

**JOINT
ACTON/ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES (#4 of 5) – Approved 10/1/09**

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

August 6, 2009
9:05 – 10:30 pm (following AB meeting)

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Jonathan Chinitz, Michael Coppelino, Terry Lindgren, Sharon Smith McManus, John Petersen
Others: Marie Altieri, Susan Horn, Liza Huber, Stephen Mills, Beth Petr

The Acton Public School Committee resumed for the Joint portion of the meeting at 9:05pm.

CHAIRPERSON’S INTRODUCTION

New Superintendent’s Entry Plan – Dr. Stephen Mills

Dr. Mills plans to meet with as many individuals and stakeholder groups as possible over the next three - four months, as a way to learn more about the community. In his first week, he has had a dozen of these confidential, one-on-one “listening sessions”. He will also be available for 30 – 45 minutes prior to each local School Committee meeting at the host school for parents/guardians and staff to meet informally with him. He will periodically report back to the School Committee on this plan.

APPROVAL OF JOINT MINUTES

The minutes of June 18, 2009 were approved as presented.

The minutes of July 1, 2009 were approved as presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nancy Sherburne and Bill Guthlein, Acton Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council chairs gave folders to the Committee in preparation for their presentation at the September School Committee meeting. The material is also posted on the SPEDPAC website at: <http://www.abspedpac.org> Liza Huber thanked the SPEDPAC for their extensive work. A response from Pupil Services was posted on the school website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. ALG Report/FinCom Report

The Acton Finance Committee could present their “Point of View” document at the September School Committee meeting. They would like to hear the School Committee’s thoughts on it. Mike Coppelino has been collecting data from the Dept of Education website regarding towns we compare ourselves to. Mike will share that with the Committee next month.

Sharon McManus reported on the Acton Leadership Group (ALG)’s latest meeting on July 29. Should an Acton Fall Town Meeting be considered to close the \$600,000 budget gap (\$800 - \$200)? Terry Lindgren asked if the ALG spreadsheet could cover the next three years. John Petersen thought the Committee should take a more pessimistic view of the numbers. Jonathan Chinitz said the Committee should be having a conversation about expenses and the deficit, not about best guess revenue. He pointed out that ALG has the most up to date numbers.

2. BLF Report

Brigid Bieber said there has been no Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) since June. She invited Steve Mills to come to their next meeting.

3. FY’10 Budget Update

Marie Altieri reported on FY 10 in Tess Summers' absence. Tess will report next month. Great job was done closing out FY09. At the Region, \$525,000 will flow out to E&D and the Local resulted in \$400,000 for \$925,000 total as a result of all of the cost savings proposals for FY09. John Petersen noted that for FY10, without the stimulus money, we have a structural deficit. Liza Huber said that the circuit breaker funding is now at 40%, compared to 60% in the past, and it is not stable yet. The \$600,000 deficit needs to be resolved by December. If the budget is just going to be reduced, only the Regional Budget can be handled lowered without a Town Meeting vote. Jonathan Chinitz expressed urgency on this issue saying that a decision should be made in the next 30 days.

4. Health Insurance Trust

John Petersen reported on the Policy Workshop on Health Insurance.

5. SPED Financial Task Force Update

Liza Huber shared "The Process, Cost Drivers, and Cross-School Data Analysis of Special Education in the Acton Public and Acton –Boxborough Regional Schools – Fiscal Task Force Recommendations Through Action Plans". Mike Coppolino asked for Dr. Mills' opinion on this document after he has had time to review it and learn more about our system.

6. Posting School Contracts/Manuals

Marie Altieri reported that a large amount of information is now posted on the school website, under the "Human Resources" tab across the top. She thanked Priscilla Kotyk for posting all of the material.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry Lindgren asked members to voice their opinion on the Green Communities Act to Sharon and she will pass comments on the Paulina Knibbe (BOS). Grant deadline is Friday.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. Grant Allocations for 2010 – *Susan Horn*
2. Solar Power Update – memo from JD Head
3. Staff Inservice Credit Info – *Susan Horn/Marie Altieri*

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE

1. Members were invited to the New Teacher Luncheon on August 26 (12:30 pm at RJ Grey Junior High Library)
2. Members were invited to the First Day for All Staff on August 31 at ABRHS 7:45 – 8:45 am – Continental Breakfast; 9 am Welcome by the Superintendent
3. Open Meeting Law Complaint
 - July 15, 2009 Letter from Middlesex District Attorney
 - July 3, 2009 Email Complaint from Allen Nitschelm and Charles KadlecThe School District has received an extension until August 14 to respond to the Letter from the Middlesex District Attorney. The executive session minutes involved have all been released now.

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee voted to adjourn at 10:30pm.
The Acton Public School Committee continued.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr
Secretary