



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 01/12/2012

Approved by Arlington School Committee, March 1, 2012

Arlington School Committee

Thursday, January 12, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Arlington High School

School Committee Room – Sixth Floor

869 Massachusetts Avenue

Arlington, MA 02476

Present: Ms. Cindy Starks, Chair, Dr. Kirsy Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curro, Jr., Ms. Leba Heigham, and Mr. William Hayner.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Interim Director of Special Education AEA Representative, AAA Representative and Student Representative

Ms. Johnson arrived at 7:45 p.m. after attending a Capital Planning Meeting

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 8:44 p.m. and returned?

Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and 8:57 p.m.

Ms. Starks opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Public Participation

Mr. Mark Baranoff, Brackett parent suggested constructive advice to the Redistricting Committee to know what the vision is, needs all data not just five years, and asked what was the goal and what could be a positive resolution and to reply to the letter signed by over 160 families.

Ms. Gami Maislin, Dallin parents spoke on the letter from over 160 parents and said the number is growing and would like to work together and support a plan that would work for over 20 years. (Comments below)

My name is Gami Maislin, I have two kids at Dallin and I have been helping to organize the concerned parents across all of the Arlington districts with respect to the current redistricting effort. I sent you this letter urging greater transparency and more data sharing in the Redistricting process last month representing 135 concerned parents. That letter today represents 163 parents and the number is growing.

So you might be thinking, "What's the deal with attacking the process, all you guys really care about is keeping your kids in their same schools, resisting change and keeping the status quo". I submit that the answer to this question is No.

As difficult as it would be, my husband and I would personally support a solution that solves fundamental problems for Arlington for the good of Arlington students and teachers, even if that meant we would be redistricted. We don't want to force our kids into a school if that means the loss of valuable resources like a music or science room for the whole student body.~ We wouldn't want to fight for our kids staying in one school if that means that the kids across town lose a safe walk to school, or if it means that there is greatly added stress on the amazing teachers. That's why your 4 most affected districts are working together, because we care about each other's children.

We are willing to support a plan that we truly feel is best for the town and its lovely students and dedicated teachers and administrators.~ We are willing to support a plan that is best for Arlington of 20 years in the future when our kids are in College. However, with the information we have been given thus far, we can't thoroughly understand the real underlying problem to begin with nor can we have faith that the decisions are being made with correct data, reasonable predictions, and our most important concerns being taken into account. Please do not permit convenience to erode our confidence—work with us to find creative solutions to keep our children safe, our schools vibrant, and our community spirit strong.

Len Kardon, said he is not affected by redistricting but concerned with the unequal class sizes, and would like more information on buffer zones, and asked for the Redistricting Committee to take a step back and first ask What and Why and then be certain of everything.

Mr. Jay Negro said he does not understand the underlining goals of the Redistricting Committee and the process is not clear. He would like the role of each school representative to be defined and to be clear. Mr. Negro would like the administration to now extend their hand to the community as the community has done with them.

Update on kindergarten tuition resolution and specific remedy report to School Committee

Ms. Heigham moved to table Update on kindergarten tuition resolution and specific remedy report to School Committee until later in meeting, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

DESE New Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Regulations

Dr. Bodie presented the New Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Regulations opportunities and challenges to the School Committee members. Dr. Bodie said this is a major change in the Commonwealth's evaluation process and it is being done to improve teacher quality, which is best for all the students. Dr. Bodie said that teachers should look at this as an opportunity for professional growth.

The committee members discussed how the evaluation processes would be implemented and how this could be part of impact bargaining but the DESE will be providing language around this and that little bargaining would be discussed. It was discussed that this would involve much more administration in the Human Resource office.

FY '13 Budget - Acknowledge Town Funding Amount

Dr. Bodie read the letter from Ms. Johnson, Chief Financial Officer to the School Committee members that the School Department is requesting \$44,642,598 for the FY 13 Town appropriation.

Mr. Curro moved to acknowledge the request of \$44,642,598 for FY 13 Town Appropriation for the School Department, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Approval of Assistant Superintendent's Job Description

Mr. Spiegel asked the School Committee members to approve the updated Job Description of the Assistant Superintendent which Dr. Raemer provided additional input on.

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Assistant Superintendent's Job Description, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Hayner abstained

Mr. Hayner had suggested that the job description include a Master's Degree in Curriculum Instruction, not just a Master's Degree.

Discuss proposing a Warrant Article to Town Meeting to amend Town Bylaw – Title I ARTICLE 21: Municipal Charges Liens to all school fees.

The committee members were discussing which subcommittee should take this amendment back to thier subcommittee for additional discussion and to list all potential fees in in the warrant amendment.

