

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC)
WORKSHOP and REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Administration Building Auditorium
15 Charter Road, Acton

July 20, 2021
6:00 p.m. Workshop
8:30 p.m. (approx) Reorganizational Meeting

Members Present:	Evelyn Abayaah-Issah, Ben Bloomenthal, Kyra Cook, Adam Klein, Ginny Kremer, Amy Krishnamurthy, Tessa McKinley, John Petersen, Andrew Schwartz, Nora Shine, Yebin Wang
Members Absent:	none
Others:	Marie Altieri, Peter Light, Beth Petr

1. The ABRSC was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tessa McKinley.
Chairperson's Welcome - Tessa McKinley

Tessa welcomed everyone to the auditorium and stated that because the meeting was mainly the annual workshop, Acton TV was not recording. She introduced Dr. Evans.

2. **Annual Summer Workshop with [Rob Evans](#), Ed.D.**

Dr. Evans led a discussion about the importance of Committee members getting to know each other. Members shared how covid affected them and their families this past year and the loss of social connections. Dr. Evans added that people often don't remember what a teacher taught them, but they do remember how they connected with them.

Dr. Evans asked members to consider if they felt they were efficient about making good decisions, or were taking too much time. Members agreed that with so many new members in the group, it has taken time but they have "grown by leaps and bounds" and they now feel fairly efficient. A few members have done a lot of work in the past and it is not easy to spread the responsibilities evenly due to the Committee's structure.

Comments included:

- People generally don't understand why equity is so important.
- School Committee has been a microcosm of the nation during covid and it has been challenging to do some of the work.
- One of the greatest things we face now is the amount of change in the community in past 5 years.
- The turnover of the Committee is similar to the administrative team. The Committee needs to hone in on what processes and procedures should be in place to do the work they now want to do.
- Mentorship is very important for new members. It's difficult to not be able to ask questions in person. The Member Guidebook is very helpful.

- New members need to understand the range of responsibilities regarding the subcommittees and liaisons.
- Credibility is essential for the School Committee.
- Implementing the 5 year strategy was disrupted by the pandemic. We should be sure the community is aware of this plan and communicate it more effectively.
- Knowledge owners have to shift the power by sharing the knowledge.
- Clarity of the Committee's writing is very important.

Members discussed what mechanisms should be used to reach the public with consistent messages from the Committee. AB has not had a social media policy for the Committee and Tessa spent a lot of time doing that this past year. Sharing a unified vision and goals are key. Members liked the idea of going out to various community groups on occasion to listen to their comments and questions. The senior centers were one example. The liaisons between town committees are very important because they build relationships. This is particularly true after the pandemic and all the challenges it created. Dr. Evans noted that he saw great potential and good energy in the Committee.

3. REORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

a. Consent Agenda - **VOTE** - Tessa McKinley

- Approval of Meeting Minutes of 6/17/21
- Approval of Corrected Meeting Minutes of 6/10/21 (*name added*)
Amy Krishnamurthy moved, Ginny Kremer seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the consent agenda.

b. Recommendation to Approve Revised List of School Building Committee Members - **VOTE** - Adam Klein

Kyra Cook moved, Amy Krishnamurthy seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the revised list of School Building Committee members to add Jennifer Campbell as the Boxborough Select Board rep, and change Maria Neyland's designation from Boxborough Select Board rep to Community Member.

c. Appointments - Tessa McKinley

Per our Regional Agreement and policy BDA, the Committee appoints the District Treasurer and School Committee Executive Secretary annually.

- Recommendation to Appoint Margaret Dennehy as ABRSD Treasurer –
VOTE
Evelyn Abayaah-Issah moved, Adam Klein seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to appoint Margaret Dennehy as ABRSD Treasurer.
- Recommendation to Appoint Beth Petr as ABRSC Executive Secretary –
VOTE
John Petersen moved Ben Bloomenthal seconded and it was unanimously,

