

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC)
MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Administration Building Auditorium
15 Charter Road, Acton

June 17, 2021
7:00 p.m.

8:15 p.m. Executive Session

To *view* the meeting virtually (no participation): <https://www.youtube.com/actontv1>

To make a public comment (two options):

1. In-person - please wear a mask if not fully vaccinated
 2. Virtually: https://abschools.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3ZFhfv77SoivOYDcFktzRg
(pre-registration required for virtual - must be submitted 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting)
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Members Present: Diane Baum, Kyra Cook, Adam Klein, Tessa McKinley, John Petersen, Nora Shine, Angie Tso, Yebin Wang
Members Absent: Evelyn Abayaah-Issah, Amy Krishnamurthy, Ginny Kremer
Others: Marie Altieri, Dawn Bentley, Deborah Bookis, Peter Light, Dave Verdolino

1. Call to Order (7:00)

The ABRSC was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Tessa McKinley.

She stated that the meeting was being conducted as a hybrid with all of the School Committee members in the auditorium (with the exception of Evelyn Abayaah-Issah, Amy Krishnamurthy, and Ginny Kremer who were absent), along with members of the public. The following committee members were in attendance: Diane Baum, Kyra Cook, Adam Klein, John Petersen, Nora Shine, Angie Tso, Yebin Wang and Tessa McKinley.

In an ongoing effort to make meetings as secure as possible, members of the public who wished to comment virtually were asked to register 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting using the link at the top of the agenda. Members attending in person were invited to speak at the public microphone as in the past. To view the meeting virtually the public was asked to use Acton tv's youtube channel (found at the top of the agenda). The Chair stated that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted on Acton TV's website at actontv.org.

a. Chairperson's Welcome - Tessa McKinley

b. Public Participation -

Corinne Hogseth thanked Angie Tso and Diane Baum for their service on the Committee. She criticized the Administration and Committee members for not bringing students back into school sooner after last summer's survey of families. She also voiced frustration with the retirement of the Colonial mascot and the process used to make the decision.

c. Superintendent's Update – Peter Light

- i. Thank You to Kirsten Nelson, Amy French, Jean Tibbetts (*ABRSD Food Services*) and Kathleen Surdan and Nora McMillan (*Neighbor Brigade*)
- ii. Congratulations to our ABRSD Retirees!
- iii. Thank You to ABRSC Members Diane Baum and Angie Tso who are retiring
- iv. Thank You to Tessa McKinley for 2 years of Service as ABRSC Chairperson

2. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Superintendent's Annual Summative Review - Tessa McKinley

Tessa read the summative review and thanked Mr. Light for his service. Comments from members included:

- The quality of leadership with Peter at the helm, while everyone works together has been remarkable.
- A group is only as good as its Leadership Team and Peter has led us through a “huge number of accomplishments” during this difficult pandemic.
- A theme this year that Peter has nurtured has been “communal empathy” and it allowed us to successfully deal with a lot of “sketchy information” as the pandemic months unfolded.
- Peter’s voluntary leadership role in the termination of EDCO is an excellent example of his passion and ability as a School Superintendent.

Diane Baum moved, John Petersen seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to accept the Annual Summative Review for Superintendent Peter Light dated 6/17/21 as presented.

While Mr. Light appreciated that the Committee needs to speak with one voice, he will be scheduling 1:1 meetings with individual members to review their evaluations to be sure he understands their feedback and hopes for the new school year.

b. **FY22 ABRHS Handbook - Second Read - VOTE – Tessa McKinley**

No feedback was received since the First Read at the last meeting. Maurin O’Grady was thanked for being ready to answer questions.

John Petersen moved, Amy Krishnamurthy seconded, and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the ABRHS Handbook for FY22.

c. **Town Meeting Updates**

Tessa was thanked for doing an excellent ABRSD budget presentation at Boxborough Town Meeting. Acton’s Town Meeting will be June 21.

d. **Health Insurance Trust Update - John Petersen**

Due to a posting problem, the recent meeting had to be postponed to next week. John reported a year end cash flow loss of \$2.5M but due to the healthy balances, this is not a serious issue. Members should however expect increased rates in the future.

e. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of 6/10/21 - VOTE - Tessa McKinley**

Kyra Cook moved, Adam Klein seconded and it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the minutes of 6/10/21.

f. **Subcommittee and Member Reports**

- i. Building Committee - *Adam Klein* – nothing new since last week

b. **FYI**

Mr. Light highlighted the FY21 Update on STEAM Goals from Deborah Bookis.

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:23 p.m. Tessa McKinley moved that an executive session be convened under MGL Chapter 30A section 21(a) purpose 7, to comply with or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements - MGL Chapter 30A, section 22(f) to consider approval and possible release of executive session minutes from previous meetings on: May 21, 2020, June 18, 2020, August 5, 2020, October 1, 2020, November 5, 2020, December 3, 2020, January

21, 2021, February 11, 2021, March 11, 2021, April 1, 2021, May 20, 2021. She noted that the Committee would not return to Open Meeting.

The motion was seconded by Adam Klein. The Committee unanimously **VOTED by roll call:** to enter the executive session as stated. (YES: Baum, Cook, Klein, McKinley, Petersen, Shine, Tso, Wang)

4. The ABRSC adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: see agenda

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 20 ABRSC Workshop at 6:00 p.m.