

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

June 30, 2005
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Coppolino, Marie Altieri, Jo-Ann Berry,
Liz Markiewicz, Sharon Smith McManus, Rebecca Neville,
John Ryder, Bruce Sabot

Also Present: William Ryan, George Frost, Susan Horn, Sharon Summers, citizens
and press

The Joint Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Joint Session was suspended at 8:45 p.m. and at 8:50 p.m. the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee meeting continued.

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

The chairperson read a statement announcing the AEA contract agreement for 2005-2008.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #05-025 in the amount of \$1,408,530.35, warrant #05-026 in the amount of \$3,044,985.05, and warrant #05-026A in the amount of \$76,953.58 were signed by the chairperson and circulated to the rest of the Committee members for signatures.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 2, 2005 were approved as presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. ABRHS Building Project

- Bill Ryan reported that the project closeout is going very well, and the commissioning process continues.

2. Leary Field Update

- George Frost reported that the site work is progressing on schedule and the artificial turf installation will begin in a couple of weeks.

3. FY'05 -'06 Budget

- Bill Ryan reported that we are closing out the FY'05 budget, and will probably have a surplus of about \$290-\$320K. The surplus will flow back into E&D. We will end the year in good shape. He noted that grants in both school systems are level funded or down considerably.
- He complimented Tess Summers for getting our property and casualty insurance coverage at a good rate. We received two proposals, and we went with the low (significantly lower) bidder, MIIA.
- Susan Horn asked for Committee approval to add 4 FTE teaching staff in the World Languages Department at the high school. Many class sizes are too large. Funds will be made available from IDEA grant. The Committee supported this action.

4. Danny's Place

- Jo-Ann Berry, SC liaison, reported that there had been a walkthrough at Merriam Hall with Danny's Place architect, and they are working on a proposal, Our attorneys are drawing up a lease. Danny's Place is now interviewing for a director.

5. Project Graduation Report

- Sharon Smith McManus, chair of Project Graduation, reported it was a fabulous night. The theme was *The World Awaits You*. About 335-340 seniors attended, a very high percentage of the class. The committee thanked Sharon for chairing the wonderful event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Staffing Update

- George Frost reported that 15 new professional staff have been hired at the region. Most are at the high school. There are still a few openings. He announced that Mary Branon has retired as Food Services Coordinator, effective July 1, 2005.

2. Recommendation to Accept R.J. Grey Junior High School Council Improvement Plan

- In terms of process, Jo-Ann Berry noted that the Superintendent accepts School Improvement Plans, not the School Committee. She asked that we make sure our new school policy on this is correct.
- John Ryder said there should be some hard academic benchmarks set forth in the plan.
- Marie Altieri suggested sending out a doc. listing what makes a good improvement plan. Jo-Ann Berry volunteered to do this. The School Committee Chairs may meet with the Chairs of all school councils to review MA law and good plans. She suggested having fewer goals that are more specific, focused.
- Jo-Ann Berry wanted to see an introductory page - Committee members, meeting dates, etc. She suggested getting a wider variety of members involved.
- It was moved (Sabot), seconded (Ryder) and unanimously

VOTED: To approve the R.J. Grey Junior High School Council Improvement Plan.

3. Recommendation to Accept Gift from AB Youth Baseball

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

VOTED: To accept, with gratitude, the generous gift of new baseball field bleachers from Acton-Boxborough Youth Baseball
The gift is valued at \$4,900.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The Superintendent and Committee members referred to several items.
- George Frost referred to some MIIA changes that will be added to student handbooks.
- Regarding the JH Discipline Report, Michael Coppolino cautioned the administration to use good judgment in handing down severe penalties.
- Becky Neville asked for more information on suspension process and penalties at the high school. Steve Donovan will report in the fall.

The Joint Session resumed at 9:37 p.m.

The Committees returned to open session at 10 p.m. and adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah T. Lawton, Secretary