

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

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

March 1, 2007
7:00 pm

Members Present: Michael Coppelino, John Ryder, Brigid Bieber, Jonathan Chinitz,
Terry Lindgren, Sharon McManus, Rebecca Neville, Bruce Sabot
Also Present: William Ryan, George Frost, Susan Horn, Elizabeth Huber,
Sharon Summers, citizens and press

The joint meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the Acton chairperson and AB vice-chairperson.

CHAIRPERSONS' INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:05 pm, it was moved, seconded and unanimously

VOTED: To go into executive session to discuss strategies relative to collective bargaining or litigation under Chapter 39, Section 23 B, paragraph 3. Each member was polled individually and each member voted to go into executive session for the stated purpose.

The Committees returned to open session at 7:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The joint open session meeting minutes of February 15, 2007 were approved as read. The Executive Session minutes were held, to be reviewed in Executive Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. FY'08 ABRSD Budget

- Bill Ryan advised the Acton School Committee to consider a few items at the upcoming March 15 meeting. He recommended that we try to fund the Douglas modulars out of the additional Chapter 70 revenue. He also recommended putting back the custodial position, and curriculum support at elementary level. At the region, he hoped we could put in additional teachers to help with 990 and some small capital items that are more like operating items. The extra Chapter 70 money will flow into E&D. He reminded the Committee that this is a 5-year plan to fund the Chapter 70 goal of 28% aid to all communities. He anticipates that we will probably see modest Chapter 70 increases after that. Bill asked for input from the Committee before the March 15th School Committee meetings about what the Committees would like to have funded.
- Sharon McManus asked the administration to consider using some of this money for technology.
- John Ryder supported the Superintendent's suggestions; Jonathan Chinitz agreed.
- Michael Coppelino agreed, but asked if it was prudent to absorb all the modular cost in one year. He also pointed out that our PTSOs are pressured to raise so much money. Could we pay for assistants, technology?
- Terry Lindgren suggested taking care of as many capital needs as we can. We ought to spend it on the facilities.
- Bill Ryan will bring back a proposal on March 15 for capital needs, curriculum support, and a custodial piece. He asked if the Committee recommended spending all the funds, or save some for free cash.

- John Ryder urged not to spend all now, as we will need some sort of cushion. It is wise, both from a management and political standpoint.
 - Terry Lindgren observed that overrides are not guaranteed, and we need to deal with the issues that are in front of us. We need to prepare for the future this way.
 - Sharon McManus asked to see the options re: funding the Douglas modulars.
 - Becky Neville supported the Superintendent's recommendations for ABRHS
2. **Interim School District Goals Report**
- The Superintendent noted the midyear report in the packet.

NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading of School Committee Policy re: Employee Technology Acceptable Use

- The Committee reviewed the policy and made one change on page 2 ('should' to 'do' in the first sentence under 'Expectation of Privacy').
- Terry Lindgren thought the policy was draconian and should be rewritten.
- Michael Coppolino recommended checking with MASC for another sample policy. Becky Neville, who sat on the policy subcommittee, said that MASC did not have a policy specific to this. Maybe now they do. The administration will check.
- Bruce Sabot felt there needs to be a difference between use of laptops within the school network and outside school. Use for non-school purposes shouldn't be allowed.
- Jonathan Chinitz suggested reformatting into a.b.c. or bullets. He commented that this is tricky, and felt Steve Hall was erring on the side of caution.
- Terry Lindgren said we have spent money to get HS teachers to use laptops - part of success is freedom to explore and do whatever they needed to do at home. Benefit is huge. Solution here should be technological, not policy.
- John Ryder said we own the laptops and there should be no expectation of privacy. Potential mistakes and liability. Privacy should be on home computer.
- Michael Coppolino suggested that Steve Hall come to the second reading on 3/29.

The Acton meeting was suspended at 8:40 pm.

The Acton-Boxborough meeting continued.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah T. Lawton,
Secretary