

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

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Library  
RJ Grey Junior High School

July 12, 2007  
7:45 pm

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*Members Present:* Bruce Sabot, Jonathan Chinitz, Brigid Bieber, Heather Harer,  
Xuan Kong, Sharon McManus, Rebecca Neville, John Ryder  
*Also Present:* William Ryan, Susan Horn, Marie Altieri, Elizabeth Huber,  
citizens and press

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The joint meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Bruce Sabot and Jonathan Chinitz, respective Committee chairs.

**CHAIRPERSONS' INTRODUCTION**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The joint minutes of June 7 and 21, 2007 were approved as read.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. ALG Discussion**

- Discussion continued regarding feedback to Jonathan Chinitz's presentation at the Acton meeting and the proposal to take to ALG. Sharon McManus noted that last year's budgeting process before Town Meeting was difficult. She was concerned going forward that whatever we bring to ALG should not destroy the culture of ALG, that we are all in this together. Xuan Kong asked if our reserves could take care of blow-outs. Jonathan explained how E&D at the region works, and how Free Cash at the Town works as reserves. Bill Ryan said the region is in good shape in reserves.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Report of Leadership Conference**

- Bill Ryan reported that it was a very successful conference, which focused on Promoting Safe Schools. Richard Cole, former Asst Attorney General, led the conference. Bart Wendell also did an excellent job as facilitator. Susan Horn reported that the staff Professional Day on November 6 will include a K-12 morning workshop dealing with follow-up on these issues.

**2. Report of Joint School Committee Workshop**

- Bruce Sabot gave a summary report on the topics discussed. The budgeting process in Acton and Boxborough was the main topic. Also discussed were the School Committees' budgeting process and timeline, and goals for next year. In August, subcommittee assignments will be made. Also discussed was Exec. Session meetings protocol.

**ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE**

**1. Report of SPED Financial Task Force**

Xuan Kong reported that SPED Financial Task Force has met three times. He summarized meeting discussions. Liza Huber attended one meeting and gave the members information about SPED State

and Federal requirements. The TF would like input for all citizens, School Committee, staff. Topics to address: better understanding of cost drivers, better model to project SPED requirements, cost effective ways to deliver transportation, etc. They hope to survey peer schools to get best practices. They desire to find an advocacy role to modify certain ways of state reimbursement. Bill Ryan suggested inviting Gerry Mazor or Ed Orenstein, former CASE Collaborative directors, to attend a meeting. Jay Sullivan from DOE is knowledgeable about circuit breaker and transportation.

## **2. MASC Membership**

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of joining MASC this year. Becky Neville said Boxborough does not have the money to join.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously

**VOTED: That the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee would join  
MASC for 2007-08.**

Boxborough will decide in August what they want to do.

At 9:00 pm, the Joint Committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah T. Lawton,  
Secretary