

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) Meeting  
Minutes (approved 8/24/17)

Library  
R.J. Grey Junior High School

Wednesday, July 26, 2017  
8:00 a.m.

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*Members Present:* Diane Baum, Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Amy Krishnamurthy, Maya Minkin, Paul Murphy, Kathleen Neville, Kristina Rychlik, Eileen Zhang  
*Members Absent:* Deanne O'Sullivan, Tessa McKinley  
*Others:* Beth Petr

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1. The ABRSC was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chair Amy Krishnamurthy. She stated that the meeting was not being taped due to the unusual time.

**2. Chairman's Introduction**

**2.1.** Distribution of Related Materials Concerning Release of Executive Session Minutes of 4/26/17 and 5/2/17 (no discussion or deliberation) – *Amy Krishnamurthy*

Amy read the statement in the posted packet from the Chair and two Vice Chairs dated 7/25/17. She stated that, per the agenda, there would be no discussion or deliberation on this statement. Allen Nitschelm came to the podium and said he had a Point of Order. Amy repeated that there would be no discussion or deliberation. Mr. Nitschelm expressed frustration and was asked to be seated. He left the podium and returned to his seat.

**3. Interim Superintendent Search Update – *Amy Krishnamurthy***

**3.1.** Memo from Interim Superintendent Search Subcommittee – *Paul Murphy*

Paul Murphy thanked the eight subcommittee members for their efforts. He reported that 29 applications had been received. He read the memo proposing the three finalists.

**3.1.1.** Recommendation to Accept Interim Superintendent Finalists – **VOTE** – *Amy Krishnamurthy*

Diane Baum stated that the subcommittee members were outstanding and the work could not have been done without David Krane, Karen Sonner and Dawn Bentley. Kristina Rychlik appreciated that the finalists all have school building project experience. The finalists' resumes will be posted after the meeting.

Brigid Bieber moved, Katie Neville seconded and it was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** to accept the three finalists, Marie Altieri, Edward Malvey and William McAlduff as candidates for the Interim Superintendent position.

**3.2. Next Steps**

**3.2.1.** Public Interviews to be held at ABRSC meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Brigid Bieber will chair this meeting while Amy is on vacation. The Committee agreed that they will vote to appoint the Interim Superintendent at the meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, if they feel that it is appropriate after the interviews. If they do not, an additional meeting will be scheduled.

**3.2.2.** Discussion of Interview Questions and Process

The Committee discussed possible finalist interview questions and topics. Candidates could be asked about:

- how they would fit in with AB
- examples of their management and leadership style
- how they understand AB's core mission
- their experiences and recommendations for moving forward in supporting staff in times of crisis/emergencies
- their ability to deal with stress or stressors of their own. This is critical for someone who must remain a strong leader of a large district.
- experiences with specific initiatives such as school start times, MTSS, building projects, Challenge Success, maybe the homework policy in broad terms
- how they work with other administrators
- how they handle community relations
- system-wide changes in policies and budget
- For candidates who have been interims, they should be asked about their approach to this kind of role.
- For all candidates, they should be asked how being an interim would be different from being the permanent superintendent. With so many things to do this year, how would they support the staff and team and not come in with their own agenda? How would they manage these priorities for the year?

There was consensus to allow 45 minutes for each interview, ask 6-8 questions and allow a 2 minute closing statement. Fifteen minutes would be scheduled between each finalist.

Amy asked if there was any public comment.

A gentleman mentioned project management and how tasks should be broken down when trying to address them. A woman asked if Committee members would be permitted to participate remotely at the August 1 meeting (when the public interviews would be held). The remote participation policy was explained. Another person advocated for having a series of standard questions for each candidate following a unique question for each candidate.

Paul Murphy summarized the question topics:

1. education in the age of social media
2. dealing with crises
3. experience with AB initiatives
4. decision-making
5. managing priorities (including the nature of an interim position)
7. individual question
8. concluding statement

Diane Baum offered to compile the list of questions for the Committee.

If there is extra time, follow up questions could be asked, but the Committee agreed to focus on the set list of questions.

Diane Baum advocated for not offering the chance to make a 2 minute closing statement, and letting candidates ask the Committee a question instead. It was the sense of the committee that candidates should be given the chance to make a statement, if they wanted to. It could be difficult if a question sidetracked the interview.

It was agreed that Mary Brolin and Diane Baum would do the reference calls and share that information after the interviews at the meeting on August 1.

The ABRSC adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: Agenda, Memo re Unauthorized Release of Executive Session Minutes, Interim Superintendent Finalists Memo, Resumes

**Next Meetings:**

ABRSC, Tuesday, August 1, 6:30 p.m. in the Junior High Library (packet posted July 27)  
ABRSC, Thursday, August 24, 7:00 p.m. in the Junior High Library (packet posted August 18)  
ABRSC, Thursday, September 7, 7:00 p.m. in the Junior High Library (packet posted Sept 1)

Posted on 7/23/17 at 8:45 p.m.