

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING
Approved Minutes

Library
R.J. Grey Junior High School

April 26, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Diane Baum, Brigid Bieber, Mary Brolin, Ginny Kremer, Amy Krishnamurthy, Tessa McKinley, Paul Murphy, Kathleen Neville (7:05 p.m.), Angie Tso, Eileen Zhang
Members Absent: Maya Minkin
Others: Marie Altieri, Dawn Bentley, Bill McAlduff, Beth Petr

1. The ABRSC was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Amy Krishnamurthy.
2. **Chairman's Introduction** – *Amy Krishnamurthy*
3. **Public Participation** - none
4. **McCarthy-Towne School Presentation**
Principal David Krane introduced Kari James, Heather Matthews and Heather Wilson who presented on Visual Arts Integration in the classroom. A committee of staff organized the Thursday afternoon Professional Learning sessions this year and David thanked them for an excellent job.

Committee members noted that it is empowering to legitimize individuals' perspectives. This focus is another way that children can experience success who may not find it in other areas. Many issues that come up with an art project are similar to a math or science problem. There is also a lot of sharing that goes on during this work. Diane Baum thanked the McCarthy-Towne community for embracing this integration, which is in such contrast from the standardized testing and asking students do things all the same way. She appreciated the care and commitment that the staff has for it. Brigid agreed adding that so much of what we learn later in life is the importance of working with others and this approach really fosters that at a young age.

5. **Douglas School Presentation** – *Principal Chris Whitbeck*
Dr. Whitbeck introduced Jenna Laranega and Katie Oxnard and spoke about valuing students. Responsive classroom is part of this as well as a focus on “greetings”. Exhibitionary learning is a key part of the Douglas curriculum. A question is provided each year for all students. They apply all of their skills to find an answer and then present publicly on it. This takes being brave to explain their work to strangers. Jenna spoke about responsive classroom and the 3 books that were read. Katie spoke about her class' amazing experience with the question, “If the library could talk, what would it say?”, soon to be available on YouTube.

Again, the Committee was very impressed with this learning process and described it as “a great aspect of our district”. Paul Murphy liked how the students take ownership not just for the learning but for the entire process and include the whole community.

6. **Battery Storage Project Agreement Authorization** – Possible **VOTE** – *JD Head*
Mr. McAlduff said that given the complexity of the questions and responses that this topic generated, he proposed that it be taken up at the next meeting. He reminded the Committee that back on budget Saturday in January, JD Head commented briefly on this project and said there would be a presentation on May 17th when the School Committee would be asked to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement on it.

The Committee was asked to forward questions to Central Office by May 11th so they could be included in the packet for the May 17th meeting. Action is needed by the end of May so work can be done over the summer. The agreement has been shared with the District's insurance provider and there will be some minor changes as a result. Any changes to the 36 page agreement will be posted. A hard copy of some of the questions and answers from Mr. McAlduff and JD Head was on the table for Committee members.

Paul Murphy noted the great work of Energy Manager Kate Crosby explaining the recent Net Metering project, and said if Kate is involved in this project, he is all for it. (She will be with JD at the meeting on the 17th.) Paul had questions about some of the terminology used. It seemed like there are inconsistencies with how the batteries are described (#15 on the list provided).

John Petersen spoke from the audience saying this work is part of a series of important projects taken on by the District's Facilities Department. He noted that the district continues to take a leadership role thanks to JD Head and Kate Crosby and this support is hugely important to the budget. John stated that the reason that EnerNOC reached out to AB for this project was due to our past work on energy conservation.

7. **Boxborough Town Meeting** (*begins May 14 at 7:00 p.m.*) – *Brigid Bieber*
7.1. Boxborough Leadership Forum (BLF) Update – Town Meeting warrants were reviewed.
7.2. Town Meeting Preparations – All Committee members are invited, let Brigid know. Bill McAlduff, Marie Altieri, Dave Verdolino and Peter Light will be there. Brigid explained that the school budget vote is not separate as it is in Acton, it is all voted at once.
8. **2018-2019 School Committee Meeting DRAFT Calendar** – *Amy Krishnamurthy*
The Committee reviewed the proposed dates. March 28 and April 25 were deleted because they have not been needed in the past. It was proposed that the August Business Meeting be set for the Thursday prior to the week that staff return to school so those involved in that meeting can plan for it. Beth will ask the 3 Boxborough candidates about their availability for the July workshop meeting so there could be a date proposed at the next meeting for planning purposes.

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

9.1. **Policy**

- 9.1.1. Discipline of Students with Disabilities, File: JKF – Third Read – **VOTE** -
Dawn Bentley

Mary Brolin moved, Diane Baum seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the Discipline of Students with Disabilities policy JKF.

- 9.1.2. Minutes, File: BEDG – Second Read – **VOTE** – *Diane Baum*

Mary Brolin moved, Brigid Bieber seconded and it was unanimously,
VOTED: to approve the Minutes policy BEDG.

- 9.1.3. Remote Participation, File: BEDJA – Second Read - **VOTE** - *Diane Baum*

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

VOTED: to approve the Remote Participation policy BEDJA.

9.1.4. Research Requests from Outside the District, File: NEW – Second Read – **VOTE** – Diane Baum spoke in Deborah Bookis’ absence. This is a new policy for our district, similar but different from MASC’s File:ILD, which is a policy we do not have. In response to a question, Mr. McAlduff confirmed that there are not privacy concerns. Mary Brolin agreed given that it goes through an Independent Review Board (IRB). See procedures 3b and 4b. Beth will determine the proper file name. Brigid Bieber moved, Diane Baum seconded, and it was unanimously **VOTED**: to approve the new Research Requests from Outside the District policy.

9.1.5. First Aid, File: EBB – First Read – *Dawn Bentley*
Members were asked to send comments/questions to the policy subcommittee prior to the next meeting.

10. **School Committee Member Reports**

The Health Insurance Trust (HIT) met. Marie Altieri reported that there are some significant changes to our health insurance plans for next year, including the addition of a new plan with a high deductible and HSA plan. It has been very popular so far with Monday being the deadline to enroll.

11. **Consent Agenda – VOTE**

- 11.1. **Statement of Warrants & Approval of Minutes** (4/2/18 & 4/12/18)
- 11.2. **Donations to our Schools** – *Bill McAlduff*
 - 11.2.1. AB Travel Basketball Program Donation of 4 Backboards
- 11.3. **Approval of High School Field Trip** to Greece and Italy, April 2019

Travel Basketball was thanked for another generous donation.

Beth Petr reviewed the proposed changes to the minutes of the meeting on 4/12/18. Ginny Kremer stated that she did not recall hearing some of the words that were proposed to be added. Mr. McAlduff believed that the point was made at the meeting and is included in the memo he provided. In response to a question about the process, Committee members were told that they could either abstain or the minutes could be held until the next meeting, giving time for review of the meeting tape.

Mary Brolin moved to approve the Consent Agenda with modifications to the April 12, 2018 minutes as proposed at the start of the discussion. Katie Neville seconded and the Committee **VOTED** and approved the items.

(YES: Baum, Bieber, Brolin, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Murphy, Neville, Tso, Zhang ABSTAINED: Kremer)

12. **FYI**

- 12.1. Family Learning Series - FY18 Calendar of Presentations
- 12.2. Save the Date: District Retirement Celebration on June 14th at 3:15 p.m.

The ABRSC adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: List of warrants, Questions and Answers re Battery Storage Project/Policies, See agenda