

**JOINT
ACTON/ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Room 218 East
AB Regional High School

October 5, 2006
7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Coppolino, John Ryder, Marie Altieri, Brigid Bieber,
Jonathan Chinitz, Terry Lindgren, Sharon McManus, Rebecca Neville,
Bruce Sabot

Also Present: William Ryan, George Frost, Elizabeth Huber, Sharon Summers,
citizens and press

The joint meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the respective chairs.

CHAIRPERSONS' INTRODUCTION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The joint meeting minutes of September 7, 2006 were approved as read.

DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

- John Ryder: minutes should show substance of an issue for institutional memory. Minutes now are far too minimalistic. Decision needs to be replicable along with the rationale.
- Becky Neville thought minutes were fine as is.
- Bruce Sabot: motion should be written exactly as stated, not "as presented. Minutes should be released before the current School Committee members turn over. Use that time frame. Some may not be able to be released, however. Salaries for non-union personnel are appropriate for exec session.
- Marie Altieri suggested a middle ground - a little more than what we have. State motion clearly and accurately. Should have topic of issue explained in minutes, but not a great level of detail. The School Committee needs to read the minutes, and approval needs to be accurate.
- Terry Lindgren: minutes need to be informative to the public. Agrees that we don't need detail like amounts of money in negotiations. Some minutes in the past have been very scant, and some items of discussion did not make it into the minutes. Minutes should be released when the reason for secrecy has passed. Should get opinion from D.A. about discussion of salaries in exec session - felt we ought to do it in open session.
- Sharon McManus agreed that a summary that discusses the decision is what she would support.
- Brigid Bieber thought minutes were a little bit sparse, but it is a fine point. Up to committee to review them carefully before voting to approve.

It was the consensus of the Committees that the Exec. Session minutes report a summary of the decision made. If detail is not enough, Committee will amend as needed.

- Marie Altieri recommended that we refer difficult issues to legal counsel and follow their advice.
- Terry thinks that using the free advice of the District Attorney's office should be embraced. They are our representatives and wear the white hats. We should talk to multiple sources.
- John Ryder: BOS gives a confidential summary ahead of time about what will be discussed in Exec. Session. This would be very helpful. Becky says this should be done by phone, not email.
- Bruce Sabot: no client privilege with DA's office. We have an attorney whom we should use.

The Joint Session was adjourned at 7:30 pm.
The Acton-Boxborough meeting continued.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah T. Lawton,
Secretary