



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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School Committee Minutes 01/10/2013

Approved by Arlington School Committee February 28, 2013

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A,
Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:*

**Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2013
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, Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President, Ben Garrahan, Student Representative, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: AAA representative

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 9:10 p.m. and returned at 9:16 p.m.

Ms. Starks exited the meeting at 9:14 and returned 9:15 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe opened the meeting with student handbook protocols.

Public Participation

Mr. Chris Gaither, Arlington parent, wanted to inform the School Committee he wants to keep the Bilingual World Language Immersion Program on the table and wanted to inform everyone on the benefits to Arlington for providing this program.

Special Education Proposals

Kathleen Lockyer, Special Education Director, Ben Halfet and Chris Carlson, Karen Hartley Pierce Principal and other special education teachers, spoke about the Special Education Planning for 2013 -2014. Ms. Lockyer presented the power point on the plan and discussed the programming and budget implications of the new approach to deliver elementary services at each elementary school. Ms. Lockyer also presented the administrative reorganization chart for the Special Education Office for next year.

The committee was concerned with the concept of the Special Education plan and had questions on who would do evaluations, what motivated the new structure, would like to see data from co-teaching and also asked about having equity at each of the schools including Pierce. When asked if the new Special Education Director we hire would be on board with this change, Dr. Bodie said this proposal was not just a Special Education proposal but the Central Team and all Administration agree with this plan, and said it was data driven.

Dr. Ampe welcomed AEA rep, Linda Hanson and student representative Ben Garrahan to the meeting.

Discussion of School Committee priorities for FY 14 Budget

Ms. Johnson said The FY14 Budget represents the second full cycle within the multi-year fiscal plan supported by the override vote in June of 2011. Part of the proposal to the taxpayers of Arlington was the expectation that the School Department would receive a 3.5% increase on its annual appropriation, with an additional 3.5% on Special Education costs. And For FY14, the Town is recommending an amount of \$47,675,113 as the appropriation for the School Department. This number also includes the \$970,000 Kindergarten Fee offset voted by Town Meeting in October of 2012.

Mr. Thielman moved that the Arlington School Committee acknowledges The School Departments request, of \$47,675,113 for the FY14 Town appropriation, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Bodie explained some of the District Need changes on the spread sheet and said adjusting some of the needs were important especially in Math.. Ms. Starks wants to continue the level of priorities at the next Budget Subcommittee meeting and asked members to bring ideas to her. The committee continued to review the District needs as listed by Tier. Committee members wanted to know what is being reduced, what new programs would cost or are they cost neutral, wanted to increase substitute salaries and enrollment numbers and what each would mean to the budget.

Overview of Educator Evaluation Pilot

Dr. Bodie informed the committee that Dr. Laura Chesson and Ms. Linda Hanson had prepared the Educator Evaluation Development System power point and are heading up the Educator Evaluation Task Force meetings, where they have scheduled over 15 meetings over the school year to teach teachers and others on how to do the evaluations.. They presented the power point on what has been going on with the tasks force meetings and the committee is continuing the preliminary discussion of indicators & evidence if which would be included in the Evaluation Pilot. They are very confident that the process being made will be worthy, and are way ahead of other towns.

The School Committee will need to review policies on the evaluations and would need this all done by June of this year.

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Johnson presented the monthly reports and committee had a few questions on variances , tuition to other schools and legal costs. Ms. Johnson provided the financial information each requested and Dr. Bodie said certain legal costs should not be discussed in open session.

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie said the builders were two weeks behind but said everything is moving fine and will be completed by end of June and the fundraising for Books for Bill should exceed their goal of \$50,000.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie presented a video made from teachers and students from AHS History Department on Ruanda, and noted that AHS was one of semifinalist for the 2013 Grammy Signature Foundation which recognized schools making commitment to music education during the school year. Dr. Bodie thanked the OMS parents who worked to raise funds for a new basketball scoreboard. Dr. Bodie informed the committee that the cost for an additional school bus for the OMS students currently taking MBTA buses would cost over 300.00 each school day and one would not be available. Dr. Allison-Ampe continues to work with MBTA and Representative Garballey on the issue. Dr. Bodie said possible four seats might be available and to continue the transportation director a.s.a.p. if interested. . Dr. Bodie provided an update on the hiring process for the three administrative positions, and provided updates to the registration for students for next year, and informed everyone on the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration January 21, 2013 at Town Hall.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Pierce moved to adoption of policy JLCE Nutrition and Wellness Policy, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 6-0-1, Dr. Allison-Ampe abstained.

