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School Committee Minutes 06/14/2012

Approved by the Arlington School Committee September 27, 2012

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 14, 2012
6:30 p.m.
Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

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

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director, Ms. Siobhan Foley AEA Representative, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Ampe arrived at 7:22 pm

Mr. Hayner exited the meeting at 8:14 and returned at 8:15 pm.

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 8:16 and returned at 8:21 pm. and exited 10:13 pm and returned at 10:17 pm

Dr. Raemer exited the meeting at 9:38 pm

Opening Remarks

Mr. Jud Pierce opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. and in honor of Flag Day the committee stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Pierce addressed the Art work from the high school students presented in the School Committee room.

Public Participation (on topics not to include redistricting)

None

Special Education Update

Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Ms. Lori Villani, Mr. Ben Helfat, and Mr. Chris Carlson presented the Special Education Annual Report and provided and overview of the district goals, the philosophy and the priorities of the office. The Coordinated Review and the Corrective Action Plan updated was provided by Ms. Villani and she spoke of the pilot IPAD project that was very successful for many teachers. Mr. Helfat and Mr. Carlson spoke on the Technology updates in the office with Easy IEP software. Ms. Lockyer pointed out, once asked by Mr. Thielman if all strategies we follow now we will have less correct action plans and Ms. Lockyer said because of State changes in plans, all districts would have Corrective Action Plans.

Ms. Lockyer stated due to a prior commitment she needed to leave the meeting early, and would like to say she is recommending the School Committee to approve the Job Description of the Special Education Financial Manager which will be brought forth later in the meeting.

Common Core Update and Technology Plan Update

Dr. Wallis Raemer provided the School Committee members with Arlington Public Schools Professional Development Offerings for the 2011-2012 School year. Dr. Raemer also spoke and provided the Arlington Public Schools Technology Plan Accomplishments for the 2011-2012. The highlights of the Technology Plan included 2-1 LCD projectors and document cameras, Chrome laptops in Media Center, and IPAD pilot program for Special Education. Other accomplishments included student emails at AHS, Easy IEP for Special Education, Alert Now communication system and Professional Development.

Kindergarten Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Bill Hayner, Chair of the committee read the following statement:

“All the members of the Kindergarten Advisory Committee believe that it is important that they and the School Committee have ample time to discuss all the issues in the report. There is nothing in our report that requires immediate action on the part of the School Committee.

Therefore the Kindergarten Advisory Committee feels comfortable postponing until September.”

Dr. Ampe said the Kindergarten Advisory Committee would be placed on the agenda, the second meeting of September 2012.

Mr. Pierce moved to accept the Kindergarten Advisory Committee Report, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Redistricting

Dr. Bodie presented Draft map 7, 6E, 3 and 1 along with the Household Estimates using 2010 Census Blocks for Draft 6E map, as well as the Redistricting Advisory Committee Final Draft Map Elementary School Redistricting Summary of June 12, 2012 motions, draft Buffer Zone Guidelines, dated June 14, 2012. Dr. Bodie said we could do three things in regards to redistricting 1) Do nothing 2) go to map with buffer areas and elevate unbalance classrooms, or 3) School Committee charged the Redistricting Committee to fix the fixed lines, and/or historical lines.

The committee members all appreciated the work of Dr. Bodie and that of the Redistricting Advisory Committee for all the thought, concerns and work dealing with Redistricting.

Public Participation (Redistricting Only)

Ms. Heigham moved to allow Public Participation to be limited to 2 minutes per each speaker, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Richard Eckhardt commended the committee on their efforts with Redistricting but his observation is that 100% of the community is against the plan. He reminded each School Committee member that they are elected officials and were elected to represent the citizens of Arlington and said this plan is not what the people of Arlington wanted. He suggested additional discussion and not moving the boarders and to work with the Redistricting Committee further.

Mr. Frank Fessenden, thanked Dr. Bodie and the Advisory group and asked them to reconsider the map due to unsafe crossing at Park Avenue and why eliminate only some buffer zones and said we should apply the same to the south side of the lines and to put kids first.

Ms. Lissa McBurney, Dallin Parent, supports the buffer zones and the plan and asked the School Committee to trust the Redistricting Committee and accept the map.

Mr. Thomas Kragh is concerned with safety and crossing Park Avenue in the morning and said he would need to walk a great distance to get to a cross walk with a light, and suggested spending the money on the schools and not on capital planning such as moving cross walks and inserting additional crossing lights.

Raman Prasad, Temple Street resident and in Buffer H along with 65 signatures of other in his area whom do not support the Redistricting Plan proposed tonight.

Mr. Greg Thompson, 749 Gray Street, does not support the map and plan along with the 65 others who signed to oppose the plan and suggested taking off buffer H and to protect children so they can walk to school. Mr. Thompson would like to know the cost of busing, and the cost to make it safe for all students to walk to their school.

