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School Committee Minutes 10/25/2012

Approved by The Arlington School Committee, November 27, 2012

Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 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, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, and Student Representatives

Mr. Pierce exited the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and returned at 7:23 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe welcomed everyone to the meeting and read a quote from the March 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics booklet that each committee member received.

Public Participation

None

NEASC

Ms. Mary Villano, Interim Principal of Arlington High School provided the School Committee members an overview of the NEASC Accreditation and the Meaning of the Accreditation, which it serves the public and the educational community by establishing and maintaining high standards of educational excellence and utilizing evaluation processes which focus on self-improvement through effective peer review. The meaning of accreditation: of public secondary schools by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges indicates that the educational institution has conducted a self-evaluation of all of its programs and hosted a visiting committee to evaluate the institution in terms of its own stated educational goals and the seven Standards for Accreditation of the Commission on Public Secondary Schools.

- *Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations*
- *Curriculum*

- *Instruction*
- *Assessment of and for Student Learning*
- *School Culture and Leadership*
- *School Resources for Learning*
- *Community Resources for Learning*

Mary provided the timeline for Arlington High Schools Accreditation Process to the School Committee members as listed below.

- *School applies for candidacy (2009)*
- *School participates in a three year self-study (2009 – 2012)*
- *School is visited by Team (2012)*
- *Commission will review report submitted by visiting team and determine accreditation status (spring 2013)*
- *AHS will receive final report and status of accreditation with recommendations for improvement sometime in the fall of 2013.*

Math Common Core State Standards

Mr. Matt Coleman, Director of K-12 Math presented the Math Common Core State Standards power point presentation, one which he also presented to EDCO last month with Dr. Chesson. Mr. Coleman handouts included Standards for Mathematical Practice, Math problems and helpful website information.

The committee members were happy to welcome Mr. Coleman to Arlington and appreciated his initiatives, his priorities making sure teachers and standards match up, and liked that he wanted to review other curriculums. Mr. Coleman would like to explore the needs of all 6th, 7th and 8th grader's, and move forward on where these kids can go and what they can access and the what opportunities could be available for some to double up on the math curriculum. Matt also said he wants the focus to be about teaching and to reflect working together on Mathematical knowledge of teaching.

2012-2013 Arlington Public Schools District Goals

Dr. Bodie presented the Arlington Public Schools Overarching Goals of the Arlington Public School and her District Goals for 2012-2013 dated October 25, 2012 to the School Committee.

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Arlington Public Schools District Goals for 2012-2013 developed by the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

The committee members liked the plan for the year and said it was a good strategic plan which goes together and said he likes that we will have one central registration for all student enrollment.

Superintendent Evaluation

Dr. Allison-Ampe said she had forwarded Dr. Bodie the questions she received from committee members and Mr. Pierce read the following questions which will be answered by Dr. Bodie and included in her review evaluation process on Thursday, November 15, 2012.

Questions from Committee

What is the strategy for helping the approximately 13.5% of students who are not at Grade Level in reading by Grade 3?

Goal 1(f) talks about making students aware of opportunities in STEM fields. Is there any conversation taking place within the district of placing students in science-related internships at local companies during high school? ~Is' there any interest in this on the part of the science leadership. ~

Goal 1(h) discusses a plan to offer PSAT to sophomores and juniors on October 17th. How many participated?

Please give an update on the search for a permanent Director of Special Education and a high school Principal.

Please provide a list of ways you have stayed "informed of all aspects of state and national educational activities which have the potential for affecting the Arlington Public Schools." (from CBI-E, part 2)

Please describe the steps you've taken to work "effectively with collective bargaining units to ensure high quality teaching and learning in our schools." (from CBI-E, part 4)

What are the top 3 things you accomplished in this evaluation period?

What have you fallen short of?

What will you do to correct?

Give 3 specific examples of how you have successfully communicated with stakeholders?

What are you doing that works in this regard,
what would you like to do better?

Give 3 specific examples of curriculum improvements that have been positively received by staff and students.

How has your leadership improved the culture and implementation of differentiated instruction in the classroom?

Who are the people you evaluate and what were the dates that their evaluations were completed during the 2011 – 2012 year?

Provide your timeline for the Special Education Director search.

Provide your timeline for the High School Principal Search.

What protocols have you implemented regarding confidentiality in the school system?

Give your evaluation of these protocols

How has the Reading response to intervention program been evaluated for success?

How are you ensuring that all staff at all levels are receiving performance reviews on a regular basis?

Although their CPI scores were acceptable, grade 6 and 7 had very low SGP scores in Mathematics in 2011-12 for all students, and in all subgroups.

When, and how, were these scores discussed with subject teachers and leaders?

What action items came from these discussions?

What was the follow-up?

What has changed this past year to improve Special Education communication?

After these questions were read, Dr. Allison-Ampe informed the School Committee members per policy CBI 1 the Superintendent shall be notified by the School Committee members to inform her if they plan to extend the Superintendent's Contract, therefore this will be done on Thursday, November 29, 2012.

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Pierce presented the policies below:

First Reading: JC Assignment of Student to Schools/Buffer Zones/Open Enrollment and
JC-E Buffer Zones-Open Enrollment Guidelines

After the policies were read, it was understood that the Subcommittee will hold an additional meeting and make all corrections/edits the committee proposed and bring back to the full committee at the next meeting for a second reading.

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie provided the committee with the last Thompson Elementary School Project Meeting dated October 10, 2012.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie congratulated Cindy Bouvier, Director of Wellness and Counseling, on being named the 2012 MIAA Wellness Coordinator of the Year. ~The award was presented to Cindy at the MIAA Wellness Summit last Friday in Westborough. Dr. Bodie announced Michael D. Camerlengo Memorial which will be held Friday, November 2, 2012 at noon here in front of Arlington High School. Dr. Bodie also announced the Veteran's Day Parade at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2012 and the Press Release for the National Merit on 21 high school students.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Budget, C. Starks said nothing to report.

Community Relations, L. Heigham said she will be setting up a meeting soon.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, J. Thielman said the committee met and worked on the Goals and heard a report from the Language Immersion group.

Facilities W. Hayner said nothing to report.

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

Chair, K. Allison-Ampe suggested revising the meeting schedule and the following motions were made:

Ms. Starks moved that the School Committee change the date of the first meeting in December from December 13th, 2012 to December 6th, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe said she would like to spread out the meetings in December.

Ms. Starks moved the Budget Calendar be modified to substitute the date of December 6th, 2012 for November 29th 2012, so item reads; December 6th, Hear from principals and department heads on priorities for next year, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Consent Agenda

Ms. Heigham moved to remove from Consent Agenda the line "to continue to suspend policy JFABA, Kindergarten Fee Policy", seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Pierced moved to approve the consent agenda: for the approval of Warrant # 13052 Dated October 11, 2012, Total Warrant Amount \$465,625.59 and minutes for Approval: None, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported on all correspondence received to the School Committee office:

Letters:

- 2nd copy of letter regarding "a memorial sign in memory of Michael D. Camerlengo" from Bill McCarthy, President of Arlington Combined Veterans Council, dated August 3, 2012

- 2nd copy of letter to Mr. Alexander Salipante, Chairman of the Public Memorial Committee regarding “a memorial sign for Michael D. Camerlengo” from Kirsi Allison-Ampe, MD, dated September 14, 2012
- Copy of letter to Kevin Greeley regarding “rent the space in the basement of the Stratton School” from Geraldine N. Pedrini, Director of the Sunshine Nursery School, dated September 18, 2012
- Copy of letter to Mr. Kevin Greeley regarding “a request to erect a memorial sign” from Alexander J. Salipante, dated October 4, 2012
- Copy of letter to Ms. Geraldine N. Pedrini, Director of Sunshine Nursery School, regarding “renting space in the basement of Stratton School” from Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent of Schools, dated October 9, 2012
- Letter regarding a M.A.S.C./M.A.S.S. Conference reception from MURPHY, HESSE, TOOMEY & LEHANE, LLP, dated October 11, 2012
- Press Release regarding “Arlington High School Students Named National Merit Commended Scholars and Semifinalists in 2013 Competition,” dated October 15, 2012
- Memorandum regarding “Michael D. Camerlengo Memorial,” from Marie Krepelka, Board Administrator, dated October 18, 2012
- Letter regarding “Veterans’ Day Parade” from Bill McCarthy, Director of Veterans’ Services, dated October 24, 2012
- Letter regarding “SP4 Michael D. Camerlengo Memorial Dedication, Friday, November 2, 2012 at 12:00 pm” from Bill McCarthy, Director of Veterans’ Services
- Emails:
 - Copy of email “Celebrate the Spy Pond Mural!, Sunday, November 11 at 2pm at Linwood Circle” from David Ardito, dated October 23, 2012
- Bracket School Newsletter, dated October 15, 2012

Executive Session

Ms. Heigham moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:00 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 exit out only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjourn

Ms. Hayner moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

*Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee*