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School Committee Minutes 03/25/2010

Approved by the Arlington School Committee May 11, 2010

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010
7:30 P.M.**

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

*Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent
Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer:
Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent
Mark Ryder, Special Education Director
James Jackson, Student Representative
Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant*

Excused Absence: Ronald Spangler

*Ms. Burns exited meeting at 8:26 p.m.
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and returned at 9:00 p.m.
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 9:30 and returned at 9:33 p.m.
Student Rep exited the meeting at 10:12 p.m.
Ms. Heigham exited the meeting at 10:33 and returned at 10:40 p.m.
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 10:45 p.m.*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Ted Dever, Athletic Director urged the School Committee members and administration to keep athletic user fees as low as possible to keep all students in athletics.

Mr. Stephen Pereira, METCO Director, AAA President, expressed concerns on the motion made to reduce the METCO program by \$125,000 and urged the committee to reverse this action.

Ms. Janice Weinberg, Peirce parent expressed concern with the preliminary proposals on class sizes at the Peirce School.

Mr. Jose Lopes, