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School Committee Minutes 11/15/2010

Approved by the Arlington School Committee January 11, 2011

The Arlington School Committee
Special School Committee Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Arlington School Committee Room
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Present: Mr. Joseph Curro, Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Vice Chair, Ms. Cindy Starks, Secretary, Mr. Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curran, Dr. Kirsii Allison-Ampe and Mr. Judson Pierce.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Dr. Wallis Raemer, Assistant Superintendent Steve Pereira, AAA Representative, and Student Reps

Ms. Johnson entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Curro opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and said he would be recessing this meeting until Special Town Meeting Adjourns and will then adjourn from Town Meeting.

Special Town Meeting Preparation

Mr. Curro said that Town Meeting would report out on the following sub motion. The Board of Selectmen would be voting this endorsement prior to tonight's Town Meeting.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Substitute Motion on Article 3 to Town Meeting,

I, Joseph A. Curro, Jr. do hereby submit the following Substitute Motion:

Be it resolved, that Town Meeting endorses the rebuilding or renovation of the Thompson Elementary School in a manner that:

Receives approval and funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA); Meets the educational needs of the Thompson Elementary School student body and the Arlington Public Schools; Is of a scope, size and cost that is supported by the Thompson School Building Committee and other town bodies and committees, including the Permanent Town Building Committee, School Committee, Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee and Board of Selectmen; Preserves – to the greatest practicable extent – the integrity and identity of the Thompson community; and Incorporates public input, seconded by Dr. Ampe.

Voted: 7-0

Stratton School

Mr. Curro said Mr. Kevin Greeley put forth to the Board of Selectmen and will to Town Meeting a joint Resolution and

Mr. Curro is requesting the School Committee to vote and approve the Resolution of Stratton School tonight.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve:

**WHEREAS the M. Norcross Stratton Elementary School has educated generations of Arlingtonians since 1962; and
WHEREAS the Stratton Elementary School has a long, proud and continuing history of hosting and being enriched by students from throughout Arlington; and
WHEREAS the students of the Stratton Elementary School exhibit on a daily basis the qualities of Stratton P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect & Responsibility, Independence, Dedication, Empowerment); and
WHEREAS the teachers and staff of the Stratton Elementary School have demonstrated high attributes of teamwork and dedication to children; and
WHEREAS the extended Stratton School family has shown a deep commitment to community in ways large and small; and
WHEREAS the Stratton School numbers among four Arlington schools to receive the honored designation as a Commendation School by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for high growth in student achievement; and
WHEREAS the Stratton Elementary School has been awarded by the United States Department of Education the coveted status of a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School for high performance and student achievement; and
WHEREAS this rare Blue Ribbon designation is shared by only five public elementary schools in Massachusetts and 304 schools nationwide,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington Board of Selectmen, the Arlington School Committee, and the Arlington Town Meeting do hereby join in congratulating the staff, students, and families of the M. Norcross Stratton Elementary School for the honor which they have brought to themselves and to our town;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Arlingtonians are encouraged to recognize the achievement of Arlington's students as the Stratton School proudly raises the National Blue Ribbon School banner on November 19th and that this day shall be declared Stratton National Blue Ribbon School Day, seconded by Ms. Starks
Voted: 7-0**

Other Business

Ms. Heigham Moved that the School Committee does hereby direct the Superintendent to develop, in consultation with the Executive Subcommittee and for endorsement by the School Committee, a plan of reorganization surrounding the management of business and financial operations of the Arlington Public Schools, said plan to incorporate the advice of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials and to include consideration of the reclassification of the existing Assistant Superintendent role as Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Mr. Curro said that we are very strong on Curriculum and Instruction and soon we need to work and come up on a plan to consider reclassification of the Assistant Superintendent's role. Dr. Ampe inquired about incorporating a timeline. Mr. Curran cannot support the motion until his 20 questions he sent to Ms. Heigham are answered because he does not understand what MASBO is saying in report.

Ms. Heigham discussed having a timeline and said if we do reorganization and hire someone in the spring then a plan could be completed after the Budget is done in February or the following hiring year, which gives the School Committee a year and then the School Committee, can evaluate the progress.

**Ms. Heigham moved to amend the motion to include at the end of the motion to have the plan delivered by the first meeting in March, seconded by Dr. Ampe.
Voted: 6-1 Mr. Curran Voted No**

Dr. Bodie was concerned with this motion.

**Ms. Heigham asked if she could amend her amendment by adding, "to include but not limited to" before adding the first of March, seconded by Ms. Starks.
Voted: 6-1 Mr. Curran voted No**

The motion as amended.

Ms. Heigham Moved that the School Committee does hereby direct the Superintendent to develop, in consultation with the Executive Subcommittee and for endorsement by the School Committee, a plan of reorganization surrounding the management of business and financial operations of the Arlington Public Schools, said plan to incorporate the advice of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials and to include consideration of the reclassification of the existing Assistant Superintendent role as Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance to include but not limited to have the plan delivered by the first meeting in March , seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 6-1 Mr. Curran voted No

Ms. Heigham reported out on the Recommendations Grid the Budget Subcommittee developed from both the MASBO Report and the Powers and Sullivan Report.

Ms. Heigham thanked Dr. Bodie, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Rowe and Ms. LaCourt for attending the Budget Subcommittee meeting on Saturday. Ms. Heigham said that Mr. Crafton received all the questions and since this was not incorporated in the "Scope of Work" he would do his best to answer them and get back to us in two weeks.

Recess to Attend The Special Town Meeting, Robbins Memorial Town Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Curro recessed the meeting and reconvening at Town Hall to attend the Special Town Meeting.

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: Unanimously

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