

ACTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

June 16, 2005
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marie Altieri, Jo-Ann Berry, Michael Coppolino,
Sharon Smith McManus, John Ryder

Also Present: William Ryan, George Frost, Nancy Kolb, Tess Summers,
Susan Horn, citizens and press

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Marie Altieri, chairperson.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION.

Marie Altieri announced the settlement of the Acton Education Association contract for 2005-2008. Marie and Superintendent Ryan thanked Gail Wick for representing the AEA at School Committee meetings. She is retiring this year.

The chairperson reviewed the items on the agenda.

STATEMENT OF WARRANT

Warrant #2005-25 in the amount of \$166,474.64 was signed by the chairperson and circulated to the rest of the Committee for signatures.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 19, 2005 were approved as presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. FY'05/FY'06 Budgets

- Bill Ryan estimated that we will have about \$75K to return to the town at the end of the year.
- Bill noted that \$17K from the FY'05 technology budget will be used to purchase computers at Conant.
- JD Head, Facilities Dept., reported on the upcoming summer building maintenance/ projects at the schools. He addressed the heating concerns in the outlying schools and the Administration Building. We are doing \$20K work in Conant, Gates and the Admin. Bldg. Work will include purchasing thermostats and having a contractor calibrate and balance units. We plan to do more work in replacing unit ventilators in FY'06. The lighting retrofit project will start after school ends. It will not cost the school system anything, and should result in energy cost savings. JD will work with staff to train them in how to maintain a good air flow and temperature in classrooms.
- JD reported on the groundbreaking ceremony for Leary Field. The artificial turf project is underway and on schedule. Some additional work will be done on the hill to prevent sediment from getting to the new turf area.
- John Ryder suggested putting together a list of the schools' capital needs, then giving to the selectman/fincom for an overall plan to address capital needs/physical plant needs of the town and schools. He volunteered to tour the schools with JD. The committee supported this effort.

2. Health Insurance Trust Update

No report

3. CAFY Update

- Sue Horn reported that the Red Flag book was sent out to parents of 5th - 11th grade parents.

4. Danny's Place Update

- Jo-Ann Berry, SC liaison, reported that she met with the Danny's Place group and did a walkthrough of Merriam Hall in the Admin. Bldg. Based on priorities and needs on both sides, a lease and a memorandum of understanding will be developed. Danny's Place members were advised to meet with the Town building department.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommendation to Award Food and Related Products Bids

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

VOTED: **To approve the administration's recommendation to approve the Food and Related Products Bids as presented.**

2. Recommendation to Accept School Council Improvement Plans

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

VOTED: **To accept the School Improvement Plans as presented.**

- Marie suggested putting together and distributing to each School Council the law and new policy about School Councils and improvement plans. She also noted that some goals do not involve parents, and she felt that they should, whenever possible.
- Bill suggested that the SC chairs might want to meet with the school councils early in the year.
- Mike liked format of an introduction, a list of all members, etc., then the assessment of what goals were attained and, if not, why. And if goals are measurable, it would be nice to see results.
- JoAnn Berry suggested creating a document about what makes a good improvement plan.

3. Conference Days, 2005-06

- George Frost reported that one of the AEA contract items agreed to was the option of having more parent conference time scheduled, at the School Committee's discretion. He estimated that it would cost about \$80K, K-12, to do this. Bill noted that this was not budgeted for FY'06. He suggested leaving things as they are this year, and examining it thoughtfully for next year. John Ryder advised voting on the issue at the June 30 meeting. He asked the administration to talk to the principals for their opinions. He suggested that each principal could have option of whether to do it. For the first year, only classroom teachers would attend. One suggestion was to transplant one of the afternoon sessions in November to an evening session. There will be further discussion and a decision at the June 30 meeting.

4. Recommendation to Accept Gift from XM Satellite Radio

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

VOTED: **To accept, with gratitude, the generous gift of \$10,000 to the Merriam School from XM Satellite Radio.**

The gift will support future sportsmanship projects within the school.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- The Superintendent referred to several items.
- George Frost reported on Kindergarten registration. We have about 300 students enrolled at this point. Of concern is that there is no All-Day K waiting list at several schools.

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

- Appointment of EDCO rep was deferred to the School Committee workshop on July 14, 5 - 9 pm at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. Rob Evans will facilitate.
- Jo-Ann Berry informed the Committee of a June 20, MASC mtg. on legislative priorities of 2005. Several School Committee members will attend.

NEXT MEETINGS: June 30, 2005 - 6:30 pm
August 4, 2005 - 6:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah T. Lawton, Secretary