

**Abstract of the Special Town Meeting
Held December 1, 1998**

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Number of registered voters attending Town Meeting 1,677

In the absence of the Moderator, Don MacKenzie, the Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The first order of business was to elect a Moderator for the Special Town Meeting. The Town Clerk advised that the warrant had been properly posted and then called for nominations to elect a Moderator.

MOTION: MR. FRIEDRICHS moves to nominate Richard P. O'Brien, nomination seconded and nominations are closed.

MOTION CARRIES, Mr. O'Brien elected Moderator.

The Town Clerk swore Mr. O'Brien in as Moderator for this Special Town Meeting. Mr. O'Brien explained that Mr. MacKenzie, the Town Moderator, was out of the country and he would try to fill Mr. MacKenzie's shoes. The Moderator explained that this Town Meeting is not a typical meeting, because it is dealing with three (3) articles all of which relate to schools. The Moderator then gave a brief description of the rules and regulations of Town Meeting. The Moderator recognized Micki Williams of the League of Women Voters.

MOTION: MS. WILLIAMS moves that speakers to the motion, except for presenters, be limited to speak for five (5) minutes. This is intended to allow time for first time speaker to speak to the motion.

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION: MR. CADY moves that secret ballot be cast for articles one (1) and article two (2).

MOTION CARRIES

The Moderator then introduced Mr. Thomas Mackey, Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Mackey gave a presentation from the Finance Committee noting that we were gathered to discuss the largest financial decisions that Acton has considered. Mr. O'Brien, the Moderator, then asked John Murray, Assistant Town Manager, to go to the auditorium to be the Assistant Moderator for the approximate 400 registered voter who were there.

The Finance Committee members were introduced by Mr. Mackey. The Moderator then introduced Jesse Liberty of the School Committee to give background information. Mr. Liberty introduced Lees Stuntz of the School Committee. Ms. Stuntz introduced the others members of

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the Acton School Committee. Ms Stuntz then asked the people who worked on the school building proposals to stand and be recognized, they were applauded by the audience. Ms. Stuntz and Mr. Liberty gave a presentation on the three warrant articles. Mr. O'Brien introduced Mr. Wayne Friedrichs, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Friedrichs introduced the Board of Selectmen.

After several presentations by other board members and residents, the Moderator read Article 1

ARTICLE 1 LOCAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND REMOVAL
(Requires 2/3 vote)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$21,350,000, or any other sum of money, for constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new twin elementary school as well as for the removal of McCarthy-Towne School building from school use including costs incidental and related thereto, and to determine whether to raise this appropriation by borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: MR. LIBERTY moves that \$21,350,000 be appropriated for constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new twin elementary school and for the removal of the McCarthy-Towne School, from school use, including costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$21,350,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to petition the General Court for an act to permit the first principal payment on such borrowing to be not later than five (5) years from the date of issue and the last principal payment to be not later than twenty-five years from the date of issue; and that the School Committee is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out these projects, provided, however, that no debt may be incurred under this vote, except for up to \$1,250,000 as to the new elementary school construction project for planning and other preliminary expenses, until the State Department of Education has included the Town's application for a state school construction grant as to the project on its list of completed project applications, showing the priority assigned, and provided that this vote shall not take effect with respect to the project until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2 1/2) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote for such project.

MOTION CARRIES

Vote 1571

Yes 1184

No 387

**ARTICLE 2 ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION**
(2/3 Vote Required)

To see if the Town will approve the amount of \$19,100,000 debt authorized by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Committee, for constructing an addition or additions to the R. J. Grey Junior High School and for remodeling or making extraordinary repairs to the existing structure, including costs incidental and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

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MOTION: MRS. STUNTZ moves that the Town approve the amount of the \$19,100,000 debt authorized by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Committee, as allocated between Acton and Boxborough as set forth in the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District agreement approved on October 5, 1998, for constructing an addition or additions to the R.J. Grey Junior High School and for remodeling, reconstruction or making extraordinary repairs to the existing structure, including costs incidental and related thereto; that the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Committee is authorized to petition the General Court for an act to permit the first principal payment on such borrowing to be not later than five (5) years from the date of issue and the last principal payment to be not later than twenty-five years from the date of issue; and that the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Committee is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out these projects, provided, however, that no debt may be incurred under this vote, except for up to \$1,150,000 as to the R.J. Grey Junior High School addition and renovation project for planning and other preliminary expenses, until the State Department of Education has included the Region's application for a state school construction grant as to the project on its list of completed project applications, showing the priority assigned and provided that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2 1/2) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote for such project, and provided further that the Town of Boxborough approves a like article.

MOTION CARRIES

Vote 1426 Yes 1126 No 336

ARTICLE 3 TRANSFER OF LAND
(2/3 Vote Required)

To see if the Town of Acton will vote to approve and authorize the conveyance by the Town of Acton to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District of approximately 7 acres of land (excluding the land on which the Blanchard Auditorium is sited), more or less, in consideration of the conveyance by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District to the Town of Acton of an equivalent number acres of land, more or less, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: MRS. STUNTZ moves that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer to the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, for purposes of constructing an addition to the regional junior high and for parking and related accessory uses, appurtenances, and necessary infrastructure, the fee or any other interest in land owned by the Town bounded by Massachusetts Avenue and Charter Road, in return for the conveyance by the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District to the Town of the fee or other interests in a commensurate area of land owned by the Regional School District northeasterly of the Merriam School, for Town purposes, all as the Town and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District agree; intending hereby to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all actions necessary or appropriate to permit the construction of an addition to the regional junior high school, as authorized under Article 2.

MOTION CARRIES

VOTE 122 Yes 110 No 12

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MOTION: MR. FRIEDRICHS moves dissolve the Special Town Meeting at 10:20PM

MOTION CARRIES

Tellers

Bill Cady, Head Teller

Ann Chang

Isabelle Choate

Carolyn Gray

Charles Husbands

Charles Kadlec

Andrea Miller

Kimberly Powers

Ani Uriarte

Jack Whitter

Edward Ellis

Eldon Fisher

Robert Ferrara

Deena Ferrara

Carol Sarshik

Edward Adelman

William Smith

Jeff Bergat

Edward Richter

Allen Warner

Corinne Steinhilper

Elizabeth Perry