*Approved by Arlington School Committee January 22, 2015*

*Arlington School Committee*

*School Committee Regular Meeting*

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

*6:30 PM*

*School Committee Room, 6th Floor, Arlington High School*

*School Committee Room, 6th Floor*

*Arlington High School*

*869 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476*

*Present: Mr. Hayner, Chair, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, MD, Secretary, Mr. Schlichtman, Ms. Starks, and Ms. Susse*

*Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Office, Ms. Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative, Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.*

*Absent: Mr. Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair, and Mr. Pierce, and student representative*

*Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, arrived at 7:01 p.m.*

*Open Meeting*

*Mr. Hayner held a moment of silence for Karen Fitzgerald’s nephew, Matthew Griffin, 25 years old, Arlington High 2007 Graduate, and Curry College 2012 Graduate, who passed away December 26, 2014, from Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, and for James McLaughlin, Arlington High Soccer Coach, parent of OMS student and a former AHS student, who passed away suddenly on January 3, 2015.*

*Public Participation*

*None*

*School Calendar 2015-2016 Discussion*

*Dr. Bodie presented two 2015-2016 school year calendars: Draft 1 Traditional Calendar and Draft 2 Early Bird Start. The Traditional Calendar meets all of our contractual obligations, and includes 2 Jewish holidays, and Good Friday and one professional day, which is first Monday of November. Draft 2 would require negotiations with the AEA.*

*Draft 1 is the calendar we can go forward with and tonight would be a first read and can be voted at our next meeting January 22, 2015. Last day of school for each calendar: Draft 1 June 29th, Draft 2 June 23rd. Ms. Hanson said Dr. Bodie shared the calendars a few days ago. Ms. Hanson did a quick survey of the union with 200 teachers weighing in. Draft 1 Traditional had equal amounts liking it and not liking it. A small majority was interested in Draft 2,but concerns were that some people made plans already and also concern that people want to plan for things and not have surprises.*

*Ms. Susse, agreed that many parent have already made plans, but interested in us preparing a plan in future years for if Labor Day falls after Sept 4th. Ms. Starks suggested we prepare the 15/16 school year calendar and within two months after vote the 2016/17 school year calendar start date, so parents can plan two years out. Ms. Schlichtman doesn’t want to discuss which calendar to much due to negotiations, but noted Lowell starts before Labor Day and this way they don’t have the pressure of snow days, and would go with early bird start and would like voting calendar two years in advanced.*

*Dr. Allison-Ampe agrees not to discuss this now due to negotiations, and would like us to consider parents comments and collect reasons on the option they favor.*

*Mr. Hayner agrees to have a policy and said it would be great for the future to be in conjunction with the AEA. The union has the right to survey teachers, but any results from a survey of parents should not be discussed publicly due to negotiations.*

*Dr. Bodie said we would have to consider the Traditional Calendar tonight as a first read, since the Early Bird Start Calendar for 2015-2016 would have to be negotiated with the teachers union.*

*Superintendent's Report*

*Dr. Bodie said today was the first day/issue of cold day/snow day and reiterated that parents need to do what is best for their children, and decide if their child should attend school due to cold or snow issues. Any absences would be considered as excused. Dr. Bodie noted all went well today within each of the schools due to heat issues, and buses schedules too.*

*Consent Agenda*

***Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to accept the Consent Agenda to approve \*All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a member of the committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence: \*Approval of Warrant # 15083, dated for 12/18/2014 in the amount of $618,826.54. and \*Approval of Minutes: None, seconded by Ms. Starks.***

***Voted 5-0, Mr. Thielman and Mr. Pierce absent***

*Subcommittee & Liaison Reports & Announcements*

*Policies and Procedures, J. Pierce nothing to report*

*Budget, C. Starks, said no Budget meetings are planned and announced the SOI for schools open this Friday for AHS. Dr. Bodie said we need to go through the same process as before with the Statement of Interest of Arlington High School. We will update the enrollment information and take a vote on the priorities in early February. Ms. Johnson is currently attending the Capital Planning meeting tonight, and is also looking into submitting a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for improvements to the Stratton School as well as for AHS.*

*Dr. Bodie clarified, after being asked by Dr. Allison-Ampe, that she plans on submitting two SOI, one for Stratton and one for Arlington High School.*