Mr. Thielman moved to Superintendent and Chief Financial Office send a complete list of all potential fees to the Budget Subcommittee and to have the Budget Subcommittee report back at the next meeting on January

26, 2012, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7 – 0

Update on kindergarten tuition resolution and specific remedy report to School Committee

Ms. Heigham moved to untable the update on kindergarten tuition resolution and specific remedy report to the School Committee, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Johnson reported that there remain 33 kindergarten families who have not paid their fees or presented documented proof of financial need. This represents \$81,090 in revenue to the district. Letters went out during the vacation week informing these parents that if full payment is not received by January 20 at 3pm, we will expect them to pick up their child or children at 11am on the day indicated for their school.

Beginning on January 30th with the Bishop School, followed by the Brackett on the 31st, Dallin on February 1st, Hardy on the 2nd, Peirce on the 3rd and finishing with the Stratton and Thompson on February 6th, we will remove the children of non-paying parents from their kindergarten classrooms at 11am. From that day forward, these children will become half day students only, and their parents will be responsible for them after 11am. Should parents fail to pick their children up at the new end of their school day, we will take what actions are necessary to ensure the safe care of the children until their parents can be located. However, they will not be returned to their classrooms.

Ms. Johnson said next year, we are going to change the kindergarten fee collection process. For the first time, deposits equal to 10% of the total fee or completely documented evidence of financial need will be collected at the time of registration in order for a child to be enrolled in a full day kindergarten class. If a deposit or completely documented evidence of financial need is not received, the child will be enrolled in a half day program. If, during the course of the year, parents fail to make scheduled payment within 21 days, their child will be moved to a half day program for the remainder of the year, or until payment is made.

Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT) funding update

Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, recommends that funds from Foreign Visa Accounts be the source of funding of Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers.

Mr. Pierce moved that the School Committee approve Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers funding for FY 12 to be from Foreign Visa Allotment, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie showed the School Committee members Ms. Abbott's classrooms flag, which is being flying proudly in Antarctica. Dr. Bodie invited everyone to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Town Hall on Monday, January 16, 2012. Dr. Bodie said she heard from many parents on redistricting and said the goal of redistricting is that every elementary school have Art, Science, and a Music room and to reduce crowding. The School Committee charged Dr. Bodie to redistrict and asked for an advisory committee for her, not for the School Committee. The committee members discussed data that has been received around redistricting and said community members are challenging this data. Committee members suggested that Dr. Bodie update the FAQ on our website and state the purpose behind redistricting.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Pierce said a discussion was had on the merger of the two departments and a Memorandum of Understanding would be put together on a merger with the Town and School Human Resources Department after Dr. Bodie's meeting with Mr. Brian Sullivan and presented to the School Committee members at the next meeting.

Ms. Pierce presented the First Reading: JKAA Physical Restraint of Students.

Mr. Pierce said since JLCF policy on Concussions was previously adopted and approved the Policies and Subcommittees wanted to include the Regulations and Forms to the JLCF policy and the codes would read JLCF-R

and JLCF-E respectfully.

Second Readings and vote for approval:

- *BBAA School Committee Member Authority*
- *BDEA School Committee Standing Subcommittees*
- *BDEB School Committee Liaisons to Individual Schools*
- *BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee*
- *BDFC School Councils*
- *BDFB Advisory Committee on High School Athletics*
- *JJIB Interscholastic Athletics*

Mr. Pierce moved to adopt policy BBAA School Committee Member Authority and BDEB School Committee Liaisons to Individual Schools, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Curro moved to adopt and approve BDEA School Committee Standing Subcommittees, as amended by and seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Curro moved to approve BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee with noted change, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Pierce moved to direct~Dr. Bodie to meet with Mary Villano and Ted Dever to discuss creating a Standing Advisory Committee on BDFB Advisory Committee on High School Athletics, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted:~ 6-1, Ms. Heigham voted no.~

Mr. Hayner moved the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee to meet to propose a policy to review policy BEC Executive Session, and when to make the minutes public, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Pierce informed the members that the next Policy and Procedures meeting would be held January 25, 2012 at 7:30 am.

Budget

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe presented the draft APS Budget Timeline for FY 13 dated 1/12/2012.

Mr. Hayner moved to approve the timeline as presented, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0 (Mr. Curro left the room)

Dr. Allison-Ampe and the Budget Subcommittee invited everyone to attend the public forums and announced the following schedule for Parent Public Forms on FY 13 Budget: January 30, 2012 at Arlington High School, Media Center, at 6:30 p.m., February 6, 2012 at the Ottoson Middle School, Cafe, at 6:30 p.m. and February 13, 2012 at the Hardy Elementary School, Gym, at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the Budget Subcommittee's recommendation to recommend to the full School Committee to move the following Warrant for Town Meeting 2012: APPROPRIATION/SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE ACCOUNT to see if the Town will vote to transfer FY 12 unspent special-education funds to the Special Education Reserve Account (No.071), or take any action related thereto. seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the Budget Subcommittee's recommendation to recommend to the full School Committee to move that the cap on the Special Education Reserve Account be \$800,000. seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the Budget Subcommittee's recommendation to recommend to the full School

