



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 02/23/2010**

*Approved by the School Committee March 25, 2010*

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 2010**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**Present:** Denise Burns, Vice Chair  
Joe Curro, Secretary Leba Heigham  
Ronald Spangler Cindy Starks  
Jeff Thielman

Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent  
Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer:  
Mark Ryder, Special Education Director:  
Jennie LaCourt and Jay Hukma

**Excused Absent:** Joe Curran, Chair  
Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent

**Ms. Burns opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**  
Mr. Thielman arrived at 8:04 p.m.  
Dr. Spangler exited the meeting at 9:36 p.m. and returned at 9:38 p.m.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Andrea Canty and Ms. Sara Formert, Peirce School parents, thanked Dr. Bodie for starting the Peirce Principal Search and encouraged the Administration to review the proposed reductions that are being considered.

### **ELEMENTARY WRITING/READING, SECONDARY ELA**

Ms. Deb Perry, part-time Interim English Director, presented the English Language Arts update and spoke about the curriculum from K-12. Ms. Linda Hanson and Ms. Evelyn DeRosa spoke on their focus to help teachers deliver the reading program and showed examples of how Arlington Public School teachers are working in the classrooms with their students.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Arlington Public Schools FY 11 Revenue Detail Projections, the FY 11 Proposed Budget dated February 23, 2010 and FY 11 Proposed Expenses with FY 11 Funding Sources included. Ms. Johnson pointed out various special education costs and stated that even though Town Manager, Brian Sullivan announced at the Budget Revenue Task Force meeting, the night before, additional monies around 1.2 million dollars was available to the school budget, Ms. Johnson said she did not include this extra amount of money into the budget because she would like to wait until the Governor's numbers are confirmed by the Legislature sometime in April.

After the Committee members reviewed the budget documents, the Committee raised questions on various budget line items around Special Education, custodial fees and around new hire reserves. Ms. Johnson explained the reasoning of line items in question and she did point out that she is new to this budget format and would like to make the budget format clearer for all to understand and will work on a new format. The committee members were in agreement to keep the deficit as is until confirmation from the governor in April.

Mr. Curro presented the Community Budget Survey that the Budget Subcommittee and other community members worked on and read the questions to be included in the survey. After Mr. Curro had asked the full committee for approval of the survey, the following motion was made.

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Community Survey on FY 11 School Budget, draft rev.5 February 23, 2010, seconded by Ms. Heigham with the suggestion to use the language of “ student “ in place of kids and child, throughout the survey.  
Voted 6-0.**

Ms. Burns suggested that the administration should check with legal on two of the system wide reductions, reducing traffic supervisors and eliminated bus services.

**Mr. Curro moved to schedule the Arlington School Committee Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.  
Voted: 6-0**

Mr. Curro discussed the budget timeline and the potential need for an extra meeting to discuss and vote the budget and to hold meetings to finalize Superintendent Public Interviews. Mr. Curro suggested to the committee members to send along their availability to meet between March 8 and March 26, to Karen Fitzgerald.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Wallis Raemer announced the Arlington High School Athletic championship teams, Girls Varsity Hockey, Boys Varsity Basketball and the Track Team. Dr. Raemer also announced the Technology Advisory Committee will be meeting on February 25. The Ottoson Middle School Orchestra Select will perform at the Massachusetts Music Educators Association conference. Ottoson and Arlington High School students will have their art exhibits displayed at the Arlington Center for the Arts.

#### **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010 – 2011**

Dr. Wallis Raemer presented the revised school calendar with the correct February vacation week for 2011.

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2010-2011, seconded by Mr. Curro.  
Voted: 6-0**

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Curro reported on all correspondence received:

A letter of support for Dr. Kathleen Bodie for Superintendent from Arlington High School Math Teacher and Arlington resident, Brackett School Newsletter dated February 22, 2010, MASC bulletin, February 2010, ELA Imagine literary Magazine from Arlington High School and a letter from National Council of Teachers of English stating that Imagine has been selected to receive a rank of superior in the 2009 NCTE Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary magazines.

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 requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequences

\*Approval of Warrant: #10116 dated February 9, 2010 in the amount of \$37,165.89.

\*Minutes for Approval: Tuesday, November 24, 2009

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Heigham.  
Voted: 6-0**

#### **ROUNDTABLE**

*Ms. Heigham reported that District Accountability met today, prior to this School Committee meeting and that 2008-2009 District Goals were completed and Ms. Heigham had requested to the chair to add time on the next agenda to present an executive summary.*

***Dr. Spangler moved that the full committee suspend policy CBI – Evaluation of Superintendent to a time indefinite, seconded by Ms. Heigham, Mr. Curro moved to amend the main motion to suspend evaluation of superintendent until after such time as a permanent Superintendent has been decided.***

*Following discussion, Mr. Spangler withdrew his motion.*

***Ms. Heigham moved to suspend Superintendent Evaluation to date uncertain, seconded by Ms. Starks. Roll Call: Ms. Starks No, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro No, Ms. Burns No Voted: 3-3 motion fails***

*Ms. Heigham stated the Mr. Brian Mulvey withdrew from the Superintendent Search Committee.*

***Ms. Heigham moved to add Mr. Al Tosti to the Superintendent Search Committee, seconded by Mr. Thielman. Voted: 5-1, Ms. Burns voted No***

*Ms. Heigham informed the committee that dates for the Superintendent finalists' public interviews, site visits and questions for interviews are to be addressed.*

*Mr. Thielman noted that Permanent Building Committee met last week, and reported that questions regarding the design of the Thompson School could need Town Meeting vote if building occurred on the playground.*

*Ms. Burns requested clarification from Ms. Johnson on MSBA documents that the Thompson School Project Manager incorrectly sent to MSBA. Ms. Johnson said she had followed up on this and MSBA confirmed receiving the documents.*

*Mr. Curro reported on his attendance at the Hardy concert and thanked all the students and Ms. Janet Welby.*

*Ms. Burns announced she will not be running for a School Committee seat and will be moving to Maine.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session at 10:08 p.m. to deliberate and strategize with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect, collect bargaining my be conducts, and to exit only for the purposes of adjournment, seconded by Ms.***

***Starks.***

***Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, and Ms. Burns No.***

***Voted: 5-1***

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***Dr. Spangler moved to adjourn at 10:25 p.m., seconded by Mr. Heigham.***

***Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Voted: 5-0***

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