Ms. Heather Calvin, said no one wants overcrowding in the classrooms but asked the Redistricting Committee on what scenarios they based the plan on, have they received data on the enrollment numbers for 2015 and how long will this plan work and if so could the committee share the plan with the community.

Sandara Pattraua, is in buffer H and is concerned for her family and others of the rising bus cost and what if we take away the bus then students would have to walk such far distances.

Brian Vallimont reiterated his concerns with buffer H and he stated he was really not aware of Redistricting because his children are not in school yet, but his neighbors informed him of their concerns, therefore he suggested the Redistricting Committee give everyone an opportunity to voice their concerns.

Alex Bilsky, Hardy School and thanked Dr. Bodie and Redistricting Committee and had attended some of the meetings and provided them with input and said the long term stability plan was put in place and the plan meets the goals of the Redistricting Committee and it's the best plan they could bring forth now and wants the School Committee to support it.

Nate Wood, Park Avenue and Oakland Avenue area on the Brackett side suggested hard lines should be drawn and that no one should cross over Park Avenue and to be aware they are creating uncertainty for new families moving into Arlington within buffer zones and when kids start kindergarten they would not know which school they belong to until six months before they start.

Kostas Nanofoulos, Buena Vista Street, buffer J and a resident for 29 years is concerned with the map and concerned with crossing over Park Avenue and said the buffer zones are wrong and its unfair and said there must be a better way.

Janet McKelvey, Bishop, Thompson buffer zone and thanked the Committee and said she knows it's a difficult task and supports the final map.

Rebecca Peterson, Dallin and in buffer zone along with 47 residents in her area supports the plan.

Mr. Roger Khazan, said he appreciated the work of the Redistricting Committee and supports the plan presented tonight and wants to achieve the best for all students, and appreciates including grandfathering in for families that fall in the buffer zones.

Dr. Allison-Ampe reported the she and the committee received many emails on the subject of Redistricting. Mr. Hayner would like Dr. Bodie to speak on the safety concerns versus class sizes at the schools. Dr. Bodie said safety is paramount and the Transportation Advisory Committee would be involved to complete an analysis and recommend any safety concerns to her.

Redistricting Plan Discussion and Vote School Committee

Ms. Heigham moved to adopt draft map 7 as Recommended by the Redistricting Advisory Committee, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Heigham said she believes this map (draft 7) balances classroom sizes and said this would be the only map that is flexible in growth and the most positive solution. Mr. Thielman said this was part one of a two-step process and to submit the map to MSBA and then put the policy of the MASC into place on various criteria's on kids living in buffer zones. Mr. Pierce believed that this was the best way at the moment and although it's not perfect he will work on a policy over the summer. Ms. Starks agrees that something had to be done and appreciated all the work of the Redistricting Committee and said she understands that no plan would make everyone happy but will support this plan and will work to get the plan and policy implemented. Mr. Schlichtman thanked the Redistricting Committee and spoke on the Real Estate property values that all schools are good and said he agrees that the policy the School Committee puts into place will help with the rules of how it all is implemented and supports map 7. Dr. Allison-Ampe will support the motion too and knows this is not a perfect map but understands everyone will not be happy with the plan but was happy that the committee addressed the historic district lines.

Ms. Heigham moved that the Redistricting Advisory Committee minutes be reviewed and all recommendations go to Policy and Procedures Subcommittee on creating policy on Student Assignments, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: ???

Financial Update

Mr. Pierce moved to approve the appropriate amount of funding allocated from Town Meeting for FY 13 in the amount of \$44,642,598., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Thielman asked Ms. Johnson to provide an overview of the Financial update and Ms. Johnson said we are doing fine with the budget and due to the mild winter we can carry forward savings.

Approval of Job Descriptions

Mr. Rob Spiegel presented the job description of Athletic Trainer to the full committee for approval and said we currently hold this position in the AEA Contract under stipends position for the fall, winter and spring but wanted to make this a full time position from August to June .

The committee will support the position but suggested additional language to cover certification.

Mr. Pierce moved the 10 0'clock rule to 10:30 pm, seconded by Ms. Stark.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Athletic Trainer Job Description, as amended, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Diane Johnson proposed the non-contractual Special Education Financial Manager job description to the full committee for approval, and noted she had a strong internal candidate in mind. Ms. Johnson pointed out the need of importance to have this position into place before hiring a Special Education Director to help keep all the details of the Special Education Office functioning.

