



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 11/23/2010**

Approved by the Arlington School Committee January 11, 2011

The Arlington School Committee  
Regular School Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 23, 2010  
7:30 p.m.  
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor  
Arlington High School  
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. Kirsy Allison-Ampe and Mr. Judson Pierce.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Student Representatives: Ms. Ashley Smith and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Steve Pereira, AAA Representative

Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 8:13 and returned at 8:15 p.m.  
Mr. Thielman returned from the recess at 10:10 p.m.  
Mr. Curran returned from the recess at 10:27 p.m.  
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 10:35 p.m. and returned at 10:37 p.m.

Mr. Curro opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

### Reflection, Remembrance and Recognition

Mr. Curro would like to remember the passing of Muriel Healy, former Arlington High School and mother of Mary Fischer and Mike Healy. Also for Mr. Emanuel V. Coscia a retiree who worked as a School Custodian passed away recently. Mr. Curro informed the community that the Arlington Public Schools lowered their flag to half-staff position from sunrise to sunset on Sunday, in honor of Spc. Jonathan M. Curtis, Belmont, MA who was killed in action in Afghanistan. Mr. Curro offered a brief moment of silence for the deceased.

The Artwork is from all Hardy School students in grades one through five. The paintings and stained glass windows are the inspiration of Marc Chagall.

Mr. Curro also read the announcement from Pat Tassone that several Arlington High School students auditioned for and were accepted into the Northeast District Band, orchestra, or chorus for the All State ensembles in January.

Mr. Curro welcomed Ms. Karen Hartley, Principal and said that the Pierce School is participating in the Peirce Elementary School/Inclusive Schools Week, and wanted to acknowledge all the hard work of parents, teachers and students for making the schools more inclusive.

Mr. Curro read the following Proclamation:

## Proclamation

WHEREAS; The Inclusive Schools Network at Education Development Center, Inc. has designated the week of December 6-10, 2010, as *INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK*; and

WHEREAS; THE PEIRCE SCHOOL is committed to providing an education in classrooms that are welcoming and capable of educating all children;

WHEREAS; The educators of THE PEIRCE SCHOOL recognize that each child is unique, learns differently, and, therefore, learns better if teaching is tailored to their abilities and interests; and

WHEREAS; The educators and families of THE PEIRCE SCHOOL have been working hard to ensure that classrooms are characterized as being high performing and inclusive; and

WHEREAS; By their efforts to make classrooms high performing and inclusive, the educators and families of THE PEIRCE SCHOOL have contributed significantly to building a stronger and more inclusive community; and

WHEREAS; The educators and families of THE PEIRCE SCHOOL deserve to celebrate their successes and wish to reflect on how they might even further improve;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That THE PEIRCE SCHOOL joins with the Inclusive Schools Network, Education Development Center, Inc., and schools, districts, and communities around the world in declaring the week of December 6-10, 2010, as

***INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK*** and encourage schools and classrooms across Arlington, Massachusetts to sponsor appropriate learning and community-building activities in its recognition.

**Ms. Heigham moved that the Arlington School Committee approve the Pierce School Proclamation of the Inclusive Schools Week, seconded by Mr. Curran.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Dr. Bodie thanked Ms. Hartley and supports all the teachers and staff at the Pierce Elementary School for their efforts.

Mr. Curro introduced Student Representative, Ms. Ashley Smith, and encouraged her to participate in the discussions of tonight's meeting.

Mr. Curro apologized for the late scheduling of the athletic user fee discussion and stated that after public participation he would ask to talbe all agenda items up to the Budget and Finance Discussion, in order to take the matter up early.

Public Participation

Mr. Sean Harrington, senior of Arlington High School said he was angered and concerned that the budget shows no transparency and suggested that actions must be taken and the administration needs to be reprimanded. Mr. Harrington said that all School Committee members should resign.

Mr. Sean Fagan addressed a flyer that was meant to encourage the community to attend tonight's meeting but noted in the flyer it implied the School Committee wanted to eliminate athletics at the high school, which is not true. Mr. Fagan encourages the committee to look at the fees and put kids back on the fields.

Mr. Paul Cahill, a parent involved with sports who currently has three boys playing three sports, spoke on the athletic fees without a family cap and encourages the School Committee to bring the family cap back. Otherwise his boys would have to pick one sport to play.

Ms. Erica Mamano, freshman, of Arlington High School expressed her disappointment with the high Athletic Fees and spoke on the importance of being on a team when applying to colleges. Ms. Mamano also said family and others will have to choose between sports, and presents for Christmas. She will not have her family subjected to having to pay the price of the high user fees.

