

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING
MINUTES (approved 2/26/15)

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

September 18, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Michael Coppolino, Amy Krishnamurthy, Paul Murphy, Kathleen Neville, Maya Minkin, Deanne O’Sullivan, Kristina Rychlik
Members Absent: Dennis Bruce, Maria Neyland
Others: Marie Altieri, Deborah Bookis, Glenn Brand, Clare Jeannotte, Beth Petr

The ABRSC was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Kristina Rychlik.

1. **Chairman’s Introduction**

2. **Statement of Warrant and Approval of Minutes**

- 2.1. Minutes of the School Committee Meeting on 9/4/14 will be done at the next meeting.
- 2.2. The following warrants were signed by the Committee: ABRSD warrant#15-006 dated 9/18/14 in the amount of \$4,048,951.05 and APSC warrant #201506 dated 9/16/14 in the amount of \$248,678.26

3. **Public Participation** – none

4. **Completion of the Richard E. Dow Track Project**

Recommendation to Accept Gift of \$45,000 from the Richard E. Dow Track Fundraising Committee/Friends of Leary Field (FOLF) - **VOTE**

In August 2013, stakeholders working through FOLF committed \$450,000 to the track project and the District committed \$150,000 for a total project cost of \$600,000. This past summer FOLF donated an additional \$45,000 to offset expenses related to a change in the project bringing the total project cost to \$645,000.

Paul Murphy moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to accept the gift of \$45,000 to complete the Dow Track Project.

A construction update was given by JD Head. Donors and others were thanked for their tremendous efforts including: John Raguin, Chip Orcutt, Lisa Blackshaw, Jill Solomon, Siobhan Donofrio, Deborah Malloy, Wendy Craib, Marisa Tejada, Tim Kelly (FOLF), Ken Feit, Mary Price Maddox, Brian Crossman, JD Head and former Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Mills.

5. **Transportation Update** – *JD Head*

JD Head presented on the current status from the start of school on 9/4/14 as we begin full regionalization. While some routes are not as efficient as we would like, over time JD expects this to improve. He and his staff continue to monitor it. Software is used to plan out routes.

5.1. FYI: Elementary Bus Passes Policy File: EEAAA and Procedures File: EEAAA-R

The policy subcommittee will be reviewing this policy to see if the District can continue to offer this service to families. The numbers of students using bus passes, and the places they are going to, are really increasing. This is taking a large amount of staff time to ensure student safety, as

well as transportation resources. Blanchard students are not using bus passes yet but JD hopes to offer this soon. Without some sort of staging area, it will be difficult. A Committee member noted that it seems like bus passes are adding “a great deal of stress to the system”. It was also noted that Community Education offers many of the same programs that kids are being bus passed to.

The Committee agreed that bus passing needs to be reconsidered after looking at appropriate data. JD emphasized that these issues are not due to regionalization (We aren’t even able to offer it to Boxborough families yet). Some simple restrictions could be considered. Transporting to childcare needs to be maintained for working families.

6. **Update on Naming of Elm Street Basketball Courts**

Kristina Rychlik reviewed the process. Two suggestions for naming the courts have been received. One more faculty member and one more community member are needed for the screening committee.

7. **Danny’s Place Youth Services Update** See <http://dannys-place.org/>

On 9/6/14 Kristina Rychlik attended the launch meeting for DPYS’ exciting new structure and focus. Saturday night programming at the High School may want to apply for funding from this grant.

8. **Enrollment Update**

Marie Altieri thought preliminary numbers might be of interest to the Committee given regionalization, even though the October 1 official enrollment numbers will be reported next month. See her report. Class sizes are being watched closely. One third of our elementary students are Asian-Americans. This is consistent with the last 2-3 years.

9. **Finance Department Update** – *Clare Jeannotte*

9.1. FY14 Update (*oral*)

Clare Jeannotte reported that the FY14 APS preliminary numbers are in, including a \$35,347 turnback to the Town of Acton. The audit is in process and should be done in the next few weeks. Auditor Tim Harrison will present the report to the Committee in mid-November.

9.2. Recommendation to Establish Transportation Revolving Account per M.G.L. c. 71, Sec. 16C amended - **VOTE**

Clare Jeannotte reported that as discussed at the last meeting, this new utility tool is an option. Use would be restricted to transportation expenses and/or limited to the prior years’ revenue. Regarding transparency, if the budget plan assumes a certain amount to be used, she would bring it back to the School Committee if that amount was going to change. At least quarterly reports for special revenue funds will be given. Lastly, there are certain desires to have stability in the budget plans, to prevent peaks and valleys. For example balloon payments for bus leases’ end, could be planned for with this tool. Two votes would be involved - one to establish the account and another to decide how much to put into it.

Mary Brolin moved, Paul Murphy seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to establish a transportation revolving account as proposed.

9.3. Recommendation to Authorize the Treasurer to Borrow in Anticipation of Revenue – **VOTE**

This is an annual formality per ABRSD Treasurer Tess Summers.

Mary Brolin moved, Mike Coppolino seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of revenue

10. **Subcommittee Updates**

10.1. **Outreach** – *Kristina Rychlik*

They met today and are considering whether the monthly updates should be continued. Feedback is always welcome. Mike asked that a School Committee mission statement be discussed by the whole School Committee instead of the policy subcommittee. Kristina agreed.

10.2. **Policy – Brigid Bieber**

This subcommittee will meet every other Wednesday morning.

10.3. **Possible New School Committee Budget/Finance Subcommittee – Kristina Rychlik**

Noting that the school budget is complicated and on a tight schedule early in the year, the Committee liked the idea of this new subcommittee, if it would be helpful to the Administration. Glenn stated that this is often done in other communities. Kristina proposed voting to establish this subcommittee and members at the next meeting. Brigid will check to see if other towns had a charter or anything similar for their committees.

10.4 **Regionalization Financial Oversight**

Mike Coppolino said that a meeting is being scheduled for next month.

11. **School Committee Member Reports**

11.1. **Health Insurance Trust (HIT)**

Mary Brolin reported that they met this morning and discussed EGWP. Bob Evans asked the Town and school members to review this option and state their preference at the next meeting. There is a positive cash flow balance at this time.

12. **Superintendent's Report**

Glenn Brand wants to give a snapshot of the great things going on in our District in this part of the meeting. He recognized Eileen Barnett, Deb McLean, Kathryn McMillan and Jason Diment from Blanchard for receiving awards recently. ABRHS Principal JoAnn Campbell has been asked to speak at the London International Conference on Education. The DESE has established a section of their website to provide parents/guardians with resources regarding PARCC and the MA Curriculum Frameworks, including the Common Core, <http://www.doe.mass.edu/parcc>

13. The ABRSC adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda

NEXT MEETINGS:

10/2/14 ABRSC Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Jr High Library

10/16/14 ABRSC Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Jr High Library

10/28/14 Joint Acton Finance Committee/Acton Board of Selectmen/ABRSC Social/Meeting, 6:15 p.m.