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School Committee Minutes 05 24 2011

Approved by the Arlington School Committee June 28, 2011

*Arlington School Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2011
7:30 p.m.
Arlington High School
School Committee Room, 6th Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: *Ms. Cindy Starks, Chair, Dr. Kirsi 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, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative, Student Representative Ms. Kelsey Russell and Ms. Aniq Ayaz and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: *Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, and Steve Pereira, AAA Representative*

*Mr. Joseph Curro arrived at 7:44 and exited the meeting at 8:10 p.m.
Mr. Pierce exited the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and returned at 8:49 p.m.
Ms. Kelsey Russell and Ms. Aniq Ayaz exited the meeting at 8:43 p.m.
Ms. Hanson exited the meeting at 10:21 p.m.*

Ms. Starks opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between The Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Education Association (Unit A) dated May, 10, 2011 and the Side Letter of Agreement between The Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Education Association (Unit A) May 10, 2011. Seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.

Roll call Vote: Mr. Hayner, Yes; Ms. Heigham, Yes; Mr. Thielman, Yes; Mr. Pierce, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes; Ms. Starks, Yes.:

Public Hearing - School Choice Policy JFBB

Dr. Bodie explained the School Choice Policy JFBB is an annual decision. Dr. Bodie noted the very high class sizes that our district currently has and recommended that the Committee vote not to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Inter-district School Choice Law (M.G.L.76: 12). It was also pointed out that Title 1 Visas are not affected by this decision.

No public comments on School Choice.

Ms. Heigham moved not to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Inter-district School Choice Law, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-0

Ms. Starks welcomed student representatives and AEA Union representative Ms. Kelsey Russell, Ms. Aniq Ayaz and Ms. Linda Hanson.

Public Participation

(Per File BEDH, Arlington School Committee Policy Manual)

- *Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material.*
- *Issues requiring extensive discussion may be deferred to a future meeting with a scheduled agenda item.*
- *All remarks will be addressed through the chairperson of the meeting.*

Mr. John Kusiak, parent and professional music composer spoke on the importance and creative expressions from high school music teacher Mr. DiTomaso.

Ms. Kerry Irons spoke that she was disappointed with the proposed Special Education changes Dr. Bodie has recommended, and asked the School Committee members to listen to parents who have voiced against the proposed changes and vote against these recommendations.

Mr. Michael Levi and Trish Orlovsky read the prepared statement presented by them and with input from the SEPAC Board addressed to Ms. Starks, Chair of the Arlington School Committee. They asked the School Committee members not to adopt Dr. Bodie's recommendation to the proposed organizational and staffing changes in the Special Education Department.

Mr. David McLaughlin expressed his concerns with co-housing of Stratton and Thompson students and losing sight of Stratton being a Blue Ribbon school and would like additional leadership not less at Stratton Elementary.

Mr. Stephen Harrington, Arlington resident, parent and Treasurer of the Arlington Athletic Foundation asked the School Committee members to vote the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Private Fundraising so the committee can start receiving donations to benefit the Athletic Department.

Ms. Beth Martin and Mr. Chris Carmody, Co Presidents of the Stratton Elementary School PTO expressed their concerns with hosting other school communities during other school rebuilds and now would like to hear from the administration the promise made to the Stratton Community to build their school. The Stratton Community would like Dr. Bodie to clarify the plans to build Stratton, the timeline on the plans and asked them to work with parents and teachers on those plans. They would like the School Committee to be part of the planning process and retain equitable class sizes across all schools.

Thompson Update

Dr. Bodie stated that Town Meeting had approved the Thompson School Rebuild and Thompson Elementary School

Principal Ms. Sherri Donovan presented a power point timeline on the new rebuild plan. The timeline included plans with no override and plans with an override. The students would attend Stratton, Hardy and 5th graders at Bishop and some students in grades K, 3, and 4 will be blended with students of the school they are attending. Students would be bused to and from Stratton and Bishop and crossing guards will be assigned to Hardy School. Teachers will meet at their host school to plan for next year and students will visits their host schools this spring.

