

**JOINT ACTON PUBLIC (APSC) and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL (ABRSC)
and ACTON-BOXBOROUGH TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABTSC)
MEETINGS Minutes (approved 1/7/14)**

Library
Blanchard School, Boxborough

December 12, 2013
7:00 p.m. ABRSC Executive Session
7:05 p.m. Joint APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC Meeting

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Dennis Bruce, Michael Coppolino, Kim McOsker, Paul Murphy, Maria Neyland, Deanne O'Sullivan (7:03 p.m.), Kristina Rychlik
Members Absent: none
Others: Don Aicardi, Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Liza Huber, Steve Mills, Beth Petr

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Maria Neyland.

1. ABRSC EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:01 p.m., it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED by role call: that the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation.

(YES – Bieber, Brolin, Bruce, Coppolino, McOsker, Murphy, Neyland, Rychlik)

Maria Neyland declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board and the Committee would return to open session.

At 7:05 p.m., the Committee was polled and voted to go out of Executive Session.

JOINT APSC/ABRSC/ABTSC OPEN MEETING

The ABTSC and APSC were called to order to begin the Joint Open Meeting at 7:05 p.m. by Maria Neyland and Dennis Bruce, respective chairs.

2. Chairmen's Introduction

3. Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 10/3/13 meeting, the 11/21/13 meeting and the 12/5/13 meeting (APS, ABRSC, ABTSC) were approved as written by the ABRSC, followed by the ABTSC and APSC.

ABRSD warrant #14-012 dated 12/12/13 in the amount of \$1,966,444.44 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures. APS warrant #201412 dated 12/10/13 in the amount of \$151,830.22 was signed by the Chair and circulated to the Committee for signatures.

4. Public Participation - none

5. ABTSC Superintendent Search Update

Brigid Bieber reported that the Committee is making good progress. Applications were due last week. The Committee met on 12/6/13 and will meet on 12/17/13.

6. ABTSC FY15 Budget

Don Aicardi presented an introduction to the FY15 ABRSD Budget with a focus on: "Chart of Accounts" development, ABRSD reserves review, the new ABRSD budget process and main

assumptions, “What’s on the Horizon?” and the budget schedule. Dr. Mills has received budget requests for program expansion, capital needs and staff. In response to a question, he assured the Committee that they would be given the full list of “staff and stuff” that was generated for budget requests discussion. Don noted that the FY15 “Base Budget” (essentially level service) is included in the new Regional Agreement. More details will be provided at the upcoming meetings and as the state numbers are made public.

7. ABTSC Recommendation to Approve 2014-2015 Preschool Tuition

The Administration’s recommendation is that preschool tuition remain as is for next year. Liza Huber mentioned the two forums being held for parents and stated that there are many more similarities than differences in the Acton and Boxborough programs.

ABTSC VOTE:

Dennis Bruce moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the 2014-2015 Preschool tuition as proposed, (“level fund” all three preschool options available to our Acton and Boxborough families, and provide parents/guardians a choice to enroll in any of the three program options)

Tuition for those students who are developing typically and serving as role models:

Acton Public Schools Half Day (11 hours/week) Tuition Rate:	\$3,530
Acton Public Schools Full Day (26 hours/week) Tuition Rate:	\$6,830
Blanchard Public School Full Day (20 hours/week) Tuition Rate:	\$5,000

For students with identified and significant special needs (Autism Spectrum Disorders) enrolled by other school districts, the rate of \$54,000 was previously recommended and accepted for this current 2013-2014 school year. As no openings are anticipated for FY15, a tuition rate is not recommended at this time.

8. APS/ABRSC/ABTSC Policy Update

1. Elementary Class Size, File: IIBA – **FIRST READING**

Marie reviewed the proposed policy based on the last meeting’s discussions.

2. ABTSC/APSC/ABRSC Policies - Consent Agenda #2 – **SECOND READING** – *Maria Neyland* (incorporating Blanchard policies with APS/ABRSD, see separately posted document)

- i. Section B: School Board Governance and Operations (*selected policies*)
- ii. Section C: General School Administration (*selected policies*)

Paul Murphy moved, Mary Brolin seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: that the **ABTSC** approve the Consent Agenda #3 policies as proposed
Mary Brolin moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: that the **ABRSC** approve the Consent Agenda #3 policies as proposed
Paul Murphy moved, Kim McOsker seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: that the **APSC** approve the Consent Agenda #3 policies as proposed

9. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The 2014-2015 Kindergarten Registration meeting on 1/14/14 has a revised location, in the Parker Damon Building cafeteria. It is exciting for families to now have a choice of six schools.

The three School Committees adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 p.m. ABRSD/ABTSC meeting, Junior High Library
- Thursday, January 16, 7:30 p.m. APSC meeting, Junior High Library

- Saturday, January 25, 9:00 a.m. Public Interviews of Superintendent Finalists, Junior High Library
- Saturday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. FY'15 ABRSD PreK- 12 BUDGET MEETING, Junior High Library

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of documents used: see agenda