



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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School Committee Minutes 05/10/2011

Approved September 22, 2011

Arlington School Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 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. Joseph Curro, Ms. Leba Heigham, Mr. William Hayner, Mr. Jeff Thielman

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative, Student Representative Ms. Shawna Sacca, and Mr. Rob Shea and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education, and Steve Pereira, AAA Representative

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 8:15 and returned at 8:17
Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 8:25 and returned at 8:27
Mr. Spiegel exited the meeting at 9:50 p.m. and returned 9:55 p.m.

Student Voices - Ottoson World of Difference

Ms. Nina Martorana thanked Mr. Ruggere, Ms. Bouvier and OPAC for their support with the World of Difference program at the Ottoson Middle School. The 7th and 8th grade students explained the effectiveness of the programs and the accomplishments of the program.

Ms. Starks explained the Artwork from the students at the Dallin Elementary School. Ms. Starks introduced Senior Student Representatives, Mr. Rob Shea and Ms. Shawna Sacca.

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.

NoneFriends of Robbins Farm

Ms. Barry Russell, member of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park are working together with the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission to install new, more durable slides at Robbins Farm. The Town of Arlington had to remove the giant hill slides due to damaged beyond repair and are now fundraising to raise \$25,000 in private funds to cover half the cost of installing two new slides.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie said MCAS, AP Exams are underway and spoke about the new programs being offered by ACMI featuring

Superintendent Report and other School Administrators. Dr. Bodie said Town Meeting had postponed the vote on Thompson and Stratton Elementary Schools until next Monday, May 16, 2011. Dr. Bodie stated all work due to the high school flood has been completed and the cost was \$100,000.

Dr. Bodie said that Town Meeting would not vote the School Budget until after the vote on June 7, 2011 on the override.

Ms Johnson said no further action had been done since the last School Committee meeting in regards to the collection of fees, but parents had started sending in money that was owed due to the the School Committee discussion and Arlington Advocate article. Ms. Johnson did say the Ms. Juliane Rice will review the draft letter for the School Committee to approve before sending out to parents requesting payments.

Approval of Listing of Holiday Observances for School Calendar 2011- 2012

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Listing of Holiday Observances for the School Calendar 2011-2012, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Arlington is enriched by the cultural and religious diversity of its community and teaching staff.

The Arlington School Committee publishes this list to inform our community of days in which students and staff may be participating in observances with their families. Parents should inform teachers when observances may conflict with school activities.

Please notify your principal if you observe a holiday that is not included in this list.

2011

Ramadan (Islamic) August 1 – August 30
Eid al-Fitr (Islamic) August 31
Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) September 29-30
Yom Kippur (Jewish) October 8
Sukkot (Jewish) October 13-19
Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) October 20
Simchat Torah (Jewish) October 21
Diwali (Hindu) October 26
All Saints Day (Christian) November 1
Eid al-Adha (Islamic) November 6
Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh) November 10
Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) November 12
Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Christian) December 8
Hanukkah (Jewish) December 21-28
Christmas Day (Christian) December 25

2012

Chinese (Asian Lunar) New Year January 23
Ash Wednesday (Christian) February 22
Purim (Jewish) March 8
Mahga Puja (Buddhist) March 19
Holy Thursday (Christian) April 5
Good Friday (Christian) April 6
Passover (Jewish) April 6-14
Easter (Christian) April 8
Baisakhi (Sikh) April 14
Easter (Eastern Orthodox) April 15
Buddah Day (Buddhist) May 6
Feast of the Ascension (Christian) May 17
Feast of the Ascension (Eastern Orthodox) May 24
Shavu'ot (Jewish) May 27-28
Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) May 29

** Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the previous evening.*

Article 44 of the Town Meeting Discussion

After a brief discussion the following motion was made:

Mr. Hayner moved to seek a legal opinion from Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), regarding the Consolidated Town-School Human Resource Department as presented in Article 44 and passed by the Arlington Town Meeting on May 2, 2011, prior to acting on it, seconded by Mr. Curro.

**Mr. Thielman moved to amend the motion to direct Policies and Procedures to seek legal opinion, from Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), regarding the Consolidated Town-School Human Resource Department as presented in Article 44 and passed by the Arlington Town Meeting on May 2, 2011, prior to acting on it, and report back by 1st meeting in June, June 14, 2011, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 7-0**

ARTICLE 44~~~~~AMEND TOWN MANAGER ACT/CONSOLIDATED TOWN-SCHOOL HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
VOTED:~~(STANDING VOTE – 133 IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND 16 IN THE NEGATIVE)~(QUORUM PRESENT)

That the Town does hereby request and authorize the Board of Selectmen to file Home Rule Legislation to provide substantially as follows:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE TOWN MANAGER ACT FOR THE TOWN OF ARLINGTON WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RESOURCES

Section 1. ~Sections 24 and 24A of “An Act Establishing a Town Manager Form of Government for the Town of Arlington,” as adopted through Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1952, and subsequently amended, are hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

Section 24. ~Human Resource Department. – The Town Manager shall appoint a suitably qualified person to be Human Resource Director of the Town, who shall have overall supervision of the Human Resource Department of the Town, and who shall be responsible for the development and implementation of personnel policies and procedures based on the concept of merit. ~It shall be the duty of the Director to administer the pay and classification plans as now or hereinafter provided in the town by-laws, to maintain employee records, and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by a vote of the town meeting. ~All Town Appointing Authorities shall process the hiring of staff through the Town Human Resource Department. ~The Human Resource Department will work with Town Appointing Authorities to prepare job descriptions and job posting materials, will post positions and receive application materials, and will turn application materials over to Appointing Authorities for their consideration and final decision. ~Upon the School Department, as provided for under Chapter 71 Section 37M, of the Massachusetts General Laws, voting to consolidate its human resource functions with those of the Town, all of the duties described above relating to the School Department are subject to review and approval by the Superintendent of Schools, and the Town Manager shall seek input from the Superintendent of Schools relating to the appointment and performance evaluation of the Director of the Human Resource Department.

Section 24A. ~Human Resource Board. – There shall be established a Human Resource Board, which shall consist of three members to be appointed by the Town Manager. ~Each member shall be selected on the basis of professional experience and expertise in the area of personnel administration. ~Said Human Resource Board shall be empowered, after consultation with the Human Resource Director, to hear and rule on employee appeals of adverse reclassification determinations of the Human Resource Director. ~Said Human Resource Board shall perform such other functions as may be provided for in the town by-laws or in a collective bargaining agreement. ~Implementation of this section shall be guided by the town bylaws.

Section 2. ~This act shall take effect upon passage.”

A true copy of the vote under Article 44 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Arlington at the session held May 2, 2011.

FY '11 Budget update

Ms. Johnson gave an update on the Athletics expenses said the revenues will be short \$50,000. Ms. Johnson also said efforts to pursue owed amounts of money have resulted in checks coming in, and she will continue collect all that is owed. Ms. Johnson said given the present position, we should end the year at or slightly under budget.

FY '12 Budget discussion

Dr. Bodie said the school would need to do parcel plans one with approved override and one without approved override. Dr. Bodie will provide Elementary class sizes next meeting. Mr. Hayner asked Ms. Johnson to post a one-page memo stating what she has online versus what Town Meetings members are viewing. Ms. Johnson agreed to post this statement.

Policies & Procedures update and discussions

DBJ Budget Transfer Authority

Mr. Pierce said the subcommittee and Ms. Johnson will continue to review and updated Policy DBJ Budget Transfer Authority at the next Policy and Procedures meeting, June 1, 2011.

IHB Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations (second reading)

Mr. Pierce moved to approved IHB Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Open Enrollment

Dr. Raemer said due to the uncertainty of class sizes and closing of the Thompson School she is considering suspending the Open Enrollment policy or editing it.

Mr. Thielman moved to suspend the third paragraph of the first page on Policy JCA Open Enrollment, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 6-1, Ms. Heigham voted no

Ms. Heigham has concerns for how we address families who have children entering school where they already have been approved for Open Enrollment with other children and suggested receiving recommendations on the policy before suspending part or all of the policy.

Thompson Update

Dr. Bodie said next Monday, May 16, 2011 Town Meeting will vote to fund the rebuild of Thompson Elementary School or not. Dr. Bodie said given this vote, we will move forward with the relocation of Thompson students for the next two years and will meet to discuss plans with an override vote and plans without and override vote which would affect after school programs, monitors and busing. The plan is for Thompson to reopen in September 2013.