*Community Relations. P. Schlichtman said he will hold a meeting January 29th.*

*Mr. Schlichtman had read on the Arlington email list the usual discussion on MBTA buses and would like to collect data if children have adequate MBTA bus service for Arlington School children. Dr. Bodie will look into this further.*

*Mr. Schlichtman said the MASC delegate assembly passed the unfunded mandate resolutions.*

*The delegate assembly passed a resolution concerning unfunded mandate legislation co-sponsored by among others, Arlington, also, passed the fingerprinting legislation ( sponsored by the resolutions committee) that seeks to shift some of the burden from school districts to DESE is similar to the mandate proposal, and would like to ask Rep. Garballey to principally sponsor these two pieces of legislation.*

***Mr. Schlichtman moved to authorize Mr. Hayner as Chair to make an official request to Representative Garballey to support the unfunded mandate legislation and fingerprinting legislation below, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.***

***Voted 5-0***

*AN ACT CONCERNING UNFUFUNDED EDUCATION MANDATES*

*SECTION 1. Add to the end of section 37 of chapter 71 of the General Laws the following:*

*Notwithstanding the foregoing or any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, it shall be the policy of the General Court to impose a moratorium on all new mandated education programs, requirements or expenses, including but not limited to, new testing requirements that negatively impact the time available for classroom instruction from the effective date of this act for a period of eighteen months or until December 31, 2016, whichever is later.*

*SECTION 2. There shall be an educational mandate task force to review existing state mandates placed on public schools and districts in the Commonwealth. The task force shall consist of 11 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designees, who shall serve as the co-chairs of the task force; a member of the general court appointed by the senate minority leader; a member of the general court appointed by the house minority leader; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee; and 6 persons to be appointed by the secretary of education, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators’ Association, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Elementary School Principals’ Association, and 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Administrators of Special Education.*

*The task force shall: (i) identify and review the state laws, regulations, and administrative directives that prescribe requirements for school districts, including those that require school districts to prepare and submit reports and data to the department of elementary and secondary education (ii) develop recommendations to streamline, consolidate, or eliminate such mandates or reporting requirements that are not fully funded.*

*The first meeting of the task force shall take place within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the house and senate not later than12 months following the first meeting of the task force. Prior to issuing its recommendations, the task force shall conduct at least one public hearing to receive testimony from members of the public.*

*AN ACT RELATING TO NATIONAL FINGERPRINT CHECKS FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES*

*Section 1. Section 38R of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 77, section 7 of the Acts of 2013, is hereby amended by adding to the end thereof the following:*

*The board of elementary and secondary education (board), in consultation with the department of criminal justice information services, shall at least every other year conduct a review of the implementation of the national fingerprint- based criminal background check, to consider reducing the regulatory burden and associated costs imposed upon school districts and the fees paid by school employees. Pursuant to such review, the board shall consider initiating a requirement that a teacher and other certified employees pursuant to section 38G as a condition of initial certification and, as necessary, recertification shall be subject to a national fingerprint-based criminal background check, which shall be provided to a school district, upon its request, that is seeking to hire said employee. The board shall file a report, within I year of the passage of this act, with the joint chairs of the committee on education, on the requirement linking the national fingerprint-based criminal background check to certification together with a draft of any legislation that may be necessary. The board shall at least every other year, commencing 1 year after the passage of this act, file a report and recommendations with the joint chairs of the committee on education, on its review concerning reducing the regulatory burden and associated costs due to the implementation of the national fingerprint-based criminal background check.*

*Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, K. Allison-Ampe nothing to report.*

*Facilities, J. Thielman, Mr. Hayner reported a meeting to be held on January 22, 2015.*

*Special Study Group on Superintendent's Evaluation Mr. Hayner said a meeting will be held on January 26, 2015.*

*Chair, B. Hayner*

*Announcements*

*Ms. Starks suggested to Mr. Hayner that the retreat scheduled on OML training for January be cancelled.*

*Joint Subcommittee with the Human Rights Commission committee will meet January 15, 2015. 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee room.*

*Executive Session*

***Mr. Schlichtman moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto;” and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and /or nonunion in which if held in an a open meeting may have a detrimental effect, and to return to open session for the purpose of adjournment only, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.***

***Roll Call: Ms. Susse Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, and Mr. Hayner Yes.***

***Voted: 5-0 Unanimous***

*Adjournment*

***Ms. Susse moved to adjournment at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.***

***Voted: 5-0***

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Karen M. Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Arlington School Committee/kaa*