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School Committee Minutes 10/11/2012

Approved by the Arlington School Committee November 15, 2012

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 11, 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, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.*

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Siobhan Foley, AEA Rep and Student Representatives: Jennifer and Shannon, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director

Mr. Thielman arrived at 6:46 p.m.

Ms. Johnson arrived at 7:25 p.m. and exited at 9:23 p.m.

Student reps exited at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Foley exited at 9:14 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe congratulated Arlington Public Schools and Dr. Bodie on received the 3-year grant from the Department of Education, Success and also informed the committee that Mr. Thielman had written an article on Five Big Ideas on Education and it was featured in the Boston Globe Magazine on Sunday, October 7th, 2012.

Public Participation

None

Community Education Overview

Ms. Donna Eidson, Director of Community Education provided the full School Committee with a power point presentation on Arlington Community Education “Try Something New Today” and spoke on the mission, enrollment numbers and revenues. Some of the programs for students K-12 and adult included KidZone, after school enrichment, GoLingo after school language, Club Invention weeklong science and technology, and SummerFun education and enrichment programs. Due to the growth of Community Education, Ms. Eidson has asked the School Committee to approve two Job Descriptions which will become part of the Arlington Education Association, Unit C, Secretarial Contract. They are Accounting Coordinator and Registrar.

The School Committee members asked about funding for Community Education and Ms. Eidson responded that it is self-supporting. The committee members were impressed with programs being offered, and Mr. Pierce will attend the program with

Mr. Tom Putnam, Director of the JFK Library, with David Whitford.

Mr. Thielman moved to approve Two New Job Descriptions: Accounting Coordinator and Registrar for Community Education Department to become part of AEA, Unit C, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

MCAS Data Update

Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, provided the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Analysis for 2012, which included the Districts overall success, Assessment measures, Accountability measures and Planned responses to Accountability and Assessment data.

During the presentation the committee members asked Dr. Chesson question on the measures of the student data, and how teachers are to be held accountable. Dr. Chesson said teachers are in line with teaching the common core, walk through are being done and teacher feedback is given, and said she will continue to share additional data during the school year with the School Committee.

Technology Update

Dr. Laura Chesson, provided the Technology Update report dated October 10, 2012 from David Good.

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer provided the Monthly Reports, along with the FY 13 Revised Funding Summary and the FY 13 Budget Transfer Detail Revised reported dated October 7, 2012.

The committee members discussed the financial numbers and were commenting on collection of money from home districts on group home students who attend Arlington Schools. Ms. Johnson and Dr. Bodie said they have been involved in many discussions on this and said the only way to change how things are done is by a legislative process.

After the discussion, Ms. Johnson asked the School Committee members to vote and approve to accept change to FY 13 Budget.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Revised FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary on the

Elementary Total from 10,726,332 to 11,176,017

Secondary Total from 11,141,681 to 11,578,650

Special Education Total from 15,611,886 to 15,827,271

Curriculum & Instruction Total from 1,352,499 to 1,409,978

Administration Total from 3,681,511 to 2,601,942

Other Total (Facilities, IT and Transportation) from 5,853,675 to 5,849,842 and

Bring new numbers forward to reflect Revolving & Town Appropriation Total

from 48,367,583 to 48,443,70, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0, Unanimous

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Ms. Diane Johnson said a sculpture of a Pineapple was put up at the site of the Thompson School, which symbolizes – Welcome! Ms. Starks asked why lights were being left on during the night at the Thompson School and Ms. Johnson said to avoid theft of materials. Ms. Johnson did report that the main section of the school building will be closed in for the winter months, to continue work on it, but the gym might not be enclosed for the winter, but all that would be at the builders expense. Dr. Bodie informed the committee members that all efforts are being done to raise money for books and the naming of the Library after Mr. Shea.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Kathleen Bodie announced Arlington Public Schools was awarded Federal Grant for Expanded Elementary Counseling Programs which is a \$1.1 million three-year grant from the US Department of Education to fund Project S.U.C.C.E.S.S., an initiative to expand counseling services in the elementary schools. Thanked the contribution of two fathers from the Ottoson Middle School who fundraised enough money to fix the scoreboard in the gym. Dr. Bodie reported on building issues the past month at the Hardy and Bishop School and also spoke on the issue of the 77 Bus arriving late along for the Ottoson Middle School students to arrive on time.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures Mr. Pierce said he will hold a subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. regarding

policy and guidelines on redistricting, and review file J and the new nutritional policy.

Budget Ms. Starks said the Budget Subcommittee suggested that we add an additional meeting in December on Thursday, December 20th at 5:30 to discuss budget priorities.

Ms. Starks moved to vote an additional School Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Starks moved to vote the Budget Calendar draft for FY 2014 as presented, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Starks also pointed out that the Budget Subcommittee will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Community Relations, Ms. Heigham has nothing to report.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, Mr. Thielman said he will hold a Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss District Goals, revision of goals and timeline, as well as review evidence of success.

Facilities, Mr. Hayner asked the School Committee for direction on a similar request made by Dr. Flynn, at 22 Mill Street for use of land, and also about space needs for Sunshine Nursery School.

Ms. Heigham moved to direct the Chair to respond to letter from William Flynn, MD on behalf of Board of Directors of the 22 Mill Street, to affirm prior decision around holding onto parcel of land, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0.

Legal Services Review, Dr. Allison-Ampe has nothing to report.

Chair, Dr. Allison-Ampe has nothing to report.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Heigham moved Approval of Warrant # 13045 Dated September 27, 2012, Total Warrant Amount \$1,130,719.88 and Minutes for Approval: Regular School Committee Meetings September 13, 2012 and Special School Committee Meeting, FY 13 Budget Public Hearing, March 1, 2012 and voted to continue to Suspend policy JFABA, Kindergarten Fee Policy, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 5-2-0, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Schlichtman abstained.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported on all correspondence received:

Letters:

Copy of letter to Members of the Redistricting Advisory Committee from Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D., dated September 27, 2012

Letter from William F. Flynn Jr., M.D., regarding "undeveloped land parcel outside rear high school gate," dated September 27, 2012

Letter regarding the death of Ms. Mary Meskeil from Richard S. Greco, Retirement Administrator, dated October 1, 2012

Press Release regarding "Arlington Public Schools Awarded Federal Grant for Expanded Elementary Counseling Programs," dated October 2, 2012

Emails:

Copy of email "Re: 22 Mill Street, Arlington, MA" from Cindy Starks, then Chair of the Arlington School Committee, dated March 5, 2012

Bracket School Newsletter, dated October 1, 2012

Executive Session

Ms. Heigham moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:14 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 discuss Memorandum of Understanding Bus Driver and to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

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

Voted: unanimous

Mr. Hayner moved to exit out of Executive Session at 9:31 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham.

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

Voted: unanimous

Mr. Pierce moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Arlington School Committee and adopt and authorize the MOU and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 93, Local 680 AFL-CIO School Bus Operators, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee