



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476  
Phone: 781-316-3000

[webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us)

## School Committee Minutes 09/12/2013

*Approved by the Arlington School Committee October 24, 2013*

*Arlington School Committee  
Regular School Committee Meeting  
Thursday September 12, 2013  
6:30 p.m.  
School Committee Room  
Arlington High School  
869 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476*

### Opening of Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

*Present: Mr. Judson Pierce, Mr. William Hayner, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, and Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe*

*Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Officer*

*The motion was made to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and Unit C Contract - Memorandum of Understanding for Unit C Evaluation to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.*

*Roll Call: 6-0 Unanimous*

*A motion to exit out of Executive Session and return to open session was made at 6:50 p.m.*

*Roll Call: 6-0 Unanimous*

*Absent: Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.*

*Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President, Student Representative Alex Crowley present for Regular Meeting*

*Ms. Heigham arrived at 8:30 p.m.*

### Opening Remarks

*Mr. Pierce opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back to a new school year and thanked the teachers and staff for all they do as well as the parents and students.*

### Public Participation

*Mr. John Leonard: TMM from precinct 17 – talked about utility poles – took pictures of utility pole conditions near the elementary schools and he suggested that the discussion should be placed on School Committee agenda. Mr. Leonard left pictures of utility poles around Arlington for the committee to view.*

#### Opening of School Overview

*Dr. Bodie spoke on Implementation of Common Core Standards and District Determined Measures that will implement pilot this year. Dr. Bodie provided an overview of summer preparation for the start of school, noted work done on assessment and curriculum, and that over 60 teachers attended tech university. Superintendent Bodie also reported on additional cleaning and preparation coordination in some classrooms due to summer programs held at the schools. The Thompsons School opening highlights were announced for September 15<sup>th</sup>, and the library dedication to Bill Shea will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Some changes were noted: the major change in K-8 elementary has moved to block scheduling to allow for more flexible groupings. The middle school now has all days seven blocks instead of having two days with eight blocks. Other points of interest include increased teacher numbers, including: Mandarin at middle school, Italian at the high school, and math coaches, and special education teachers in the elementary. A major focus was on new teacher evaluation system & full implementation of common core standards. Dr. Bodie provided additional updates on the following: 60 teachers already signed up for RETELL (30 fall, 30 spring) – 12% of families have a different language than English as their first language. All went well for the first week for kindergarten students. Mr. Pierce asked how often there are faculty meetings, Dr. Bodie replied there are three afternoons a month in addition to the ½ and full day PD days. It was noted on the front of Arlington Public Schools website is the location to register for emails.*

*Security & safety was discussed and noted that it is harder to get into schools, more vigilance and Dr. Bodie said don't be offended when you can't get in. Big change at AHS – there is someone who sits at the front near Main Office who requires sign in and badges are required to be worn by all guests.*

#### Enrollment Update

*Mr. Pierce suggested the enrollment numbers be placed on the website as they are unbelievable this year. We had been seeing an increase of about 1.8% each year, but this year we have many more (official numbers to come at the end of October). The high school numbers are about level and the middle school has about 40 more students, and elementary has over 150 new students from last year. Buffer zones helped even out classes but Brackett and Dallin are both housing over 450 students now. Mr. Hayner wanted to know where they live and if they are in the new developments. Dr. Bodie thought only about 8-10 from the Brigham's site and is concerned of increase due to the Symmes site going up for sale.*

*Mr. Thielman was worried that with four Kindergarten classes in Brackett and Dallin, how do we move those students through? Dr. Bode agreed that many schools cannot house four classes per grade, and this brings up the question for next year- how many reserve teachers we would need in the budget.*

#### Update on Hiring Superintendent Bodie,

*Mr. Spiegel provided an update on hiring – all positions filled except for leaves of absences which are coming. We added 2 more TA's, after school staff (Hardy & Thompson) and have 19 new positions. These are funded by fees paid by parents – most are 25 hours a week positions. Some clarifying questions were asked by Mr. Pierce, Mr. Thielman and Mr. Hayner on the afterschool programs. There was also some discussion around substitute teachers.*

*Mr. Hayner asked about the hiring of the Special Education Director and some discussion around that occurred.*

#### Financial Update Diane Fiske Johnson, CFO

*Ms. Johnson, CFO provided the financial update and said summer purchasing went well, processed over 2,000 Purchase Orders and things are getting smoother each year. Plans are to roll out online ordering next year – pilot went well this year, but Ms. Johnson said problems with going all online would be staffing in budget office for training and coverage. There was some discussion about tuition-in students.*

### Thompson School

Superintendent Bodie spoke on Thompson School – Ribbon cutting ceremony this Sunday 2-4, many distinguished guests attending. The ceremony will be held in the gym, tours and refreshments will be served.

On Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm the library will be dedicated to Bill Shea, another opportunity to get a tour and activities for children.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bodie provided a report on PARC field testing and said we will have more information in a future meeting. Dr. Bodie said three elementary and the middle school are involved in the field test and no one student will take more than one part of the test and it will be given after MCAS. When this is fully implemented, there are two tests a year in the grades and topics defined. Online field test is grade 5 in Dallin, Thompson is going to do math in 4<sup>th</sup> grade on paper, and Ottoson will test 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math but only two classes of each and all are still taking MCAS. Mr. Hayner wanted to know what we should do with our bandwidth to enable us to handle PARC in the future.

Dr. Allison-Ampe is worried about our schools doing this for a billion dollar company and Arlington is not receiving anything for it. This concerns her even though it was DESE approved. Is there anything we can do? Dr. Bodie said districts can apply for waivers but there are very specific reasons and we don't have any to not take part, and over half of districts in state are taking part. Dr. Bodie said the advantages for us to do this is to see how the test goes and what it feels like to administer it, given that we have to use it in the future.

Ms. Hanson agreed with Dr. Allison-Ampe concerns and Mr. Schlichtman said we will have early access to questions and he gave some explanation about PARC and MCAS. Dr. Allison-Ampe also added concern about students taking online tests and Dr. Bodie agreed that we need to have some parent meetings around this test and the change and explain what it means.

Mr. Thielman said that our district will learn from this and sees the advantages to being in a pilot.

The committee discussed how the high school is over 60-parking spot deficient for those who work in the school.

Getting a decal system to allow employees to park on the street was discussed and Mr. Hayner wanted to know what about students, if they will they be able to get parking permits? Dr. Allison-Ampe wanted to know how many of the 60 are for non-school people who work out of AHS just so we understand the difference. Ms. Hanson wanted to know what the status is on the side streets. Dr. Bodie said no tickets have been issued yet and she is working with town officials to figure it all out. Mr. Schlichtman said that the town has a bad history of enforcement of parking and suggested having this be part of the conversation.

Dr. Bodie said author, Rick Riordin will be at the Ottoson, on October 8, 7pm for a fund raiser, all information is on Ottoson website.

### Consent Agenda

**Mr. Pierce moved approval of Consent Agenda and added GBGA and removed CBI-E**

**\*Warrant 13186 Dated 6/27/213 Total Warrant Amount \$1,626,632.96**

**\*Warrant 13194 Dated 7/11/13, Warrant Back Dated 6/30/13 Total Warrant Amount \$299,379.20**

**\*Warrant 14015 Dated, 8/1/2013 Total Warrant Amount \$255,605.84**

**\*Warrant 14024 Dated, 8/22/13 Total Warrant Amount \$528,407.67**

**\*Approval of draft minutes Regular School Committee Meeting, June 13, 2013**

**\*Approval of AHS Quebec City Carnival with Homestay January 31 – February 3, 2014**

**\*Approval of Policies and Procedures 2nd reading:**

**BDF A-E-2 District-Wide Goals Setting & Performance Process**

**BBA School Committee Powers and Duties**

**CBI Evaluation of the Superintendent**

**CBI-E superintendent Evaluation Tool**

**GDE/GDF Support Staff Recruiting/Posting of Vacancies/Support Staff Hiring**

**JICFB Bullying Prevention**

**Seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Hayner moved to replace CBI-E with End of Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

*Policies and Procedures – Mr. Thielman said they will meet Monday September 23, at 6:30pm.*

*Mr. Thielman spoke about CBI and how School Committee will be transitioning to it and how it will be handled this year.*

*Budget: Ms. Starks said they will meet on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.*

*Community Relations: no report*

*Curriculum, Instruction Accountability Assessment: no report*

*Facility: Mr. Hayner said a doodle is going out to set meeting before next full School Committee meeting.*

*Chair: Mr. Pierce spoke about AYCC fundraiser on Friday, October 18, 2013*

**Mr. Pierce moved to move School Committee meetings to some schools, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**After discussion, Mr. Pierce withdrew the motion**

*Mr. Schlichtman commented that we tried to move our meetings many years ago without much benefit and a barrier to ACMI and said he did not think that the cost was worth the benefit. Ms. Heigham pointed out it would be OK to move a meeting that was more of an outreach than a business meeting and she suggest that perhaps move sub- committee meetings not full School Committee meetings. Mr. Thielman pointed out that Lexington moved a School Committee meeting to Boston to include Metco parents. Dr. Allison-Ampe pointed out that many do watch us and so is concerned about not giving people that access. Mr. Pierce withdrew the motion.*

*Mr. Pierce requested that Policies and Procedures look into defining the role of school liaisons, Mr. Thielman agreed.*

**Mr. Hayner Motioned to have Dr. Bodie fill in goals and description and then supply evidence to us, seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

**Voted: 1-5 motion fails, Mr. Hayner voted yes**

**Mr. Hayner moved to have himself research to request dissemination of materials for future meetings in electronic format, seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Hayner moved to have himself look into moving meeting days and times, seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

**Motion withdrawn.**

Adjourn

**Mr. Hayner moved to adjournment at 8:55 pm. seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 7-0**

*Respectfully submitted*

*By Cindy Starks, SC Secretary*

*Karen Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

