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School Committee Minutes 10/24/2013

Approved by School Committee November 14, 2013

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday October 24, 2013
6:30 p.m.
School Committee Room
Arlington High School
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

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

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Director of Special Education, Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Siobhan Foley, AEA Representative, Mr. Will Sanders, Student Representative and Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

*Absent: AAA Representative
Mr. Schlichtman arrived at 6:33 p.m.*

Opening Remarks

Mr. Pierce, sporting his Red Sox hat, welcomed Student Council Secretary and varsity soccer player, Will Sanders to the meeting along with AEA Vice President, Siobhan Foley to the meeting. Mr. Pierce held a moment of silence for Mr. Donald Byrne who passed away as well as for Ms. Colleen Ritzer, the Danvers High School math teacher who was brutally murdered this week.

Public Participation

None

Special Education Update

*Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director, introduced, Mr. David Dempsey, Special Education Secondary Coordinator, and Ms. Meg Lim, Special Education SLCA, teacher who worked on (Goal 1.2, 1.4, 3.3) and presented the happenings going on the Arlington High School and Arlington Alternative High School located at **Youth Villages-Germaine Lawrence Campus (YVGL)**. Mr. Chris Carlson, and Ms. Jill Parkins highlighted changes in the Special Education Administration offices. They explained how each school has more school based coordinators and how together with principals, social workers, school psychologists, and team chairs the learning specialist are positively impacting general education teachers and are being well received. This change was approved last year and made financially possible by reducing the Teaching Assistant budget to increase Learning Specialist Roles.*

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Johnson said she attended the Capital Planning Meeting tonight, and also spoke about a spike in Out of District Special Education tuition is up. She will continue to monitor the situation and use the Special Education reserve account to cover costs if necessary. The committee discussed the budget and pointed out the impact this can have on next year's budget as well. Mr. Hayner had a few questions on the current Monthly Financial Statements dated October 4, 2013. Ms. Johnson answered each, and noted that the Town Audit report went well.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bodie spoke on the District Goals and the Completion Notes for 2012/2013. She also reported out on each of the goals. Dr. Bodie thanked everyone for their input and thanked Dr. Chesson and all the administrators and teachers for following up with evidence to support each goal. Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested clarification on the format of the goals as well as the style of each.

Stratton and Arlington High School Building Updates (Goal 4.1, 4.3)

Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson reported on the Onsite-Insight report and the physical structure needs of both the Stratton Elementary School and Arlington High School. Both spoke on the enrollment pressures on the building of the high school.

Dr. Bodie noted that the Thompson daily announcements were inadvertently being broadcast outside and that thanks to neighbors letting us know about it, it has been remedied. Mr. Hayner questioned the Athletic fee for students to attend sporting events and Dr. Bodie suggested that the Budget Subcommittee review the revenue impact, make a policy, and discuss this at their next subcommittee meeting on November 6, 2013.

Dr. Bodie acknowledge the Danvers tragedy, and noted that Arlington continues to improve the level of security at all of our schools She reiterated the district's dedication to providing support for students and staff, and noted that each school offers social workers and AYCC support staff.

Dr. Bodie informed the committee that the Special Education Director and Dallin Principal searches are moving forward, and that there will be no school for students on Friday, November 1st due to professional development for all staff.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, *Approval of Warrant #14050 Dated October 10, 2013 Total Warrant Amount \$502,146.36 and *Approval of draft minutes: September 12, 2013, September 26, 2013, and October 10, 2013, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

~~~~~ Policies & Procedures, J. Thielman – Meeting tonight

- Budget, C. Starks – Meeting November 6, 2013

~~~~~ Community Relations, L. Heigham~ - Nothing to report~~~~~

~ Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, K. Allison-Ampe – Nothing to report

~~~~~ Facilities, B. Hayner – Nothing to report

~~~~~ Chair

Secretary's Report

Ms. Starks reported on all correspondence received:

- Copy of a note about the accountability update at the Ottoson Middle School
- Invitation from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane to a reception at the MASC/MASS conference on Thursday,

November 7 2013.

- Education alert from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane on guidance about Gender Identity Law
- Copy of the letter sent from Chair Pierce to the PAPA organization thanking them for their support of the trip the Jazz band to Dallas, TX.
- Invitation from Bill McCarthy for school committee members to take part in the Veteran's Day Parade on 11/11/2013

Executive Session

Mr. Thielman moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. 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 open meeting may have a detrimental effect and 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, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Thielman exited out of Executive Session at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Mr. Thielman moved to adjourn at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/CSS