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School Committee Minutes 09/27/2012

Approved by the Arlington School Committee November 15, 2012

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 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, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.*

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Siobhan Foley, AEA Rep and Student Representatives: Ashley Smith and Caroline Merta, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Ms. Cindy Starks, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director

Mr. Schlichtman arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, exited the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Foley exited at 8:35 p.m.

Opening Remarks

*Dr. Allison-Ampe shared the sad news, received by Mr. Curro, informing the community the passing of Mr. Paul Morrison, former Stratton School Council representative and parent of OMS student, and had a moment of silence. Dr. Allison-Ampe read a quote from Daniel Boorstin,
Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.*

Ms. Heigham moved that all items be tabled up until the BA-E Overarching Goals of the Arlington Public Schools, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 5-0

BA-E Overarching Goals of the Arlington Public Schools

Mr. Pierce moved to approve the BA-E Overarching Goals of the Arlington Public Schools, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

***Ms. Heigham was concerned with language motioned to amend the policy, to include edits to last paragraph in Goal 4 : “with other Town officials, and to include before last period “that community is most valuable asset, seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Voted as amended 6-0***

The members voted original motion as amended,

Goal IV: Operations, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

The Arlington Public Schools will be run smoothly, efficiently and professionally. The district will operate transparently and engage in effective collaboration and responsive communication with all stakeholders. It will provide timely, accurate data to support financial decision making, envisioning of the district's future, and long range planning in partnership with other Town officials. Through these actions it will create broad support for a high quality education system, that is the communities most valuable asset.

Voted: 6-0

Ms. Heigham moved to table up until Subcommittee Liaisons Reports, seconded by Mr. Theilman.

Voted: 6-0

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Pierce made the following motions on the Second Readings: ECD Green Cleaning and EEAJ Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds.

Mr. Pierce moved to adopt policy ECD Green Cleaning, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0

Mr. Pierce moved to adopt policy EEAJ Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0

Mr. Pierce moved to revise and adopt FA/FB/FBB Facilities Planning, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

Mr. Hayner moved to direct the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee to review the Nutrition Policy, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

Mr. Hayner moved to take off tabled agenda items, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

Public Participation

None

Diversity Hiring Report

Mr. Rob Spiegel spoke on the data included on the Diversity Minority Hiring Report dated September 27, 2012 that Payroll Director, Julia McLaughlin provided to the School Committee members. Mr. Spiegel made the committee members aware of all that Arlington Public Schools is doing to increase diversity in Arlington, and feels we are making progress by having at the Superintendent Diversity Subcommittee, supporting Today's Students, Tomorrow Teachers program and holding Diversity Job Fairs here in Arlington.

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie provided the School Committee members with the minutes from three previous Thompson Elementary Project Meetings and said the committee will again meet next week and will continue to keep the committee informed of all updates.

Preliminary District Goals for 2012-2013.

Dr. Bodie presented the Overarching Goals of the Arlington Public Schools by a power point presentation. Dr. Bodie would like the School Committee to provide her with their direction to the goals, and to meet with the Accountability, Curriculum, Instruction Subcommittee, and if anyone has comments or would like to add sub goals, please send to Dr. Bodie or Mr. Thielman.

Professional Development update

Dr. Chesson presented the Summer Professional Development 2012 power point and gave an Overview to the School Committee members of all the offerings for 2012.

The committee members were impressed with all the professional development being offered to teachers and said this would be a great asset to new teachers being hired by Arlington.

Plato Software Initiative

Dr. Chesson provided additional information to the School Committee on Plato Learning Systems, and gave an overview of the system on online education here in Arlington. The focus would be High School General and Special Education, in all major subjects and some elective areas, and for students in Grade 5,6, 7 in Special Education classes, especially for Math. The goal would be to expand this to tutoring and for home-bound illnesses students, as well as to provide acceleration for student in

middle school math classes and for additional offerings at high school not currently available.

The committee suggested that Dr. Chesson provide them with a cost analysis of the Plato Software Initiative to replacing home tutors and Ms. Chesson said she is continuing to look at all areas of intervention and cost to the district. Ms. Foley, AEA Rep and teacher would like to see Grade 3 and 4 teachers included in this program.