Budget , Ms. Starks said she would meet with the Budget Subcommittee committee and put together their budget

priority recommendations and present this at the next School Committee meeting.

Community Relations, Ms. Heigham said the subcommittee had met back in December and at their next meeting the subcommittee will discuss dash board, early release days and parent conference dates. Ms. Heigham will make the following appointments at the next meeting for Appointment to Cultural Commission and to the Appointment to Human Rights Commission.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability, Mr. Thielman had no meetings.

Facilities, Mr. Hayner had a meeting with Dr. Bodie and that she will provide a written report and do a presentation on January 24, 2013 School Committee meeting.

Legal Services Review, Dr. Allison-Ampe said she will set up a meeting to review legal documents.

Chair, Dr. Allison-Ampe sent out all letters to our local legislators on gun control, and spoke to members at the MBTA on the bus issues on Mass Avenue in the morning.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: *Approval of Warrant # 13091 Dated, December 20, 2012, Total Warrant Amount \$1,409,138.05, and the *Minutes for Approval: November 27, 2012, December 6, 2012, and pull November 15, 2012 seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Hayner wanted to amend the motion to include ACMI video into the minutes of November 15, 2012 for approval but withdrew the motion.

Secretary's Report

All correspondence received:

Letter regarding "Budget Requests for FY14 and Future Fiscal Years," from Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools, dated December 3, 2012

Copy of letter contributing to the Arlington School Department from Michael Lueders, President, Lueders Environmental, Inc., dated December 10, 2012

Copy of letter regarding "Bridget Kelly's Finalist Essay's inclusion in the booklet 'Sportsmanship: A Game Plan For Life, Volume XII,'" from Peter Smith, Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc., dated December 13, 2012

Copies of letters regarding "stringent gun control and enhanced mental health support" from Kirsy Allison-Ampe, MD, Chair, Arlington School Committee on behalf of the Arlington School Committee, dated December 20, 2012 to: President of the United States of America Barack Obama

United States Senator of Massachusetts John Kerry

United States Senator of Massachusetts Scott Brown

United States Senator of Massachusetts Elizabeth Warren

Governor of Massachusetts Deval Patrick

Congressional Representative Ed Markey

State Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly

State Representative Sean Garballey

State Representative Jay R. Kaufman

State Representative David Rogers

Copy of letter thanking Lueders Environmental, Inc. for their contribution to the Arlington Public Schools, dated December 27, 2012

Letter regarding "monthly tracking reports" from Diane Fisk Johnson, Chief Financial Officer Arlington Public Schools, dated January 4, 2013

Letter regarding "FY14 Appropriation Vote" from Diane Fisk Johnson, Chief Financial Officer Arlington Public Schools, dated January 10, 2013

Letter regarding "The 25th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance scheduled for Monday, January 21, 2013" from The Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee

Copy of letter regarding "Road Maps to Common Core Success," from Virginia B. Edwards, Editor-in-Chief, Education Week, and President, Editorial Projects in Education

Season's Greetings Card from the Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian Family

Email regarding "Response from MBTA re: bus issues" from Thea Frost, dated December 22, 2012

Email regarding "Another response re: MBTA" from Thea Frost, dated December 22, 2012

Email regarding "Language Immersion Program" from Nicole, dated January 8, 2013

Email regarding "Monthly Tracking Reports" from Bill Hayner, dated January 9, 2013

Email regarding "Monthly Tracking Reports" from Diane Johnson, dated January 10, 2013

Executive Session

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 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 only to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjourn

Ms. Starks moved to adjourn at 9:57 pm., seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

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