

**McCarthy-Towne School PTSO  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday December 12, 2012**

**Present:**

Kate Murray, PTSO Sr. Chair  
Tracey Smith, PTSO Jr. Chair  
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary  
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer  
David Krane, Principal  
Vanessa Bergman, McT Teacher  
Nancy Giansante, McT Teacher  
Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator  
Xuan Kong, School Committee Member  
Kerry Flatley, Melissa Berger, Wendy Schaad, Janet Munson, Kate Landry, Debbie Walz, Shelley Cole & Adam White

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Minutes**

The minutes of November 14, 2012 were approved as amended.

**Principal's Report**

David reported that the Spoons Project that was completed by the Fourth Grade raised \$3,000 for the Project Bread. The school is currently participating in a clothing donation drive for Cradles to Crayons. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Egyptian Fair will be held next week. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade recently participated in Acton Long Ago Day. They all are great projects and are going extremely well. David and Matt continue to implement the new teacher evaluations. The full implementation will take place next fall.

**Scrip**

Wendy Schaad and Mimi Kirkman are chairing the Scrip program this year. Most of the scrip orders come in paper form and then have to be entered into the computer. For the cost of \$99.00 we can purchase software that would allow us to enter everything online. Scrip raises about \$3,000 - \$4,000 per year. Order are down a little but they believe that educating people on how to order and how beneficial it can be to the school will raise the amount of orders. The PTSO voted to approve an expenditure of \$99.00 towards the purchase of the software to enter the Scrip orders online.

**Acton/Boxboro School Regionalization**

The PTSO welcomed Xuan Kong a member of the Acton Public School Committee and the Acton-Boxboro Regional School Committee. Xuan discussed the plan currently being discussed that would fully regionalize the Acton and Boxboro School Districts. Xuan explained that one of the reasons this is being studied because there continues to be declining enrollment at Blanchard School. There are currently 3 school committees among the 3 towns. It is expected that Acton will experience declining enrollment over

the next 8 years. The Acton Boxboro Regionalization Study Committee was formed last fall to assess the pros and cons of regionalization. Members of the Study Committee is currently doing outreach in the community to educate people on their findings as to the pros and cons. Their final recommendations will be brought before a Special Town Meeting to be held in April 2013.

If the regionalization is approved the Boxboro School central office staff positions would be eliminated. The Blanchard School staff would remain the same. The Financial benefits are that the School District would receive about \$500,000 more in funding if they fully regionalized with Boxboro.

School choice would remain with Blanchard being added to the current 5 elementary schools currently offered in Acton. Boxboro residents would get home town preference for the next 5 years. Siblings would also be guaranteed for 5 years. After that the school committee would revisit this issue. Busing will be provided from Boxboro and Acton. There would need to be a consistent ½ day Thursday schedule as Boxboro currently does not have a ½ day on Thursday.

Fund raising would remain at the schools. All schools in Boxboro and Acton would have to have the same policy on fundraising for assistants. Currently the money raised by the Blanchard PTSO goes towards purchasing technology and items that are needed for the school not towards the salaries of assistants.

Regionalization of both towns would result in a revised regional agreement between the towns. The new regional school committee would purchase the 6 elementary schools for \$1.00. The Regional School District would then own that buildings and would be responsible for maintenance and repairs. If a building is no longer needed it would be returned to the Town. The plan is to keep all elementary schools operational in both towns. If future renovations are needed at the schools both towns would need to vote on the plan and construction costs.

Financial benefits to both towns are that through regionalization the towns would receive \$900,000 annually to divide between the towns. 65% would go to Acton and 35% to Boxboro. If both towns agree the new regional school district will exist on July 1, 2014. With the current Regional School Committee there are 5 members. Members are elected by each town. Each member from Acton has the voting power of 2.4 votes, while each member from Boxboro has the voting power of 1 vote. With the new Regional School Committee Acton would retain their voting power.

More benefits to the regionalization are that classroom sizes could be distributed more evenly among the districts as Blanchard now has 6 empty classrooms. There would be cross training between teachers. With regionalization 8 current positions would be eliminated.

The PTSO thanked Xuan for his very detailed and informative explanation of what regionalization would mean for both Acton and Boxboro.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 9 at 7:00 P.M.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dee  
PTSO Secretary