EDCO Advisory Council appointment

Mr. Thielman moved to appoint Mr. Hayner to the EDCO Advisory Council, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 6-0

Superintendent Evaluation Schedule

Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested to the School Committee to vote new meeting schedule for the month of November, due to the MASC/MASS Conference and proposed the Superintendent Evaluation Timeline to include the Superintendent to update her report, the School Committee members submit Committee questions to the chair by October 18, 2012, and on October 25, 2012 the previously submitted questions will be read in public with the Superintendent providing written response to question, and providing additional supporting information. The School Committee will meet November 15, 2012 and will hold the Formal Superintendent Evaluation by School Committee, per CBI and CBI-E. On November 29, 2012 the School Committee will hold a Special School Committee Meeting.

Vote new meeting schedule

Mr. Hayner moved to change the date of the November 8th School Committee meeting to Thursday, November 15, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 5-0

Mr. Hayner moved to hold a Special School Committee meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 5-0

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie reported that Citizens Bank in Arlington Heights had been robbed and the schools were alerted by the Arlington Police and continued to provide close communications on the issue. Dr. Bodie said six students are choosing to go ½ days and that the School Committee should review the Kindergarten Policy for next year. Dr. Bodie said the MCAS Update will be given at the next School Committee Meeting, and that the elementary students will have an Early Release day on October 2, 2012.

Subcommittees

Budget, Ms. Starks will be planning a meeting soon.

Community Relations, Ms. Heigham had nothing to report.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, Mr. Thielman will be scheduling a meeting to review draft goals, and a survey on school calendar.

Facilities, Mr. Hayner said no meetings are scheduled but has had two meetings.

Legal Services Review, Dr. Allison-Ampe said she is continuing to gather data.

Chair, Dr. Allison-Ampe made the following two motions:

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to authorize the Facilities Subcommittee to discuss the request of the Sunshine Nursery School for temporary space for the school year 2013-14, and potential impacts or alternatives, and to report back their recommendations to the full School Committee by the first meeting in February 2013 or before, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 5-0

Mr. Hayner moved to authorize the Facilities Subcommittee to research the issue of the 200 year-old Linden tree on Mill Street and alternatives being discussed by the Town's Tree committee, and to report back Facilities' recommendations to the full School Committee meeting in February 2013 or before, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 5-0

Consent Agenda

Ms. Heigham moved the Approval of Warrant # 13036, Dated September 11, 2012, Total Warrant Amount \$428,156.46, and Minutes for Approval: Regular School Committee Meetings May, 24, 2012 and June 14, 2012 and Vote to continue to Suspend policy JFABA, Kindergarten Fee Policy, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 5-0

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham provided the following report on all correspondence received:

Letters:

- Letter to Kindergarten Parents/Guardians from Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D., dated September 14, 2012
- Copy of letter to Mr. Alexander Salipante, Chairman of the Public Memorial Committee from Kirsi Allison-Ampe, MD, dated September 14, 2012
- Copy of a letter to Parents, Guardians, and Community Members from Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D., dated September 14, 2012
- Letter from Geraldine N. Pedrini, Director of the Sunshine Nursery School, dated September 18, 2012
- Letter regarding the "Stewards of Children Kick Off in August" from Amy Gamache Turner, Executive Director of the North Suburban YMCA, dated September 24, 2012

● Emails:

- "Re: [arlington] K Fees" from Nicole, dated September 14, 2012
- "Fwd: PRESS RELEASE: 10th Grade MCAS Scores Reach All-Time High as Patrick-Murray Administration Celebrates 15 Years of Improved Performance Among Massachusetts Students" from JC Considine, Director of Board & Media Relations MA DESE, dated September 21, 2012
- "sad news" from Joseph A. Curro, Jr., dated September 25, 2012

- Arlington High School Newsletter, dated September 17, 2012

Executive Session

Ms. Heigham moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:35 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 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 Approval of Draft Minutes: from Executive Session: January 12, 2012, February 9, 2012, March 1, 2012, March 8, 2012, March 22, 2012, April 12, 2012, April 26, 2012, May 10, 2012, May 24, 2012, June 14, 2012, and September 13, 2012 and to exit only for the purpose for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Roll Call: Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Ms. Leba Heigham, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes, Mr. William Hayner Yes, and Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes.

Vote: 5-0 unanimous

Adjourn

Ms. Heigham moved to exit out of Executive Session at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Ms. Leba Heigham, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes, Mr. William Hayner Yes, and Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes.

Vote: 5-0 unanimous

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 5-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee