

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

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

August 3, 2006
7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Coppolino (8:15), John Ryder, Marie Altieri, Brigid Bieber, Jonathan Chinitz, Terry Lindgren, Sharon McManus, Rebecca Neville, Bruce Sabot

Also Present: William Ryan, George Frost, Susan Horn, Elizabeth Huber, citizens and press

The joint meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the Bruce Sabot, AB Vice Chair, and John Ryder, APS Chair.

CHAIRPERSONS' INTRODUCTION

- Superintendent Bill Ryan introduced and welcomed Philip Benincasa, the new interim principal of the Conant School.
- The Presidential Spirit of Community Award was presented to Alexandra Azzolino by Dick Reidy from Prudential Financial. It is a nationwide award for community service. Alexandra has been raising money to help children suffering from AIDS, diabetes, etc., and through her organization, KidsCount, has collected more than \$25,000. School Committee members congratulated Alexandra for this significant achievement. Marie Altieri encouraged interested members to visit the KidsCount website.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Acton-Boxborough Committee action:

At 7:12 pm, it was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To go into joint executive session under Chapter 39, Section 23B, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8. Each member was polled individually and the majority voted in the affirmative to go into executive session for the stated purpose.
(VOTE: Yes - Altieri, Bieber, Chinitz, McManus, Neville, Ryder, Sabot
No - Lindgren)

Acton Committee action:

At 7:12 pm, it was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To go into joint executive session under Chapter 39, Section 23B, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8. Each member was polled individually and the majority voted in the affirmative to go into executive session for the stated purpose.
(VOTE: Yes - Altieri, Chinitz, McManus, Ryder
No - Lindgren)

The Committees returned to open session at 7:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 4 and JUNE 1, 2006

The minutes of May 4 and June 1, 2006 were approved as read.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. ALG Report/FY'07 Budget

- George Frost reported on the July 19th ALG meeting. He referred to the latest budget spread sheets from that meeting. The status of the Health Insurance Trust was discussed. ALG will meet again on August 8 at 7:30 am. One topic will be the re-engineering plan from several years ago.

2. Health Insurance Trust Update

- Marie Altieri reported that the Trust voted new officers. Marie is the new chair. They have signed a contract for the audit. The news is good - the trust is starting the new year in the positive. Marc Lewis, president of Acton Education Association, is putting together an informal committee in September which will include all bargaining units regarding future health insurance plans/benefits. Marie will represent the School Committee, and check with Marc to see if a member of the administrative can attend. Marie referred to a new proposed health insurance plan option which will be going to legislature soon.

3. School Committee Workshop Followup

- The list of School Committee assignments was updated.
- The 'bucket' items were discussed.
 - Bucket #4
 - #1 (Class size at AB) and #2 (AB - overall vision) were combined. Sharon McManus will be the point person for this goal; Bruce Sabot will back up. Marie Altieri suggested assigning SC members to meet with the administration about these items. She also suggested adding 990 hours to #1 and #2.
 - #3 (Changing demographics) Each school will address this at their SC meetings. Bill Ryan noted that addressing changing demographics is a district goal this year.
 - #4 (State Aid - phase 2) Marie Altieri volunteered to continue to work on this. Foundation budget discussion is ongoing with the legislature in 06-07.
 - #5 (Technology infrastructure - next steps - Capital Plan) The Superintendent will ask that CTAC put this on their agenda.
 - Jonathan Chinitz commented that several items have financial implications, and results of study should flow into the bottom line number that will fluctuate with the circumstances.
 - Terry Lindgren explained what he meant by the overall vision for ABRHS - where do we want to be educationally? This translates into resources and what it would cost. What does it mean to get there? Class size is one way to look at stress, but Terry thinks there is more. Where do we want to go, so we can articulate this to the community. Michael Coppolino said additional courses that might be offered in the future, i.e. online courses, etc.
 - Becky Neville suggested discussing class size as a committee at the November meeting. Bill Ryan noted that the regional principals have class size information when they present to the committee.
 - Bucket #3
 - Negotiations preparation (discuss in Exec. Session) - George Frost explained what the committee needs to do to prepare for negotiations next year. A subcommittee can develop specific suggestions to present to the whole SC. By April/May/June 2007 we should have packet of proposals.
 - Succession planning - Becky Neville will work on this with Sharon McManus. Marie noted that this is really the Superintendent's committee, not a subcommittee, which

was agreed.

Each subcommittee will have a one-page description of their goals and action plans and deliverables.

- Bucket #2

- Gender learning - Sue Horn has a volunteer doing a professional administrative practicum to work on this, and a report will be submitted.
- JHS - Bruce Sabot suggested upgrading this to Bucket #2. Bill Ryan noted that the administration is working with the JH administration on this agenda item. Bruce Sabot and Brigid Bieber will be SC liaisons.

- Bucket #1

- Bruce Sabot asked for clarification of his responsibility as vice chair as a process observer.
- As a follow-up to the open meeting law discussion with Peter Ebb, Marie Altieri will write up a synopsis of the workshop discussion.

4. Electronic Fundraising

- Terry Lindgren and Brigid will serve on this subcommittee.
Terry said that the objective of the committee is to assess current electronic fundraising practices and evaluate the potential of other opportunities, primarily using the Internet, for all the schools in the systems. The chief deliverable would be a simple recommendation on the effectiveness of current and potential approaches as to how all schools can leverage or extend their outreach. Several items will be evaluated: EdNets, School Pop, BoxTops, Scrips, and others. The subcommittee plans to report to SC at the February regional meeting. Terry suggested that the subcommittee include (in addition to Terry and Brigid) a FinCom rep, 3 PTO reps (Beth Petr has agreed), and a community rep.
- Sharon McManus felt that there were differences between the items listed, and she would like to see this reflected in the scope of this committee. EdNets is more than just a fundraiser. Subcommittee will evaluate this.
- Brigid Bieber suggested ways to evaluate the worth of programs Sharon suggested talking to ABSAF as a courtesy at least, or offer to have them join the subcommittee or be involved in the discussion. Terry said they would talk to as many fundraising groups as possible before making recommendations.
- It was moved (Altieri), seconded (Neville) and unanimously
VOTED: That the School Committees establish an electronic fundraising subcommittee as proposed by Terry Lindgren.

5. Recommendation to Approve New Wellness Policy - SECOND READING

Acton-Boxborough action

It was moved (Ryder), seconded (Neville) and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Wellness Policy as amended.

Acton Public action:

It was moved (Altieri), seconded (McManus) and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Wellness Policy as amended.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The Superintendent referred to several items.

ISSUES OF THE COMMITTEE

- FY'07 MASC membership was discussed. Boxborough does not want to join this year. The administration will get dues figures from MASC for Acton and Acton-Boxborough, and bring them to the next meeting for discussion.
- The Committees asked that each school inform them how changing demographics have impacted education in their school. This short report will be given when the committee meets in each school.
- The Superintendent will send a copy of each elementary school's philosophy to members of the Committee.
- Liza Huber referred to the new SPED PAC brochure. Nancy Sherborn, the co-chair of SPED PAC this year, introduced herself to the Committees.

The Acton School Committee meeting was suspended at 9:48.

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee meeting continued.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah T. Lawton,
Secretary