

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

Virtual Public Zoom Webinar Meeting
To attend: <https://zoom.us/j/883988639>

April 9, 2020
11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Diane Baum, Ginny Kremer, Amy Krishnamurthy, Tessa McKinley, Maya Minkin (video started at 11:10 a.m.), Paul Murphy, John Petersen, Nora Shine, Angie Tso
Members Absent: Michael Bo, Adam Klein
Others: Marie Altieri, Peter Light, Beth Petr

The ABRSC was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairperson Tessa McKinley.

Due to the schools being closed as a result of the coronavirus, Tessa stated that the meeting was being conducted remotely via a Zoom webinar by 9 School Committee members, with Michael Bo and Adam Klein absent, per our Remote Participation policy, BEDJA. It was also being recorded by the Zoom application and being live streamed on youtube. It will be posted on Acton TV's website tomorrow at <http://actontv.org/on-demand/government>. Per the remote policy, all votes were to be done by roll call with each member stating their vote after the Chairperson said their name.

1. **Discussion of Whether or Not to Schedule School during April 2020 vacation**

1.1. Possible VOTE

John Petersen made a motion, seconded by Paul Murphy, as suggested in the Superintendent's memo:

“Move that the ABRSC amend the FY20 School Calendar to cancel April Vacation, subject to collective bargaining, in order to provide greater educational continuity during the school closure.”

Mr. Light reviewed his memo. At the time the memo was written, 2,780 survey responses were received from families. 82.4% of them preferred continuing education efforts instead of the vacation. The ABEA also surveyed educators and they felt the same. Mr. Light noted that since that time, 300 more responses were received all saying that April vacation should not be changed. Statistically it was impossible that that many would come in at once all saying the same thing in contrast to the strong trend that existed when the memo was written. The poll is now closed.

Members' discussion included:

- If teachers agree, then School Committee should support it, although if people need to stop and recharge, they should make time to do that. It is important that people feel well and grounded.
- If families and teachers agree, the Committee should support it although some districts are pushing for a longer school year now. It was appreciated that Mr. Light said that it would cost approximately \$300,000 per day to pay educators to keep school opened longer in June.
- If vacation is cancelled, Community Education will do what they can to reschedule some of their classes around the academics.

- With the State's proposal, students will attend 180 days and staff will go the usual 183 days.
- A side letter with the ABEA will be signed by the School Committee Chair, as usual.

The School Committee **VOTED** unanimously by roll call to approve the motion. (YES: Baum, Kremer, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Minkin, Murphy, Petersen, Shine, Tso)

The Superintendent will send a memo to families later today with this information. He thanked his Leadership Team and all of the teachers for their efforts. He encouraged everyone to pause this weekend and relax with family.

Assistant Superintendent Deborah Bookis was congratulated on earning her Doctorate last week. John Petersen mentioned this as a great example of good things still happening around us. He also noted that calling this special meeting to take this vote is an example of the Committee (like everyone) taking unusual steps to move forward and agreeing with this mode of operating in these unique times.

At 11:25 a.m., Paul Murphy moved, Maya Minkin seconded and it was unanimously, **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn. (YES: Baum, Kremer, Krishnamurthy, McKinley, Minkin, Murphy, Petersen, Shine, Tso)

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Petr

List of Documents Used: agenda, memo from the Superintendent dated 4/8/20

NEXT MEETING:

- April 16 – ABRSC Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via zoom