

ACTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

February 15, 2007
8:45 p.m.

Members Present: John Ryder, Jonathan Chinitz, Michael Coppelino, Terry Lindgren,
Sharon Smith McManus
Also Present: William Ryan, George Frost, Susan Horn, Elizabeth Huber,
Sharon Summers, citizens and press

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 p.m. by the Chairperson, John Ryder.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #2007-17 in the amount of \$171,900.07 was signed by the chairperson and circulated to the rest of the Committee for signatures.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 18 & 20, 2007 were approved as written.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Conant Principal Appointment

- Bill Ryan announced the appointment of Dr. Christine G. Price as the new principal of the Conant School. She will succeed interim principal Philip Benincasa on July 1, 2007.

2. ALG Report

- Sharon McManus reported. The Acton School Committee voted on Monday evening to support the Fin. Com. proposal re tax rates. She referred to the recent ALG spread sheet, and said this will be basis of the Town Meeting warrant. Michael Coppelino asked about NESWC funds. Sharon said it would be discussed at a later ALG meeting. Terry Lindgren and John Ryder both stated that the NESWC funds were tax dollars from the Acton citizens. Town Meeting will be opened and adjourned on April 2 (Passover), and resumed on April 9. Next ALG meeting: March 14.

3. Health Insurance Trust Report

- Tess Summers reported that the trust requests endorsement from the town committees to offer a PPO (Preferred Provider Option) plan. There was discussion about how many folks would migrate to it from MasterHealth Plus, the most expensive plan. Offering the PPO does not appear to have a downside. Terry said he would like to see a projection about how many people would move, for budget purposes.

4. FY'07 Acton Public Schools' Budget

Bill Ryan noted that we continue to watch the utilities line item

5. FY'08 Proposed Acton Public Schools' Budget - OPEN BUDGET HEARING

- Bill Ryan reviewed the ALG numbers, the budget changes, the personnel changes and costs, operating budget drivers (Utilities, Regular Transportation, Health Insurance, SPED Tuition, and

Salaries. He referred to the budget summary and detail in the packet. The total proposed budget is \$23,167,611, which is an increase of \$1,120,762 or 5.08%.

- It was moved (Lindgren), seconded (Coppolino) and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the administration's recommendation that the Acton Public School Budget for 2007-2008 school year be set at \$23,167,611. This budget covers the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

6. Douglas School Modular Update

- John Ryder reported on the presentation to the Fin. Com. which included a tour of the Douglas School and the modulars.
- Bill Ryan said we will give more information, as requested, to the Fin. Com.
- Pat Easterly, Fin. Com., said they appreciated the report. She asked for cost figures when the schools present to the Fin Com on Feb. 27th.
- John Ryder discussed the options for financing the new modulars, and said the existing modulars will probably be used for additional space, but not as classrooms per se.
- Terry Lindgren commented that the long-term need is for more space, and we should plan for this. .

7. Capital Plan Committee Report

- John Ryder asked the Committee to review the 3-Phase list of capital items in the packet. He said we would recommend a debt exclusion capital override for FY'09 to address these needs.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The Superintendent referred to several items.
- Jonathan Chinitz mentioned an article in the Globe re: the Governor trying to attach retirement systems in the state.

ISSUES OF THE COMMITTEE

- John Ryder reported that the BOS and School Committee decided not to appoint someone to fill the open seat until the March election. The Committee also voted to support the Fin. Com. recommendation not to tax to the maximum in FY'08.
- Conant School and the JH will be election sites in March.
- Terry Lindgren volunteered to represent the School Committee on the town task force re: a North Acton Fire Station.

**NEXT MEETINGS: March 15, 7:30 pm, Conant School
March 29, following AB meeting, JH Library**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah T. Lawton, Secretary