Committee to move to direct the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer to allocate a circuit breaker amount in budgeting for FY 13 not to exceed the reimbursement amount received in FY 12, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the Budget Subcommittee's recommendation to recommend to the full School Committee to move to assemble an advisory committee on Kindergarten fees, by March 31, 2012, to be comprised of 8 members and one School Committee member: 1 elementary school principal, 1 district administrator, 2 teachers, and four parents, with preference given to current or future kindergarten parents and school diversity. Committee to be charged with reviewing the cost and benefits of full day kindergarten, acceptance of the Kindergarten grant, and structures by which other communities offer full day kindergarten, and report back to the School Committee by no later than the last meeting in May, 2012, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

It was noted by Dr. Allison-Ampe that the Budget Subcommittee recommends Ms. Julie Dunn as the district administrator to the Kindergarten Advisory Committee.

Community Relations

Ms. Heigham moved that the Community Relations Subcommittee recommends to the full School Committee to move to extend our temporary declaration of surplus of the Gibbs School by an additional three years beyond the current surplus term: and furthermore, that we instruct the superintendent to work with town counsel on a submission of any necessary warrant article to enable the extension of current leasing and management arrangement of said property, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Although, this is an additional three years, it becomes 5-year plan because 2 years remain on the lease of the Gibbs School. The committee discussed space needs at the middle school and high school and said they would like to look more closely at the needs of space over the next years and to continue long term planning for the Gibbs.

AHRC appointment

Ms. Heigham moved that the Community Relations Subcommittee recommends to the full School Committee the appointment of Katie D'Urso as the Arlington School Committee representative to the Arlington Human Rights Commission for a three year term, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Heigham will meet again with Community Relations Subcommittee and Director. of Planning to receive feedback on 22 Mill Street and parking spaces before bringing motion forward.

Chair

Ms. Starks said she reviewed the letter Dr. Bodie sent to Dr. Mitchell Chester about opposing the Charter School in Somerville, MA and asked the School Committee to support her in signing this letter and sending it Dr. Chester and to the Somerville School Committee supporting public education.

Mr. Pierce moved to direct the Chair of the School Committee to sign the letter to Dr. Mitchell Chester opposing the Charter School in Somerville, MA, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Thielman abstained

Ms. Starks moved to recommend that Mr. Curro serve on the Five-Year Planning Committee as one of the three School Committee Representatives, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Curro abstained

Ms. Starks welcomed everyone to view ACMI's new shows featuring each of the Elementary Schools in Arlington, MA.

Consent Agenda

- *Approval of Warrant: 12084 dated 12/22/2011 Total Warrant Amount \$873,372.37*

Approval of School Committee Minutes: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. Starks moved the approval of School Committee Minutes: Thursday, December 8, 2011, seconded by Mr. Curro. Voted: 5-0-2, Mr. Pierce and Dr. Allison-Ampe abstained

Ms. Starks moved approval of Warrant: #12084 dated 12/22/2011 Total Warrant Amount \$873,372.37, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe. Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Mr. Pierce reported on Secretary's Report – Correspondence 12/23/11-1/12/12

1/3/12 Letter from Dr. Bodie to Dr. Mitchell Chester, Commissioner of Education concerning a charter school in Somerville

School Committee Minutes 12/8/11 and draft minutes from 11/10/11 and 11/17/11.

12/23/11 Letter from Chair Starks to Marlissa Briggett concerning her reappointment to the Human Rights Commission

12/23/11 Letter from Chair Starks to Suzie Talukda accepting her resignation as Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission December 2011 MASC Bulletin

12/23/11 Superintendent's Newsletter.

1/2/12 Email from parent requesting a delay to the redistricting process.

Email with 1/9/12 BOS agenda.

Email with 1/12/12 ASC Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting Posting and Agenda.

Email with 1/12/12 ASC agenda.

Email with 1/11/12 ASC Budget Subcommittee Meeting Posting and Agenda.

Email forward from Dr. Allison-Ampe concerning article on sports and concussions.

Email from Dr. Bodie with attachments from EDCO concerning FY 12 Salary information.

Email from parent regarding student-bullying concerns.

Email with news that Mary Ronan, Finance Committee Liaison to School Committee had triple bypass in December and had been at Mass General for the past month. ~ Mary~is~now at Cambridge Spaulding Rehab in Cambridge, MA.

1/3/12 Brackett School Newsletter

January 2012 AHS Principal's Office Newsletter

Letter from AHS Guidance Department

1/3/12 Email from Stephen Pereira with the sad news of the passing of Clinton McGuire, METCO Inc Executive Director Dr. Jean McGuire's husband on 12/29/11 with information concerning arrangements.

12/30/11 Email from Chris Loreti concerning student populations in newer housing developments in town.

1/9/12 Email from AHS Interim Principal Mary Villano concerning new staff.

Executive Session

Mr. Curro moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:35 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 return to open meeting, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Mr. Curro moved to adjourn at 10:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
School Committee/jp