

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

---

Library  
R.J. Grey JH School

May 3, 2007  
8:10 p.m.

---

*Members Present:* Michael Coppolino, Brigid Bieber, Jonathan Chinitz,  
Heather Harer, Xuan Kong, Sharon Smith McManus,  
Rebecca Neville, John Ryder, Bruce Sabot  
*Also Present:* William Ryan, George Frost, Susan Horn, Elizabeth Huber,  
Sharon Summers, citizens and press

---

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm.

**CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION**

- The Chairperson welcomed new School Committee members Xuan Kong and Heather Harer.
- The Chairperson thanked this year's ABRHS student reps for serving on the Committee.
- ABRHS Madrigal Singers performed two songs, and told about their recent concert tour of Italy.

**STATEMENT OF WARRANT**

Warrant #2007-021 in the amount of \$1,383,175.09 and warrant #2007-022 in the amount of \$1,491,083.00 were signed by the chairperson and circulated to the rest of the Committee for signatures.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of March 15 (Exec Session) and March 29, 2007 were approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

- 

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Acton Town Meeting Report**

- John Ryder reported that the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional School budgets passed unanimously. The Douglas Modular article also passed.

**2. BLF Report**

- Becky Neville noted that Boxborough Town Meeting begins on May 14 at 7 pm at the Blanchard School gym. She highlighted the articles pertaining to the schools, and encouraged all Boxborough citizens to attend.

**3. FY'07 Budget**

- Bill Ryan announced that we close purchase orders on May 11 for FY'07. He reported that we have deficits in SPED out of district and utilities accounts.

**4. FY'08 Budget**

- Bill Ryan reported on the latest state House and Senate Chapter 70 aid numbers. These will probably be very close to the final numbers. He reported on the Day on the Hill Conference, which he attended. Heather Harer and Brigid Bieber represented the School Committee and community. They commented on Governor Patrick's remarks, which clearly indicated that one of his most important initiatives is education. The Senate president and Commissioner Driscoll also spoke. They met with Rep. Cory Atkins afterwards, and mentioned our frustration with the 990-hour mandate. Rep. James Eldridge has filed a bill in the House to study the 990 mandate.

**5. Health Trust Report**

- John Ryder is the SC rep to the Trust, and reported that they will meet on May 9. Tess added that they agreed to introduce a new Blue Cross plan, a PPO.

**6. CAFY and Health SAC Report**

- Susan Horn reported that the Health SAC met, and about 20 people attended. Reports on Wellness, Youth Risk Behavior Study, and health curriculum were given by various staff members. Many moved on to the CAFY forum on *'Underage Drinking - A Community Response'*, which followed. Jonathan Chinitz reported that it was a very well orchestrated and informative event, with good speakers, including youth officers, a neurologist and an attorney.

**7. School District Goals, 2006-07 - Final Report**

- Bill Ryan referred to final goals report included in the packet.

**NEW BUSINESS****1. Appointment of Director of Personnel and Administrative Services**

- Bill Ryan announced the appointment of Marie Altieri as the new Director of Personnel and Administrative Services, K-12, effective July 1, 2007. He welcomed Marie to the Central Office administrative team and looks forward to working with her. Bill also announced that George Frost has been appointed Interim Superintendent of Schools in Ayer, MA, effective July 1, 2007. He congratulated George on this new appointment.

**2. Recommendation to Accept a Gift from ABRSD PTSO**

- It was moved, seconded and unanimously  
**VOTED:** To accept, with gratitude, the gift of \$7,000 from the ABRSD PTSO for enrichment purposes at the high school.

**3. Recommendation to Accept Gifts to Support ABRHS Academic Decathlon Team**

- It was moved, seconded and unanimously  
**VOTED:** To accept, with gratitude, generous gifts totaling \$830 to support Academic Decathlon Team's trip to the national competition in Hawaii.

The team finished 7th in the nation - congratulations!

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

- The Superintendent referred to several items.
- Susan Horn reviewed the NCLB report card.
- Bill reported that the School Building Authority may allow some reimbursement for some legal costs associated with construction management. We will apply for it, and keep the Committee informed.
- Liza Huber summarized articles in the **'On Team'** packet.

**ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE****• Donating PCs to Katrina Fund**

It was the sense of the Committee that it would be a good thing to contribute any computers the schools can no longer use to the Katrina Fund.

- Maynard Letter re: Regionalization  
Bill Ryan read a letter from the Maynard Superintendent asking if we were interested in regionalizing with Maynard. Committee members agreed that we do not have any room, and cannot consider doing this.
- Appointment of an Acton SC member to the SC Policy Sub Committee  
Sharon McManus volunteered to serve.
- Date for summer workshop  
The Committee will meet in a workshop session on July 10, time, place and agenda to be determined by the new SC chairs.
- SPED Financial Report  
This report, compiled by Mike Coppolino and Mary Ann Ashton about 4 years ago, needs to be updated. Alan Nitschelm, FinCom rep to the SC, will ask for a Fin Com rep would serve on the review committee. Xuan Kong and Mike Coppolino will serve for the School Committee, and will put a small committee together.
- School security  
Brigid Bieber referred to the expose on school safety on the TV news last night. ABRHS was one of the schools which did not pass the security test, ie, a reporter could walk in the building without being questioned or signing in. She noted that some concerned citizens had called her. She emphasized that we need to talk about improving the security in our school buildings. Bill Ryan said that our elementary schools and junior high school are very secure (doors locked, etc.). Steve Donovan and the high school have been working on safety/ security for 7-8 years, since the fire, Columbine and bomb scares. We have security cameras are on outside of the HS building, campus monitors, practice with police and fire on lockdown drills. ABRHS also has an active safety committee. Bill reported that much of our annual administrators' Leadership Conference at the end of June will be about school safety issues. Brigid added that we should all encourage adults to ask unknown persons in the building who they are. There should be signs at all the doors asking visitors to check in at main entrance.
- Becky Neville thanked Michael Coppolino, AB SC chair, for running efficient meetings this year.

**NEXT MEETINGS: May 17, 6 pm - Jt. Meeting at Merriam School (PDBldg.)  
June 7, 7:30 pm - JH Library**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah T. Lawton, Secretary