- VOTED**: to appoint Beth Petr as ABRSC Executive Secretary.
- iii. Recommendation to Appoint Andrew Shen as ABRSD Records Access Officer - **VOTE**
 Ginny Kremer moved, Kyra Cook seconded and it was unanimously, **VOTED**: to appoint Andrew Shen as ABRSD Records Access Officer.
- d. Election of Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Officers for FY22 - *Peter Light (Terms begin August 1)*
- i. FYI: School Committee Annual Organizational Meeting policy & procedures BDA and School Committee Officers policy BDB
- Mr. Light reviewed the procedures:
1. First, the floor would be opened for nominations for the position of Chairperson for FY22. Members could nominate another member or themselves and a second is not needed. Once nominations for the position are in, a vote would be taken to close those nominations.
 2. Once nominations are closed, each nominee would be given a chance to speak and then members could speak in support of a candidate as well.
 3. Voting would be done by roll call per our procedures. Each member votes for one candidate. A candidate must have a majority of weighted votes to be elected. The Candidate with the most weighted votes would be declared the new Chairperson, unless no candidate received a majority vote. In that case, additional roll call votes would be taken.
- ii. ABRSC Chairperson - **VOTE**
1. Mr. Light opened the floor for nominations for the position of ABRSC Chairperson for FY22.
 Amy Krishnamurthy nominated Adam Klein. Ginny Kremer seconded Adam. Yebin Wang nominated John Petersen. Amy Krishnamurthy seconded John.
 Amy Krishnamurthy moved, Ben Bloomenthal seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED by roll call: to declare that nominations are closed. (YES: Abayaah-Issah, Bloomenthal, Cook, Klein, Kremer, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Petersen, Schwartz, Shine, Wang)
 Yebin Wang spoke in favor of John Petersen. Amy Krishnamurthy, Ginny Kremer and Nora Shine spoke in favor of Adam Klein.

 Members of the Committee **VOTED by roll call** for one candidate. (Abayaah-Issah = Klein, Bloomenthal = Klein, Cook = Klein, Klein = Klein, Kremer = Klein, Krishnamurthy = Klein, McKinley = Klein, Petersen = Petersen, Schwartz = Klein, Shine = Klein, Wang = Petersen)

- a. The vote was 5 members from Acton X 2.5 and 4 members from Boxborough X 1 for Adam Klein so that would be a total of 16.5 for Adam Klein.
- b. The vote is 2 members from Acton X 2.5 and 0 members from Boxborough X 1 for John Petersen so that would be a total of 5 for John Petersen.

Adam Klein was named the FY22 Chairperson.

iii. ABRSC Vice Chairperson from Acton – **VOTE**

Tessa McKinley opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair from Acton. John Petersen nominated Kyra Cook. Adam Klein seconded Kyra. Amy Krishnamurthy moved, Ben Bloomenthal seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED by roll call: to declare that nominations are closed. (YES: Abayaah-Issah, Bloomenthal, Cook, Klein, Kremer, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Petersen, Schwartz, Shine, Wang)

Members of the Committee **VOTED by roll call** for one candidate. (Abayaah-Issah = Cook, Bloomenthal = Cook, Cook = Cook, Klein = Cook, Kremer = Cook, Krishnamurthy = Cook, McKinley = Cook, Petersen = Cook, Schwartz = Cook, Shine = Cook, Wang = Cook) Kyra Cook was unanimously named the FY22 Vice Chairperson from Acton.

iv. Vice Chairperson from Boxborough – **VOTE**

Tessa McKinley opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair from Boxborough. Evelyn Abayaah-Issah nominated Tessa McKinley. Adam Klein seconded Tessa. Kyra Cook nominated Nora Shine. Amy Krishnamurthy seconded Nora. Ginny Kremer moved, Adam Klein seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED by roll call: to declare that nominations are closed. (YES: Abayaah-Issah, Bloomenthal, Cook, Klein, Kremer, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Petersen, Schwartz, Shine, Wang)

Tessa McKinley respectfully declined the nomination. Nora Shine appreciated the nomination and clarified a question.

Members of the Committee **VOTED by roll call** for one candidate. (Abayaah-Issah = Shine, Bloomenthal = Shine, Cook = Shine, Klein = Shine, Kremer = Shine, Krishnamurthy = Shine, McKinley = Shine, Petersen = Shine, Schwartz = Shine, Shine = Shine, Wang = Shine)

Nora Shine was unanimously named the FY22 Vice Chairperson from Boxborough.

- e. Statement of Warrants and Recommendation to Approve - **VOTE** - *Tessa McKinley*

Adam Klein moved, Tessa McKinley seconded and it was unanimously, **VOTED**: to approve the warrants, see memo.

4. **Adjourn**

At 9:20 pm, John Petersen moved, Ben Bloomenthal seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn the ABRSC.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda