



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 09/13/2012**

*Approved by the Arlington School Committee October 11, 2012*

*Arlington School Committee  
Regular School Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 13, 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, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.*

*Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President, and Student Representatives: Amanda Clayton and Eric Cheng and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant*

*Absent: Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director*

*Ms. Johnson arrived at 7:19 p.m. and exited at 8:45 p.m.*

*Mr. Schlichtman arrived at 7:46 p.m.*

*Ms. Hanson and Student Reps exited the meeting at 8:45 p.m.*

### *Opening Remarks*

*Dr. Allison-Ampe opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to a new school year and welcomed new student representatives, Ms. Amanda and Mr. Eric both seniors of Arlington High School. Dr. Allison-Ampe informed the committee that Mr. Pierce would be absent due to a family member's illness and Ms. Johnson would be arriving late due to attending a Capital Planning meeting. Mr. Schlichtman will also be late due to a previous work related commitment.*

### *Public Participation*

*Ms. Melissa Tintocalis thanked the School Committee members for taking time to explore an elementary language program here in Arlington.*

*Mark Rosenthal, Arlington Resident provided each School Committee member with a document he wrote up Tracking the Effectiveness of Buffer Zones in the New Redistricting Plan.*

### *Superintendent Report*

*Dr. Kathleen Bodie informed the members that Community Education website is up and is offering afterschool Language based courses. Dr. Bodie said that opening day went well in all grades. Student representatives, Eric Cheng and Amanda Clayton agreed that the transition from summer to school went smoothly due to great teachers, and due to the community spirit at the high school and spoke positively of painting updates in the café and gym which were done over the summer. Dr. Bodie invited Chief Technology Officer, David Good to speak on all of IT updates which took place over the summer, including installation of wireless internet at Ottoson Middle School and all elementary*

*schools, the high school needs additional testing and work, two new firewalls, replaced network switches, I pads at Stratton, Thompson, Hardy and Bishop and Special Education too, video cameras were installed at the high school for additional security, upgrades at the high school media labs, music lab, CAD lab as well as projectors at most elementary schools classrooms.*

*Dr. Bodie spoke on the professional development that went on over the summer on curriculum core and common core standards which the MCAS for 2013 will be half of and in 2014 the full MCAS will be on the complete common core standards.*

*Dr. Bodie reported on facility updates at the Stratton School on installation of black top on the drive, and in the yard and the Ottoson Middle School library received new carpeting.*

*Dr. Bodie provided the School Committee with the enrollment numbers as of September 13<sup>th</sup>.*

#### Staffing and Relocation Updates

*Mr. Spiegel spoke on the staffing and relocation of personnel and said the numbers look high but 45-50 people resigned due to family, spouse relocations, medical issues, jobs in other districts, career changes, or hiring internal Teacher Assistants to Teaching positions. Mr. Spiegel thanked all the staff on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor for providing new hire letters, new staff listings, benefits information, and setting each new employee into the payroll. Mr. Spiegel informed the School Committee members that the Diversity Report will be provided to them at a later date.*

*Mr. Hayner asked if any positions were still open and Mr. Spiegel said that there were a few.*

#### Update on Thompson Rebuild

*Ms. Johnson said the Thompson School is on schedule and should open as expected.*

#### Approval of Arlington Administrator Association Contract

*Mr. Thielman motion to approve the Arlington Administrator Association Contract as presented, seconded by Ms. Heigham.*

*Voted: 5-0*

#### District Goals

*Mr. Thielman presented the policy BA-E Overarching Goals of the Arlington Public Schools to the full School Committee and said the committee had worked on these at the workshops.*

*Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested inserting "impact of taxpayer dollars" to paragraph three.*

*Dr. Bodie said she supports the District Goals, as does the Administration Team. Kathy will provide support to the goals over the next four weeks.*

#### Monthly Financial Report

*Ms. Johnson provided the Financial Reports for September 2012 and said that the School Committee would need to vote the Budget Transfer Summary numbers at the next School Committee meeting. Mr. Thielman had asked her when the actuals would be made available, and Ms. Johnson said she can provide that by October 1, 2012.*

#### Report from Kindergarten Advisory Committee.

*Mr. Hayner, Chair of the Subcommittee said the Kindergarten Advisory Committee was formed by the Arlington School Committee and charged to assess the following:*

- 1.~the cost of full day kindergarten*
- 2.~the benefits of full day kindergarten*
- 3.~acceptance of the Kindergarten Grant*
- 4.~structures by which other communities offer full day kindergarten*

