

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) WORKSHOP MEETING
Minutes (approved 11/51/15)

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

October 22, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Brolin, Michael Coppolino, Amy Krishnamurthy, Maya Minkin, Paul Murphy, Kathleen Neville, Maria Neyland, Kristina Rychlik
Members Absent: Diane Baum, Brigid Bieber, Deanne O’Sullivan
Others: Glenn Brand, Beth Petr, Dorothy Presser

1. The ABRSC was called to order by Chairwoman Kristina Rychlik at 7:01 p.m.
2. **Chairman’s Introduction** – Kristina welcomed Dorothy Presser from the MA Association of School Committees (MASC).
3. **Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1. Minutes of meetings on 10/1/15 and 10/15/15 were approved.
 - 3.2. Warrant #16-009 dated 10/22/15 in the amount of \$3,750,894.96 was signed by the Committee members.
4. **Public Participation** - none
5. **Legislative Subcommittee** – *Paul Murphy*
 - 5.1.1. Final Letter from ABRSC re Standardized Testing
All members signed the letter discussed at the previous meeting and Beth will send it tomorrow.
6. **Acton Three Board Meeting on 10/27/15** – *Kristina Rychlik*
 - 6.1. Agenda
These will be general overviews from the Boards for next year. Some members of the Boxborough boards may attend. Mary Brolin is preparing for a Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) meeting and she will ask them if they want the School Committee to present their budget information.
7. **Acton Special Town Meeting re Citizens’ Petition (11/10/15)** – *Kristina Rychlik*

Although there have been some developments, at this time, this item of business is still on for 11/10/15. A draft statement has been circulated and it will be voted on just prior to the 3 Board Meeting so it can be presented in final form. A School Committee meeting will be posted for 6:50 p.m. on 10/27/15 for the Committee to do this.
8. **MASC District Governance Program – Workshop #2 Framing the Work** – *Kristina Rychlik, Dorothy Presser*
 - 8.1. ABRSC 2015 - 2016 Operating Protocols
 - 8.2. ABRSD Mission, Values and Long Range Strategic Plan:
<http://www.abschools.org/district/mission-and-values>
 - 8.3. Superintendent’s FY16 Goals

Dorothy Presser began the discussion by asking what does the SC need to do to help make this happen – present the budget differently, more outreach, community engagement, what ground work

needs to be done to address something like a facilities issue, for example. After much discussion, the Committee agreed on the following draft goals:

ABRSC 2015-16 Goals

October 22, 2015

Professional Practice Goal #1

Participate in and complete the Massachusetts' Association of School Committees' District Governance Program to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our committee.

Actions planned:

Workshop series throughout first half of 2015-16 school year to focus on development of Committee Operating Protocols, alignment of district's mission/vision/goals with our own Committee goals, and put in place a system to monitor and sustain progress in these areas.

District Improvement Goal #1

Proactively address current and future capital needs of the district to best inform our budget planning process, both for FY '17 and longer-term.

Actions planned:

- *When receive plan in January 2016, "make it ours"*
 - *Read & understand plan*
 - *Share findings at community forums (both towns, both towns' boards)*
 - *Participate in & support Future School Needs Committee*
 - *Support Phase II in FY '17 budget*

District Improvement Goal #2

Improve community engagement to help inform SC decision-making while also helping the community understand our issues and the rationale behind decisions made.

Actions planned:

- *Complete updated "demographic survey"*
 - *Plan/change name*
 - *Implement*
 - *Analyze*
 - *Report out*
- *Drive traffic to SC website/district website as appropriate*
- *Specific outreach on issues of interest*
- *Better engage PTO/PTF/School Council groups, Interschool Council*

Student Learning Goal #1

Create, support and promote a FY '17 budget that supports the needs of all students, while also beginning the process of engaging in longer-range budget planning to support the district's long-range goals.

Actions planned:

- *Revised budget calendar to improve process leading to town meeting votes*
- *Use AB Connector and other vehicles for community communications*
- *Continue to use Budget Subcommittee to preview budget issues and steer the process of budget development*

It was confirmed that these goals are for the 2015-2016 school year. The Committee discussed the merits and the difficulties of budgeting for 3 – 5 years out. Several members would like to include some educational “innovations” in future budgets, even though there may not be funding for them. They feel that it is part of their responsibility as School Committee members to consider ways to do things differently and include them in the budget discussion, ultimately leading to the Committee’s decision about what can be funded and what cannot.

The Committee has one more workshop to finish the Governance program.

The ABRSC adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda

NEXT MEETINGS:

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| Oct 27 | Three Board Meeting | 7:00 p.m. in Acton Town Hall Room 204 |
| Nov 5 | ABRSC Meeting | 7:00 p.m. in Jr High Library |
| Nov 10 | Acton Special Town Meeting | 7:00 p.m. in the ABRHS Auditorium |
| Nov 19 | ABRSC Meeting | 7:00 p.m. in Jr High Library |