Mr. Thielman moved the approve of the Special Education Financial Manager job description, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

The committee and Ms. Heigham would like to see specific data on the need to fill this position and would like to see savings in one year after having this position in place in the Special Education Office, to make sure this person remains certified in the area of Special Education and to provide the committee with data on the Medicaid payment claims from Special Education Students. Ms. Johnson also said that the Special Education Office will keep the current AEA position in the Special Education Office unfilled for the next year, but will review it again next year. Mr. Hayner recommended placing this person into the Arlington Administration Association, and it was said the position would be in Town Retirement, but no decision was made to place them into unit AAA.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie said she offered the position of Principal of Stratton Elementary to Mr. Mike Hanna and he has accepted. Dr. Bodie said parents, teachers, and administrators alike who had a change to meet with Mr. Hanna felt that he would be an excellent match for Stratton.

Dr. Bodie and Mr. Thielman said a revote needed to be done after the Public Memorials Committee approved the Permanent Town Buildings

and School Committees recommendation of naming the library of the Thompson School after William E. Shea.

Dr. Bodie informed the Committee that Tara Rossi, Principal of the Dallin School accepted another position closer to her home and has appointed Dr. Eileen Woods as Interim Principal for the Dallin School and would look for a permanent principal next school year.

Dr. Bodie said the ground breaking at the Thompson School went very well and many families enjoyed a family picnic as well. Other activities around town were the Staff Appreciation Awards, Math Expo, Art Exhibit, Ms. Bouvier was named MIAA Wellness Coordinator of the Year. Also, Dr. Bodie informed us that former Arlington High School Hockey Coach's Mr. Richard DeCaprio and Mr. Bob Chebator were inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Massachusetts State Hockey Coaches Association. Dr. Bodie said she appreciated the graduation ceremony and the awards of all the teachers chosen by the students.

Mr. Thielman moved to name the library of the Thompson School after William E. Shea, a longtime member of the Permanent Town Building Committee, a driving force behind the effort to rebuild Arlington's elementary schools, and devoted advocate for quality education for our town's young people, seconded Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures - Mr. Pierce said he would hold a meeting and will review the Redistricting policy and review section J of the Policy Manual, as well as CBI, and CBI E, Superintendent's Evaluation and Tool.

Budget, C. Starks- Nothing to report

Community Relations, L. Heigham-Nothing to report.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability-Mr. Thielman said he will meet with Dr. Bodie and the World Language Director to explore Elementary Languages and will wait until new Assistant Superintendent is in place before doing this.

Facilities, W. Hayner-hope to meet in the fall.

Kindergarten Advisory Committee-W. Hayner-Nothing to report.

Legal Services Review, Chair- K. Allison-Ampe said she would like to report on what the School Committee had voted in Executive Session at the last meeting on June 7, 2012 to appeal Mass. DLR Case No. MUP-08-5361, and said the vote should be part of the public record, but Dr. Ampe did not have the roll call vote at hand on whether to appeal Mass. DLR Case No. MUP-08-5361.

Mr. Thielman moved the 10 o'clock rule to 11 o'clock, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-1, Ms. Heigham voting No.

Mr. Hayner moved that the School Committee vote to approve him to attend the MASC/MASS Conference starting November 7th and to pay for the conference now to save on the early registration cost, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-1, Dr. Ampe vote No.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Warrant: Warrant: #12170, Dated June 7, 2012, Total Warrant Amount \$812,403.32

Approval of School Committee Minutes: none

- Approval for Mandarin Teacher Awarded to AHS, 2012-2013

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported on all correspondence received: Legal update spreadsheet, Enrollment June 1, 2012, Letters on 2012 not to participate in School Choice to DESE, Ida Robbins Scholarship letter to W. Sullivan, two letters from William E. Shea, emails from Dr. Bodie on Stratton Appointment, Dallin Appointment, emails on Redistricting concerns, Mr. Eckhardt, Boston Globe Article on Ed Burns Tournament, email from Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Summary of June 7, 2012 Redistricting Plan.

Executive Session

Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session at 10:49 pm 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. To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental

effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and to Vote to Approve: Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer and Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director's contract and to exit for the purpose to vote, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Roll Call: unanimous

Mr. Hayner moved to exit out of Executive Session at 10:59 pm, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Roll Call: Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Hayner, Ms. Starks, Mr. Thielman, Mr. Pierce, Ms. Heigham, and Dr. Allison-Ampe all voting Yes.

Ms. Heigham moved the 10 o'clock rule to 11:05, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Heigham moved to accept and to approve the recommendation of Dr. Bodie and approve the Contract for Interim Special Education Director, Kathleen Lockyer Contract, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 5-2, Mr. Hayner and Mr. Pierce voting No.

Ms. Heigham moved to add a Special School Committee Meeting, on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Arlington School Committee Room, 6th Floor for purpose, if necessary to approve the Contract of Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjourn

Ms. Stark moved to adjourn at 11:02 pm seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee*