



## Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road Acton, MA 01720

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[www.abschools.org](http://www.abschools.org)

### Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee Meeting

September 7, 2023 Open Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Administration Building Auditorium To view only: <https://www.youtube.com/actontv1>

Executive Session 7:30 p.m.

Administration Building Room 23

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### APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Tori Campbell, Liz Fowlks, Lakshmi Kaja, Adam Klein, Ginny Kremer, Vikram Parikh, Leela Ramachandran, Yanxin Schmidt, Rebecca Wilson

Members Absent: Ben Bloomenthal, Andrew Schwartz

Others: Deborah Bookis, Peter Light, Sherri Matthews, Beth Petr, Andrew Shen

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1. **CALL TO ORDER (7:00)**

The ABRSC was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Adam Klein.

He stated that the meeting (with the exception of the executive session) was being recorded and would be posted on Acton TV's website at [actontv.org](http://actontv.org). Members of the public who wished to watch the meeting online were invited to use Acton tv's youtube channel.

2. **CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME - Adam Klein**

a. Public Participation - none

b. Superintendent's Update - *Peter Light*

Mr. Light thanked the staff and students for dealing with the recent exceptionally hot weather, particularly those in buildings and classrooms without air conditioning. He thanked the nurses for assisting with the increase in covid cases and urged families to keep children home if they are sick. A new family communication app will be coming soon called "ParentSquare". The 2022-2023 Annual ABRSD Report is now available online. The Grand Opening of the Acton-Boxborough Resource Center will be September 13th. All members are invited. Mr. Light thanked Jen Faber for her significant efforts on this, as well as the AB United Way for their valuable partnership. A wonderful slide presentation was shared to introduce the new Center, including versions in seven of our district's primary languages.

There has been a change to how the School Committee Meeting packets are posted. Individual pdfs are posted via links found on the agenda, instead of the whole packet as one pdf. Adam welcomed comments regarding how this is working for people.

3. **ONGOING BUSINESS (7:15)**

- a. [School Committee, District and Superintendent Goals 2023-2024 - Second Read](#) - **VOTE** - *Adam Klein*

Mr. Light noted the highlighted sections of the District Goals that have been changed based on feedback from the previous meeting. At the very beginning, under the “Beliefs” heading, reference was added to “gender or gender identity” and “sexual orientation”. This was to re-affirm the District’s beliefs and commitment to our LGBTQ students and was based on excellent input received. Another major change was that the High School course leveling was added to Goal #2 because it is strongly felt that this is not just equity work but also academic work. A lot of work has been done to expand equitable opportunities and access for all of our students.

Yanxin Schmidt moved, Tori Campbell seconded and it was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** to approve the District Goals for 2023-2024.

- b. [Amended Regional School District Budget](#) - **VOTE** - *Sheri Matthews*

This was discussed at the meeting on 8/24. A duplicate entry was found and a solution was suggested. The proposed vote was to amend the FY24 appropriation, but not the assessment. This will change the base amount for FY25 because we will have to start at a higher number than originally planned. This information was shared at Acton Leadership Group (ALG) today and the Selectboards’ meetings. It will be a challenge to find \$400,000 in the next budget cycle but the gap has to be closed and the Administration will plan for it. It will not be the only budget driver that will have to be dealt with next year.

Liz Fowlkes moved, Leela Ramachandran seconded and it was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** That the Committee amend the budget of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 as presented in the amount of \$106,224,413;

Which is reduced by estimated receipts and available funds in the following amounts:

- ❖ Anticipated Chapter 70 Aid in the amount of 15,942,931;
- ❖ Anticipated State Transportation Aid in the amount of \$2,417,425;
- ❖ Anticipated State Charter School Aid in the amount of \$150,000;
- ❖ Anticipated Medicaid Reimbursement of \$250,000;
- ❖ Anticipated Investment Earnings of \$300,000;
- ❖ Estimated Miscellaneous Revenues of \$25,000;

And transfers from the following District reserves:

- ❖ Excess & Deficiency Fund in the amount of \$1,375,000;
- ❖ Capital Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$150,000.

As stated, the assessment to Acton will remain at \$71,669,758 (83.71%) and the assessment to Boxborough will remain at \$13,944,299 (16.29%).

- c. School Committee Communication Goal Update - *Adam Klein*  
Per the discussion at the previous meeting, members were asked to tell Adam which of the four goals they would like to help with. Members are still needed for items 2, 3, and 4. West Acton Oktoberfest is September 30. Members who would like to sit at a School Committee table and meet the community should contact Adam.
- d. Consent Agenda/Action Items - **VOTE** - *Adam Klein* -
  - 1. Approval of [ABRSC Workshop Meeting Minutes of 8/22/23](#) and [ABRSC Meeting Minutes of 8/24/23](#) - **VOTE** - *Adam Klein*  
Liz Fowles moved, Ginny Kremer seconded and it was unanimously,  
**VOTED**: to approve the minutes of 8/22/23 and 8/24/23.
- e. [Statement of Warrants](#) and Recommendation to Approve - **VOTE** - *Adam Klein*  
Vikram Parikh moved, Liz Fowles seconded, and it was unanimously,  
**VOTED**: to approve the warrants (see vote language)

#### 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:35 p.m., Adam stated the need for an Executive Session is to be convened under MGL Ch 30A, sec. 21(a) purpose (3): to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee.

Vikram Parikh made the motion. Tori Campbell seconded and it was unanimously,  
**VOTED by Roll Call**: to enter executive session for the reason stated.  
(YES: Campbell, Fowlks, Kaja, Klein, Kremer, Parikh, Ramachandran, Schmidt, Wilson)

Adam also stated the need for a second Executive Session is to be convened under MGL Ch 30A, sec.21(a) Purpose 2: to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non union personnel, or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Specifically this is regarding the Superintendent.

Yanxin Schmidt made the motion. Leela Ramachandran seconded and it was unanimously,  
**VOTED by Roll Call**: to enter executive session for the reason stated.  
(YES: Campbell, Fowlks, Kaja, Klein, Kremer, Parikh, Ramachandran, Schmidt, Wilson)

The Chairperson stated that the School Committee would not return to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: Agenda, Summary pages, Annual District Improvement Plan 2023-2024 /District Strategy 2021-2026, Amended FY24 Budget Memo from S. Matthews 8/22/23, Request for Revised Budget Vote memo from P. Light 9/5/23, FY24 Budget Presentation Slides 8/24/23, ABRSC Meeting Draft Minutes of 8/22/23 and 8/24/23, Warrant Memo from S. Matthews 9/1/23.