Special Education Department Changes

Dr. Bodie said Mr. Mark Ryder will be leaving at the end of June and he is now working part-time (.5) till then. Instead of a search for a director, Dr. Bodie would like to take the next six months so review what structure to use. The committee members would like to see Dr. Bodie's plan on her revisions in Special Education and receive a Special Education Report

The committee discussed the suggestions that came from the previous SEPAC meeting and the committee members would like to see job descriptions of the director and coordinators and meet the co-directors before approving the changes.

Dr. Bodie said that the changes in the Special Education Department would be communicated through Principals and newsletters as well as our Special Education website, and that no changes will take place until July 1, 2011. The administrative reorganization plan for 2011-2012 will be cost neutral as compared to the cost of the current

configuration of Director and two Assistant Directors.

It was suggested to have an organizational chart in place for the committee to review at the next School Committee meeting.

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 # 11147 Total Warrant Amount \$ 444,726.31 dated April 26, 2011

*Approval of School Committee Organization Meeting Minutes April 12, 2011 and School Committee Regular Meeting April 12, 2011

*Approval of Arlington High School Madrigal Singers Honors Orchestra Trip to Budapest, Milan and Lugarno, Switzerland, February School vacation 2012

Mr. Curro moved to approve the Warrant # 11147 Total Warrant Amount \$ 444,726.31 dated April 26, 2011 and the Arlington High School Madrigal Singers Honors Orchestra Trip to Budapest, Milan and Lugarno, Switzerland, February School vacation 2012, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Curro moved to approve the School Committee Organization Meeting Minutes April 12, 2011 as amended and minutes of the School Committee Regular Meeting, April 12, 2011, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted 6-0-1, Mr. Thielman abstained

Secretary's Report

Mr. Pierce reported on all correspondence from 4/26/11-5/10/11)

Email from Mark Ryder concerning Special Education Budget for FY 12

Emails from the Chair of SEPAC and from parents of special education students regarding the Special Education Department's Restructuring

Email from Dr. Raemer concerning emails for AHS students

Email from parent regarding school department responsiveness and it's following of policies and procedures

Email from Principal Skidmore regarding Policies and Procedures and upcoming High School program of studies.

Email with attachments regarding Open Meeting law

Email regarding King Arthur's Feast on May 7, 2011

Email concerning AHS Proposed Concert Tour to Budapest, Milan and Switzerland in February 2012.

Letter from the Superintendent regarding School Nurse Recognition Day on May 11, 2011

Letter and Flyer concerning "Bedazzled" an evening of jazz in Arlington Saturday June 4, 2011 at 7pm at the Lowe Auditorium at Arlington High School

Emails regarding updates from the MASC Division Meeting on May 5, 2011

Email from Principal Tara Rossi regarding the Dallin's "Walk to School Day" and thanking Joe Curro and Jud Pierce for playing music for the children coming to school that morning.

Email from Kim Holt inviting us to the final concert, which is the culmination of this year's 4th grade curriculum about Teosinte and El Salvador.~ It will be held at Town Hall on June 3 from 10:30 - 11:30.~ This event will also be a kick-off celebration for our delegation of teachers who are traveling to our sister city, Teosinte, this August.~

Brackett School Newsletter dated May 2, 2011

Committee & Appointee Reports tabled from April 12 & 26, 2011

Mr. Hayner reported on attending Stratton PTO meeting. Mr. Curro said Article 17 would be discussed at Town Meeting on May 11, 2011. Mr. Thielman would like to set up a date to meet on District Accountability/Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments. Mr. Pierce would like to meet again with Policies and Procedures Subcommittee and look at issues on June 1, 2011. Mr. Pierce attended the Dallin PTO meeting and said Bishop Bear Fair would be held on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Ms. Starks attended the Arlington Boys and Girls Club dinner and will be attending the Touchdown Club dinner on Wednesday with Dr. Bodie.

Executive Session

Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the committee, and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for

negotiations with nonunion personnel, or to conduct collect bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and exiting only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjournment

Ms. Heigham moved to exit out of Executive Session and adjourn at 10:36 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

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