*The committee consisted of Mr. Hayner, Chair, Parents: Ruthellyn Jacob, Dolores McGee, Brendan O'Day, Farhana Riaz, Administration: Deb D'Amico, and Julie Dunn. The committee met eight times assigning tasks, and reporting back. Several meetings began with public participation, which will be part of the overall report. The full report will be provided online in a few weeks.*

#### Revisiting Kindergarten Tuition and Chapter 70 Aid

Ms. Johnson provided the Mass Budget video which explain the modifications to the Chapter 70 formula. Ms. Johnson also provided a power point presentation on Kindergarten Fees, Chapter 70 Funding and the Good News for Arlington. Ms. Johnson reported that by eliminating Kindergarten fees, allows Arlington Public Schools to increase enrollment which means more Chapter 70 Aid. If Arlington does not collect Kindergarten fees for 2012-2013 school year then the enrollment drives next year's Chapter 70 funding. Ms. Johnson did inform the committee, unfortunately, that only Kindergarten tuition fees are impacted by Chapter 70 funding and all other fees will remain the same this school year.

Dr. Bodie thanked the committee and said in late spring and over the summer the State Aid Formula had changed which benefited Arlington. Dr. Bodie had meet with Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan, Deputy Town Manager, Alan Tosti, Charlie Foskett, Alan Jones and members of the Finance Committee to confirm, discuss and agree to offset Kindergarten fees for this year.

Ms. Starks reported that the Budget Subcommittee meet on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 and discussed the numbers and the Chapter 70 situation and would like to bring forth the following motion:

**Ms. Starks Motion to:**

- **Suspend policy JFABA which refers to kindergarten fees**
- **Direct policies and procedures to make recommendations to revise JFABA**
- **Immediately refund all fees collected for kindergarten for the 12/13 school year and begin processing immediately**
- **As of Friday, September 14, 2012 kindergarten for the 12/13 school year will be a free, full day program**
- **Direct the superintendent to inform all kindergarten parents of this change, Seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes Voted: 6-0, Mr. Pierce, absent**

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports  
Policies & Procedures

Due to Mr. Pierce's absence, Mr. Thielman submitted the following two policies to the full School Committee for a First Reading: ECD Green Cleaning and EEAJ Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds. These two policies are necessary for Thompson School Funding.

Mr. Thielman read the following policies as a first read: FA/FB/FBB Facilities Planning, JC Assignment of Student to Schools/Buffer Zones/Open Enrollment and JC-E Buffer Zones-Open Enrollment Guidelines and requested that anyone who has a public comment on these should come to the next meeting with a proposal. Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested including some old language in the new proposed policies, especially on open enrollment students staying in the open enrollment school for duration of elementary grades and language regarding, if redistricting occurred what would happen to the open enrolled students. Dr. Allison-Ampe also suggested modifying the word "district" in the policies.

**Ms. Starks motioned to approve "That the School Committee pass a resolution to require that the Arlington Public Schools requires ENERGY STAR equipment and appliances, where available, for all new purchase for the school and to prohibit the purchases of low efficiency products, including halogen torchieres,, and portable electrical resistance heaters.", seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Mr. Thielman said The Policies and Procedures Subcommittee discussed File CBI and focused on what the time line is to be used in evaluating the Superintendent. "It is our consensus opinion that the School Committee will be evaluating Dr. Bodie based upon the 2011-2012 school year taking into account any and all evidence at all times. Members are within their rights to use further information that becomes available between July and the time of the evaluation as the evaluation is based upon goals but also core competencies."

Budget – no additional meetings planned per Ms. Starks.

Community Relations- no report per Ms. Heigham.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability - Mr. Thielman said the School Committee directed the subcommittee to report on Arlington's School Calendar, no school days and provide survey data.

Facilities – Mr. Hayner said the subcommittee met last Friday and will meet again later in month.

Kindergarten Advisory Committee, Mr. Hayner reported the subcommittee dissolved as of tonight.

Legal Services Review, Dr. Allison-Ampe said they meet in early September.

Chair, Dr. Allison-Ampe said that a salary study group had met and stated that Arlington will change the towns we do a salary schedule comparison with.

### Consent Agenda

Ms. Heigham motioned to approve the following Warrants:

- Warrant # 12175, dated June 14, 2012 in the amount of \$477,724.37
- Warrant# 12180, dated June 28, 2012 in the amount of \$926,301.41
- Warrant # 12186, dated July 12, 2012 in the amount of \$570743.85
- Warrant # 13019, dated August 2, 2012 in the amount of \$198,150.65
- Warrant #13024, dated August 9, 2012 in the amount of \$217,291.83
- Warrant # 13030, dated August 28, 2012 in the amount of \$520,996.74,.

Seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 6-0

### Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported on the ASC Secretary's Report, dated September 13, 2012.

Letters: Re: a Name Change to Youth Villages – Germaine Lawrence Campus from David Hirshberg and Pat Lawler, received September 5, 2012

Copy of letter re: MA-CHPS Requirement from Kathleen Bodie, dated September 4, 2012

Re: a Memorial Sign" from Bill McCarthy, dated August 3, 2012

Emails:

"Save the Date, Jane Howard recognition event" from Brucie Moulton and Miriam Stein, dated August 31, 2012

"Condolences" from Anne Albertazzi, dated August 31, 2012

"Statement Re: Athletic Director" from Kathleen Bodie, dated August 29, 2012

"New Information from the Attorney General on Remote Participation and Intentional Violations" from Glenn Koocher, dated August 23, 2012

"Message to the School Committee" from Bill Hayner, dated August 22, 2012

"Settlement Agreement" from Kathleen Bodie, dated August 17, 2012

"Funeral Service Information for Joan Walsh-Vourenma" from Meg Lim, dated August 16, 2012

"Welcome Back to Arlington High!" newsletter, dated September 2012

Mr. Hayner suggested that the Arlington School Committee grant permission to the letter the School Committee received from Mr. McCarthy, Director of Veterans' Service.

Mr. Thielman motioned to refer the letter dated August 3, 2012 to the Public Memorial Committee, from Mr. William McCarthy, Director of Veterans' Service and to erect the memorial sign for Michael D. Camerlengo by the anniversary date of November 2, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

### Executive Session

Dr. Allison-Ampe motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:45 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.

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.

Vote to Approve:

- Chief Financial Officer
- To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices.

- Below is the list of the executive session minutes, three sections of minutes: 1) already approved but need approval to release 2) draft minutes to be approved and approval to release 3) draft minutes to be approved and will not be released

5/22/07 *Approved - need approval to release*  
 9/25/07 *Approved – need approval to release*  
 10/23/07 *Approved need approval to release*  
 11/13/07 *Approved need approval to release*  
 9/23/08 *Approved– need approval to release*  
 2/24/09 *Approved– need approval to release*  
 6/8/10 *approved and need approval to release*  
 5/25/10 *approved and need approval to release*  
 4/13/10 *approved and approval to release*  
 4/27/10 *approved and approval to release*  
 9/14/10 *approved and need approval to release*  
 2/23/10 *approved and approval to release*  
 2/9/10 *approved and approval to release*  
 6/23/09 *approved and approval to release*

1/26/10 *Draft need approval and approval to release*  
 3/8/11 *Draft need approval and need approval to release*  
 3/22/11 *Draft need approval and need approval to release*  
 5/24/11 *Draft need approval and need approval to release*  
 5/24/11 *Draft Sess 1 need approval and need approval to release*  
 9/22/11 *Draft need approval and need approval to release*  
 10/13/11 *Draft need approval and do not release*  
 11/10/11 *Draft need approval and approval to release*  
 11/17/11 *Draft need approval and approval to release*  
 12/22/11 *Draft need approval and approval to release*  
 6/23/09 *Draft need approval – need approval to release*

4/28/09 *Draft need approval and Do not release*  
 5/12/09 *Draft need approval and Do not release,*  
*And to exit out and return to regular session,*  
*Seconded by Ms. Heigham.*

**Roll Call: Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes**  
**Voted: 6-0, Mr. Pierce, absent**

*Exit out of Executive Session at 9:29 p.m.*

**Ms. Starks motioned to approve the Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Diane Johnson's contract and authorizes the chair to sign it, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

Ms. Heigham motioned to release of the following approved minutes:

5/22/07  
 9/25/07  
 10/23/07  
 11/13/07  
 9/23/08  
 2/24/09  
 6/8/10  
 5/25/10  
 4/13/10  
 4/27/10  
 9/14/10  
 2/23/10  
 2/9/10

6/23/09

seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Vote: 6-0

*Ms. Heigham moved to approve and release the following draft minutes:*

1/26/10

3/8/11

3/22/11

5/24/11

5/24/11

9/22/11

10/13/11

11/10/11

11/17/11

12/22/11

6/23/09

Seconded by Ms. Starks.

Roll Call: Mr. Schlichtman and Mr. Hayner abstained, Ms. Starks Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes,

Vote: 4-0-2

*Ms. Heigham moved to release draft minutes of 1/26/10 and 6/23/09, seconded by Ms. Starks.*

Voted: 6-0

Adjourn

*Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 9:32 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.*

Voted: 6-0

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Karen M. Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Arlington School Committee*