**Mr. Curran moved to table all agenda items up until Budget and Finance Discussion, seconded by Ms. Heigham. Voted: 7-0**

### Budget and Finance Discussion

Ms. Johnson presented the FY 11 Athletics and Fees report dated November 23, 2010. She hoped to address the questions that had arisen from parents and community members from the last meeting. Ms. Johnson showed the FY 11 Budget History, FY 11 Budget Survey results, FY 11 Fee Comparisons and questions from parents on the current fee structure; fee surplus, fees inconsistencies, and payment plan options, and explained that paying contract stipends with fees is legal and acceptable. Ms. Johnson will look to the newly formed Athletic Advisory Committee to help her find ways to reduce fees, contain costs, and maintain an excellent Athletic program at Arlington High School.

Mr. Ted Dever, Athletic Director congratulated all the student athletes who volunteer at Dana Farber and in the community. He congratulated the Boys Soccer Team for making it into the semi-finals, and congratulated the Cheerleaders for winning the DCL Championship. Mr. Dever wished all the athletes well who will participate in the AHS vs. AC Football game on Thanksgiving Day

Mr. Dever presented the Arlington Public Schools Athletics Department report dated November 23, 2010 which shows where the Athletic Department is spending money on fall sports.

Ms. Johnson added a few corrections to her FY 11 Athletics Budget by Funding Source reports on athletics that she passed out on November 9, 2010. She informed everyone that Field Hockey was missing from the report due to miscoding this sport in the budget the School Committee saw and voted on and also that it did not include the Athletic Secretary, so she has now moved this secretary out of the high school budget and back into the athletics budget.

Mr. Curro encouraged Ms. Johnson and Mr. Dever to post all presentations to our website as soon as possible.

Ms. Ashley Smith asked the School Committee to consider the fact that the high fees puts parents in a bad situation where they cannot support their children in fun activities.

Ms. Starks asked about student enrollment in volleyball and cross-country. Ms. Heigham thanked Mr. Dever and Ms. Johnson for presenting the reports.

Mr. Curro asked about gate receipts and asked Ms. Johnson to explain. Ms. Johnson explained that gate receipts were posted incorrectly to user fees and not gate receipts so Ms. Johnson included a lower number in the budget.

Mr. Thielman asked what the family cap was last year and once informed of the \$850 per family cap amount, Mr. Curran asked Ms. Johnson why she did not investigate the gate receipts. Ms. Johnson accepted she missed the gate receipts and incorrectly posted it in the budget but has made the appropriate corrections.

Mr. Curro inquired on the processes of cost if we were to bring back a family cap. Mr. Dever is in the process of researching the student athletes in each family and looking at the cost of a family cap.

Mr. Thielman informed Mr. Dever about the importance of data that the School Committee needs to know and the impact of putting a family cap into place and the affect it would have on the budget to continue the investigation of bringing the family cap back. Mr. Dever said he can give out last year's data on students participation, students fees paid, but with the large athletic fees this year he cannot say how many students will be participating in winter sports.

Ms. Johnson explained the difficulty of creating a model and said she cannot come up with a model to budget a family cap. Mr. Thielman suggested that they look at multiple children in a family to determine an athletic fee family cap. Dr. Bodie agreed to have Ms. Johnson look at multiple children in a family.

Mr. Curro pointed out the difficulties the School Committee members have of making choices each year with the budgets. Mr. Curro asked a few questions around sports fees and surveyed parents in the room. It was the consensus of those in the room that fees be equitable across all sports activities and that everyone pay the same fee regardless of the expense of the sport.

Ms. Karen DeAlmeida, parent, spoke about the concerns on the high athletic fees and without a family cap. Ms. DeAlmedia, read questions from parents, and asked why the committee and administration had not looked into all the athletic budget materials more in depth last June, before making this decision to increase fees 67 % without a family cap. She read statements from the software company Munis, which the school and town use to run reports. The statements say Munis Software will show transparency, accuracy and efficiency and reduces redundancy.

Ms. Heigham spoke about some of the survey results said the Budget Subcommittee did what the survey directed.

Mr. Stephen Harrington, Arlington resident, parent of two elementary children in the Arlington Public Schools thanked Ms. Johnson and Mr. Dever for providing their Athletic reports. Mr. Harrington presented his report, which seemed to point out some holes in the budget, which are from budget and audits reports that were provided from the Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Harrington claimed that he could show, with our own information, how to reduce the Athletic User Fees by using existing revenues. Mr. Harrington pointed out sources of revenue seemingly not in the FY 11 Athletic Budget Funding report, and stressed the large increase of 140% parents have to pay for their children to participate in Athletics' at the high school is unacceptable and that a 33% increase would be more acceptable.

Mr. Curran asked the administration why Arlington never collected the Special Education fees owed, which were listed as a deficit of \$511,916. Mr. Ryder said our attorney's are looking into the collection of these fees, and stated all students who live in town must be provided with special education services.

Mr. Harrington continued on with his report and asked Ms. Johnson about where the Peirce Field Rental Account funds would be used that are on the School Department Revenue Budget to Actual Report. Mr. Harrington is proposing using \$88,000 out of the Pierce Field Rental Account which is currently listed as being \$88,000. He also wants to dedicate all Athletic fees of gate proceeds, field rentals and CDBG Funds to Athletic budget and assume a 91% user fee payment rate.

Mr. Robert G. Bartholomew, AHS Asst Ice Hockey coach since 1972 to present, current freshmen Softball Coach and retired Physical Educator but working as a Teacher's Aid is perplexed by the fact that there is no plan to collect any activity fees from over 30 clubs. Mr. Bartholomew spoke of the elimination of school funding for athletics and how high school activity stipends of \$60,000 are paid to supervisors of these clubs yet nothing is collected from any of the participants. Mr. Bartholomew is concerned that the School Committee has no plan in place and would like fairness to clubs and athletics.

Ms. DeAlmedia thanked the committee for adding the Athletic User Fees to the agenda but informed the School Committee and Administration that fees are now a timing issue because winter sports will begin next week. Ms. DeAlmedia reiterated that the community wants transparency, equitability and fairness and to reinstate a family cap and allow children to participate in winter sports.

Mr. Curran thanked everyone for coming tonight and would like to offer the motion Mr. Harrington presented tonight.

**Mr. Curran moved to direct the Arlington Public Schools to apply all gate proceeds, field rentals and CDBG Funds to the Athletic Budget. Direct Arlington Public Schools to transfer \$88,000 of Field User Fees to decrease Athletic User Fees. Direct Arlington Public Schools to assume a 91% user payment fee instead of 80 % , seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

Ms. Heigham requested that Mr. Curran have the motion in writing. Mr. Harrington pointed out that the three parts of

Mr. Curran's motion is present on his presentation. Mr. Thielman asked Ms. Johnson if she would like a recess before giving a budget impact on the motion. Ms. Johnson would need additional research on the Pierce Field Fund and explained that the CBDG Funds are being used to defray athletic scholarships.

Mr. Curran requested a family cap tonight. Ms. DeAlmedia said a family cap would increase student participation and families need relief of fees and this would impact students being able to participate in three sports.

Mr. Curro asked Ms. Johnson about the feasibility of Mr. Curran's motion to freeze collections of fees for the next three weeks. Ms. Johnson said its not the timing of the collection of fees, its that we collect the amount of fees projected in the budget. Ms. Johnson supports delaying the collection of fees for three weeks and would like to do the research of providing a family cap and ensure we still meet our budget needs. Mr. Curro agrees more research is needed and if we can delay the collection of fees before any final decision is made on the possibility of implementing a family cap then the would support this.

Dr. Bodie said she has sympathy on the need to bring a family cap to families this year but wants the winter season participation count so Ms. Johnson can do the necessary research on families who would have multiple children playing on teams. Dr. Bodie continued to say we need to be financially conservative and the Chief Financial Officer would bring a proposal on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> to continue the discussion.

Mr. Curran again, requested a family cap and said its unfair to have families wait until after winter tryout begin because the statistics could have less participates due to the fees still being too high.

**Mr. Curro requested a substitute motion on Mr. Curran's motion to direct the Business Office and the Athletic Department to freeze the collection of athletic fees until December 14<sup>th</sup> and direct the Administration to return to us on that date and report to us about the feasibility of the proposal of Mr. Curran's original motion and to a pricing estimate on the cost of a family cap, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

Mr. Curran does not accept this substitute motion. Mr. Curro withdrew his motion.

Mr. Curran's motion was voted: **to direct the Arlington Public Schools to apply all gate proceeds, field rentals and CDBG Funds to Athletic Budget. Direct Arlington Public Schools to transfer \$88,000 of Field User Fees to decrease Athletic User Fees. Director Arlington Public Schools to assume a 91% user payment fee instead of 80 % , seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Dr. Ampe No, Mr. Curran Yes, Mr. Thielman No, Ms. Starks No, Ms. Heigham No, Mr. Curro No**

**Voted: 2-6 motion fails**

**Ms. Heigham moved Mr. Curro's previous motion as stated to direct the Business Office and the Athletic Director to freeze the collection of athletic fees until December 14<sup>th</sup> and direct the Administration to return to us on that date and report to us about the feasibility of the proposal of Mr. Curran's original motion and to a pricing estimate on the cost of a family cap, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Dr. Ampe Yes, Mr. Curran No, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Curro Yes.**

**Voted: 6-1**

Mr. Curro said he is expecting the feasibility report at the next meeting and recommended a ten-minute recess. Ms. DeAlmedia requested to speak on what Dr. Bodie said about putting a freeze on the collection of fees until December 14<sup>th</sup> because children and families are making decisions now on whether students should tryout for a winter sport or wait to participate in a spring sport

Mr. Curran recommended a special meeting next week, Wednesday, so the committee can receive the information requested and parents can make decisions. Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Dever if he could provide any information on supporting a family cap. He suggested that Ms. Johnson use last year figures on student participation.

Mr. Curro requested a ten-minute recess and said he will ask the availability of each member before planning a Special Meeting. Ms. Heigham inquired to Mr. Dever on the impact of postponing of roster for the winter teams in the event a Special Meeting cannot take place next week. Mr. Dever informed the committee that it would be unrealistic to postpone any rosters due to game schedules and the difficulty of preparing a varsity level team. Ms. Ashley Smith stated it would not be a great option to postpone team rosters.

Recess 9:40 – 9:50

**Ms. Starks moved to remove all tabled items from the table, seconded by Ms. Heigham.  
Voted: 5-0, Mr. Curran and Mr. Thielman not in the room**

### Teaching American History Grant. K. Dunne

Ms. Kerry Dunne, Director of Social Studies spoke on the Teaching American History Grant Arlington received. This is with six other districts, Ashland, Acton, Acton-Boxborough, BC High School, Cambridge, EXCEL Academy Charter School, and Winchester, and is a three-year \$999,999 grant for American History and is focused on professional development in grades K-8, with potential 2 year \$666,666 extension for grades 9-12. This was one of 124 grants awarded nationally, selected from over 500 applications. Ms. Dunne explained why we received the grant:

- Successful demonstration of need: high student performance, with some gaps (low AP US enrollment in 2 districts, low to average performance on NAEP-based assessment in grades 5, 8, and 10)
- A survey of 286 K-8 teachers in the 7 districts indicated that only 10% had a degree in history, and only 24% felt “very confident” about teaching history. Pre-1999 certification issue discussed.
- Strong partners such as Framingham State University’s Global Education Center, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and local historic organizations (ranging from the Arlington Historical Society to the National Park Service’s Boot Mills) wrote letters of support and were integrated into our service delivery proposal.
- Interesting cohort/collaborative “FRAME” included a charter and a Catholic school.

Ms. Dunne explained what the grant would provide to teachers:

- Each district will have 1 to 3 in-district content and pedagogy focused workshops per year during scheduled PD time, with resources provided. For example, in Arlington (grade 3, 4, 5—show photo clips and TCI kit), and the opportunity to attend all workshops in the collaborative
- Access to high quality conferences (Pre-AP, NERC) with sub coverage and online learning opportunities (Teaching with Library of Congress documents)
- Graduate-credit bearing summer institute (show flier)

Ms. Dunne explained the outcome of the grant:

- 75 hours of high-quality professional development for 32 core participants each year with demonstrated improvement in content-area expertise, and demonstrated improvement in student learning
- All grade level teachers of American history and geography receive enriched content-area professional development and substantial new teaching resources.
- Collaboration around teaching and learning between 7 complementary school districts with teacher leadership opportunities.

Dr. Bodie thanked Kerry Dunne and explained that Kerry sought out all members of the collaborative and acknowledged all the work she did to get the mix to be qualified for this grant in Arlington.

### Anti-Bullying Plan

Dr. Wallis Raemer announced that Ms. Cindy Bouvier, Director of Health Wellness and Guidance would give an overview of the draft Anti-Bullying Plan. Dr. Raemer acknowledged the 28 members of the Task Force and introduced members of the Anti Bullying Task Force present tonight: Colleen Leger, Nina Martorana, Lynn Horgan, and Carlene Newell.

Dr. Raemer informed the committee on the additional documents handed out, the AHS Code of Discipline and the Elementary Handbook, Code of Conduct. Ms. Bouvier reviewed Arlington Public Schools commitment to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from bullying and cyber bullying. Ms. Bouvier explained the duties of the Task Force members in creating this plan and suggested all comments be sent to her.

Ms. Heigham noted that the plan can be found on the website and encourages public feedback. Dr. Ampe asked for a Point of Order and stated that no action is needed from the School Committee on the Endorsement of the Plan.

Mr. Pierce asked Ms. Bouvier if Arlington was in line with other districts and Ms. Bouvier said Arlington had gone beyond what is expected and said this is a working document, which can be changed or edited as needed.

**Ms. Heigham moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Mr. Pierce did say the policy is completed on Anti Bullying. Mr. Thielman said the plan presented tonight could be considered as a first reading if needed to be. Dr. Bodie did note that we have to submit a plan by December 31, 2010 to the state.

#### Thompson Building Committee Update

Mr. Thielman informed the School Committee that the Thompson Building Committee would like the School Committee to ratify two things tonight. First, The Thompson Building Committee would like the School Committee to approve the Preferred Option 2 for Thompson School Rebuild/Renovation Project of the Thompson Building Committee that endorses a rebuild on the existing site.

**Mr. Thielman moved that the Arlington School Committee endorses Alternative II (rebuild new on existing site) as the preferred option, for the Thompson School, with the understanding that the Thompson School Building Committee will conduct further analysis upon receiving feedback from the MSBA and that the Superintendent will make every effort to relocate Thompson School students in a manner similar to previous rebuild projects, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Mr. Thielman said they moved away from the land swap option and said parents are now saying they want a similar transition as other school rebuild projects.

Second, Mr. Thielman informed the committee that it's necessary to renew our Statement of Interest with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

**Mr. Thielman moved that the Arlington School Committee renew its Statement of Interest with the Thompson Elementary School, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

#### Budget and Finance Discussion Continuation

Dr. Bodie recommends looking at a combination of reducing two sources of the budget, The Special Education Litigation and Dispute from \$200,000. to \$100,000. and the remaining \$77, 589, would come from the Out of District Line Item. Dr. Bodie's recommendation was made after Town Meeting voted to reduce our FY 11 School Budget amount of \$177,589. Dr. Bodie informed the committee we are currently running below budget on the Out of District Line item, but said it could be readjusted again in March, and that it would look at making personnel decisions at that point if needed.

**Ms. Heigham moved to reducing The Special Education Litigation Line item by \$100,000. and reducing the Out of District Line item by \$77,589, seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Mr. Curran asked if the Special Education line item is the money that we use to chase the money that is owed to use.

Dr. Ampe asked how much we are running below Out of District Costs. Ms. Johnson would not want to go public with any numbers until student's placements are settled. Possibly, in March some preschool students may be entering into the program and Ms. Johnson assured the Committee when asked from Mr. Pierce if she will inform the committee if we go over our budget amounts she will have an idea where the money will come from. Ms. Johnson said they would never go more than 30 days without knowing where she will stand on that. Mr. Pierce asked if contingencies plans are

already in place if we do go over that amount and Ms. Johnson said no, because they are currently under budget.

Mr. Curro said maybe the Finance Committee would be able to transfer over money from the Tip Fee Stabilization Fund, if we have any anticipated expense and the School Committee asked for it early. Mr. Curro expressed concern with the Conflict Resolution Fund being over and when he asked about it, Mr. Ryder said they would not choose to engage with the students and this would keep cost down.

Mr. Curran asked Dr. Bodie how she came to this recommendation. Dr. Bodie said this recommendation is the best way without affecting children and said the Finance Committee has established a reserved fund if we run into a deficit.

**Mr. Thielman moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:30 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Mr. Curro called the vote.

**Ms. Heigham moved to reducing The Special Education Litigation Line item by \$100,000. and reducing the Out of District Line item by \$77,589, seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Dr. Bodie said the School Committee needs to look at the FY 12 School Budget and prepare two budgets, one budget would reflect our needs to run a school and the second budget would match what are finances are.

Dr. Bodie presented School Department Structural Deficit FY 12, which showed reductions to revenue in ARRA Funding, Grants reduced by 10%, Circuit Breaker, and with no money brought in by Bridge the Gap, and estimated contractual Increases of \$675,000. This is a total structural deficit of \$2.8 million. This is all before estimated Town Revenue, but the Town Manager said he could have \$4.1 to 7.1 million reductions. Dr. Bodie said we are looking at 5.1 to 6.7 million-dollar deficits and the school is looking at 11 to 15 % reduction. Due to the late hour, Dr. Bodie would like to continue the discussion at the next School Committee meeting.

Dr. Bodie said the School Principals are coming to the next meeting to discuss their needs and how they are doing school improvement plans and their experiences with all the cuts.

Mr. Curro invited all School committee Members to the Special Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled on November 29<sup>th</sup> to continue the Town Managers Discussion on FY 12 Budget. Mr. Thielman said we need to start having discussions on FY 12 Budget and with a 11 to 15 % reduction this would be 50 to 60 positions that need to be cut and suggested that all committees and programs be reviewed and evaluated. Mr. Curro would like to hear from School Councils and to have them come to our meeting to discuss this. Ms. Heigham echoed Mr. Curro and said we continue to cut programs each year but we continue to provide an education and do it well.

**Ms. Heigham moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:45 pm., seconded by Ms. Starks**

**Voted: 6-1, Mr. Curran voting No**

Ms. Heigham informed Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson that there is no room for margin of error with the budget and they must inform the School Committee immediately to insure a Special Meeting and to have options to make any changes.

Ms. Johnson said she would continue to watch overtime due to snowstorms, fuel prices and heating costs and Special Education Costs that could come up and affect the budget. Dr. Bodie confirmed that she would inform the Committee members on all budget concerns and of any changes. Dr. Bodie said the Town Manager is asking Dr. Bodie to do a mid year correction, a mid year layoff. Dr. Bodie said that the School Committee would need to think about this and continue with this discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Curran confirmed to Dr. Bodie that this is only a suggestion from Town Manager and would not be educationally sound.

Dr. Ampe is confused with the structural deficit number and due to the late hour would like to continue the discussion at our next meeting. She suggested looking at our policies to be able to review and change them if needed to move children around for one year due to class sizes.

Mr. Curro said he has something to discuss in Executive Session.

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 # 11065 Total Warrant Amount \$537,515.80 dated November 9, 2010



\*Approval of School Committee Minutes: ~October 14, 2010

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Curran.**

**Voted: 7-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to table the Secretary's Report, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

#### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie thanked everyone who made the Blue Ribbon Ceremony a success. Dr. Bodie gave out a copy of the draft letter she sent to Stratton parents regarding windows.

#### Roundtable

Ms. Starks spoke that the Community Relations Subcommittee meet today and discussed the creation of the Athletic Advisory Subcommittee. Ms. Starks discussed the three documents which will be posted to our website explaining the Athletic Advisory Committee, a Request to be considered and a Recommended Timeline for the Athletic Advisory Committee to the School Committee.

**Ms. Starks moved that the School Committee approve the passing of forms, timeline and approving documents to form an Athletic Advisory Committee, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Ms. Heigham asked about the advisory form data and said with so many difference of opinion on family caps, multiple three-season athletes and the structure of the form maybe adding additional questions would create a balance.

Mr. Curran requested all of Ms. Johnson's updated information to be presented on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Curran said if we reduce the winter fees by 50% that may increase student participation.

Dr. Ampe would like to invite Ms. Rice, Town Counsel to a meeting in January to discuss the Open Meeting Law.

**Ms. Heigham moved the 11 o'clock rule till 12:00 midnight, seconded by Dr. Ampe.**

**Voted: 6-1, Mr. Curran voting No**

#### Executive Session

**Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive session at 11:44 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the committee. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion or union personnel, or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union or non-union personnel and return to open session, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Dr. Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, and Mr. Curro Yes**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve that the Arlington School Committee enters into a 2 ½- year retainer with Stoneman, Chandler and Miller to serve as general and special education counsel from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013 at a rate of \$40,000 per year, with hourly work billed at \$190/hour. They proposed to pro-rate the retainer for this year and to credit us an additional \$10,000 against this, leaving a retainer balance due for FY 2011 of \$10,000. and commence billing at the rate of \$190/hour for the months of November and December 2010, seconded by Ms. Starks**

**Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Dr. Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, and Mr. Curro Yes**

**Voted: 6-0**

#### Adjournment

**Mr. Pierce moved to adjourn at 11:55 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham**

**Voted: 6-0**

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