Day Kindergarten Program for FY'09.

6. **Recommendation to Accept Gift from AB Community Education**

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously

VOTED: To accept, with gratitude, the generous gift of \$3,615.54 from AB Community Education to the Conant School.

This check represents the final disbursement of Conant's share of funds earned in FY'09 by the Extended Day Program run by Community Education that is operating at Conant.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Superintendent referred to several items including:

- A very generous donation from Peter and Mai Nguyen was made to the Acton Public Preschool ABA Program. It will be used to purchase a DVD player and related materials/programs to foster social skills growth through video modeling, as well as a VB-MAPP Assessment, a tool used in evaluating students on the Autism Spectrum. The gift was accepted with much gratitude by the Committee.
- A letter from the Massachusetts DESE acknowledged that our schools have met their “Highly Qualified Teacher Goal” of 100%.

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is concerned about the length of their meetings and discussed how the Education Reports given at the School Committee meetings should be handled. Starting meetings before 7:30 makes it difficult for some members to arrive on time. “Long discussions late at night” are not always constructive. John Petersen said, “It’s great to go and see the schools, but that part needs to be separated from the business of the Committee.” Dr. Mills will convey the Committee’s thoughts to the Principals.

NEXT MEETING: September 17, 7:30 pm, at **Gates School**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr
Secretary