Special Education Changes

Dr. Bodie asked if the School Committee would table the Special Education Changes until June 14, 2011

Ms. Heigham moved to table Special Education Changes until June 14, 2011, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe. Voted: 6-0

Sports Update

Mr. Ted Dever, Athletic Director of Arlington High School presented the Title 9 report, athletic facilities needs and the Athletic participation numbers of FY 11 and previous years. The facilities report showed many areas in which the Athletic Department is responsible for and would require maintenance which currently not in the budget. Mr. Dever said all coaching staff will be posted on the website as soon as all coaches for that season are hired.

Mr. Pierce asked Mr. Dever to give the School Committee members his recommendation of the top priorities he sees should be taken care of in the Athletic Department. Mr. Dever replied the top priority would be the maintenance of the turf on Peirce Field, to refurbish the gym floor at the high school, new locker rooms for girls and boys at the high school and to lower the fees to use our own Arlington Town Rink.

Mr. Hayner said he has heard from many people around town about the large amount Arlington parents pay to use our own rink and suggested to Dr. Bodie she look into the high fees we are paying to use our own Arlington Town Rink and look for a way to lower them.

Mr. Dever did report that participation in athletic was down due to the high athletic user fees. Ms. Heigham suggested that families fill out one application form if they qualify for financial hardship, either for free and reduced lunch or fee waivers instead of two separate forms from Food Services and the Business Office. Dr. Bodie responded that two application forms are required by parents to apply for financial scholarships but will continue to help expedite the process for families.

Recess 9:20-9:30

FY '12 budget discussion

Dr. Bodie thanked Dr. Wallis Raemer and Ms. Julie Dunn for their work on the power point presentation presented this evening. Dr. Bodie presented FY 12 Arlington Public Schools Budget With and Without Override, dated May 24, 2011. This presentation can be found on our website.

The Presentation included the following topics:

- *FY 11 Successes of Arlington Public Schools*
- *FY 12 Arlington Public Schools Budget Background*
- *FY 12 Arlington Public Schools Budget with Override*
- *FY 12 Arlington Public Schools Budget without Override*
- *Difference between FY 12 budget with and without Override*

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Raemer reported that Mr. David Krikorian an Arlington resident assistant Arlington Public Schools to receive over 60 laptops, which will be housed at the middle school and high school, media center's.

Dr. Bodie invited everyone to the reception for Mr. Skidmore on June 10, 2011 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the front lawn of Arlington High School. Dr. Bodie invited everyone to the Bejazzled Concert, Saturday, June 4, 2011 7:00 p.m. in the Lowe Auditorium and kudos to Mr. John DiTomaso for the music presentation by his students. Dr. Bodie thanked everyone involved with Student Government Day, on May 19, 2011 and thanked all the students involved with the efforts of students' community service with the Special Olympics. Dr. Bodie thanked Watertown Savings Bank for hosting the photography contest where Arlington Public Schools students placed.

Mr. Hayner said he attended the Alternative Ed Programs Graduation.

Suspended policies

Ms. Starks reported that the School Committee has the following suspended policies:

- JCA - Open enrollment
- CBI & CBIE - Superintendent evaluation

Mr. Pierce plans to discuss both policies at the next Policies and Procedures Subcommittee meeting on June 1, 2011 and future subcommittee meetings.

Town Meeting Business

- Technical Assistance Request - Article 51

Mr. Hayner moved to direct Policies and Procedures Subcommittee to request MASC to give us legal opinion on advisory the affects of Article 51 would have, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0

Dr. Bodie informed the committee that the Robbins Library will run a program on June 17th from 3-5 and June 18th 1-5 on Exploring innovation and Technology.

The committee members read the letter the Board of Selectmen asked the chair to sign but after discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Heigham moved to authorize the Chair to sign the letter and to amend the first sentence of the third paragraph to read~ "One reason for this is that last year the Town's independent auditors revealed some financial management weaknesses *between the town and school* systems which were contributing factors to a significant budget deficit". Seconded by Dr. Allison Ampe

Voted:~ 6-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to authorize the chair to~make other amendments to the letter she finds necessary as~she works with the Board of Selectmen Chair, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0

Update on CDBG funds for athletics from Town Meeting

Ms. Starks thanked the Arlington Athletic Advisory Committee for the hard work and application process they completed in obtaining an additional \$35,000 for next year as well as the \$8,000 they already received to equal \$43,000 from the CDBG Funds for athletic scholarships.

Mr. Hayner moved to authorize the Chair of the School Committee and Superintendent Bodie to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Private Fundraising, as presented, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Ms. Heigham requested legal opinion on this MOU before authorizing the chair to sign. Ms. Heigham said we would be authorizing this committee in essence to lease out our public school property and if we enter into this agreement the School Committee is delegating authority and that is against our policy.

Mr. Hayner said he would be willing to table this MOU but said the Arlington Athletic Foundation is eager to start the process on getting the fundraising efforts moving forward.

Mr. Hayner withdrew his motion and Mr. Thielman suggested to the committee to authorize the chair to consult with Town Counsel and seek legal opinion on the Memorandum of Understanding on Private Fundraising before signing it. It was also mentioned that we have a policy on Private Fundraising Policy KBGA but the MOU has no end date and it was suggested to add that to the MOU. Dr. Bodie recommends the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Thielman moved to direct the chair and Superintendent, upon consultation with Town Counsel and the Chief Financial Officer, to sign the MOU Regarding Private Fundraising, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-0

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-0

Consent Agenda - All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

***Approval of Warrant # 11154 Total Warrant Amount \$375,163.68 dated May 10, 2011**

***Approval of Regular School Committee meeting minutes of April 26, 2011**

***Approval of Ida Robbins Scholarship recipients**

Voted: 6-0

Secretary's Report

Mr. Pierce reported on all correspondence received from 5/11/11-5/24/11

Correspondence from MASC regarding recent legislative work and a save the date invitation to a free webinar for SC members on Tuesday May 31, 2011 from 3-4pm

Email from the Town Manager regarding Town/School Financial Management

Several emails from parents concerning the Dallin SLC-B program

Several emails regarding the re-organization of the special education department

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald to the SC with the holiday observances for the 2011-2012-school calendar.

Email from the Superintendent with information from an arbitration appeal.

Several emails concerning the Thompson school transition plan.

Information and invitation to Principal Brown's retirement party and SLC-B graduation

Email from ACMI regarding a hearing at the State House on May 18th

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald regarding District Accountability / Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Meeting Posting and Agenda

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald regarding Posting of next Policies and Procedures Meeting

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald regarding Legal Notice Public Hearing - School Choice

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald regarding Arlington School Committee Meeting May 24, 2011 Posting and Agenda

Email from Representative Garballey concerning the Thompson school and the MSBA

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald regarding a Thompson School Letter from Principal Sheri Donovan, dated May 16, 2011

Email from the Superintendent regarding Thompson Elementary School

Email from Treasurer of the Athletic Advisory Committee concerning Proper Accounting of FY12 CDBG Scholarship Funds + public records request for the report provided to the Board of Selectmen for their May 16 CDBG reconsideration vote that details the number of low-income scholarships and amounts awarded for FY11.

Correspondence from AHS concerning Principal Skidmore farewell party on June 10th from 6-8pm on the lawn outside AHS

Invitation to party honoring retirements of several AHS faculty and staff on June 15th from 3-6pm at Woburn Country Club

The Stratton Scene dated Friday May 13, 2011

A letter from Jefferson Apartment Group regarding the Symmes Property

Approval of Job Descriptions

Dr. Bodie and Dr. Raemer asked the School Committee to approve the following job descriptions.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the High School Library Media (.6) and Lead K-12 Educational Technology Specialist (.4) job description, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 5-1, Mr. Hayner voting No

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Elementary Lead Teacher / Stratton Elementary (.5) job description, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 5-1, Ms. Heigham voting No

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 5-1, Ms. Heigham voting No

Committee & Appointee Reports

Mr. Pierce said the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee would report out on policies in section J of the Policy Manual for the coming year.

Athletic Advisory Committee

Mr. Thielman moved to have Community Relations review the Athletic Advisory Committee, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 6-0

Executive Session

Mr. Hayner moved to exit out of regular meeting and enter Executive Session at 11:16 p.m. for the purpose to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel and exiting only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Roll Call: unanimous.

Adjournment

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 11:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Roll Call: unanimous

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/jp