

Arlington School Committee  
Facilities Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 22, 2015 @ 4:30 p.m.

Attendance

Subcommittee Members: Jeff Thielman (Chair), Cindy Starks, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, M.D.

District Leadership: Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. (Superintendent), Diane Johnson (CFO), Kristin DeFrancisco (Principal, Hardy School)

Other SC Members: Bill Hayner

Guests: Len Kardon, Kevin Fudge, Cheryl Fudge, Michelle Marshall, Alex Bilsky, Andy Forbes, Jennifer Irvine

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m.

**1. Public Participation**

- Len Kardon said that now that the Capital Planning Committee has given approval to move forward with the Stratton, he is interested in knowing the district's plans to accommodate students during the rebuild.
- Kevin Fudge, Cheryl Fudge, and Michelle Marshall said they wanted to hear the district's plans to address safety issues with the Hardy playground. They are parents of Hardy students.

**2. Hardy Playground discussion**

- Diane Johnson reported that Jody Reale of Reale & Associates is finishing a report on the Hardy Playground. When the plan is complete, the district will make repairs to the playground. The goal is to finish the project by the end of this school year with funds from the district's operating budget.
- Ms. Johnson said that the district is working with the town to clarify responsibility for the playgrounds. Some playgrounds immediately adjacent to schools are the responsibility of the school department; some are not. She is working with the town to develop an inspection and maintenance plan for all playgrounds. Her goal is to transfer all playgrounds to the jurisdiction of the Department of Recreation.
- It was clarified during the discussion that whether the playground is under the jurisdiction of the school department or the department of recreation, the principal is responsible for the safety of the children who play on it. S/he can determine if a play structure is unsafe and forbid children from playing in part or all of a playground until it is safe.

**3. MSBA re-application for Arlington High School**

- Dr. Bodie committed to share the application with the School Committee and to ask for comment/suggestions.
- Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested the application be more granular and pull out some of the points about egress and safety made in the HMFH report. She said this would be more effective than simply attaching the report to the application.
- The School Committee will vote to endorse the plan for the Stratton in March. The Statement of Interest (SOI) must be submitted by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Space Planning for 2015-16 and Long Range Planning**

- Dr. Bodie said the district should have enough space for all classrooms next year. She does not anticipate moving the SLC classroom from the Bracket.
- The district is getting quotes from various vendors to analyze our long-term space needs. Dr. Bodie anticipates securing a vendor in the spring that would study the district and offer various scenarios of different enrollment options to address immediate and long-term needs.
- The study will be funded with School Department funds.

**5. Planning when the Stratton is rebuilt**

- Dr. Bodie said that the go-head for improvements to the Stratton will not occur until Town Meeting. The current financial plan does not require a debt exclusion vote. The School Committee needs to vote to endorse the plan.
- A plan needs to be in place to accommodate displaced students in the fall of 2016.
- The subcommittee reviewed various options for placing modular classrooms in different locations in the district.
- A plan calls for housing all 18 general education classrooms at Stratton in modular classrooms. Six modular units at the middle school would remain to address the increasing enrollment at Ottoson. Other units would be installed at the Bishop and Hardy schools.
- The district is also taking into account transportation issues.
- The district would like to order modular classrooms in June of this year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m

**The next meeting will be Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.**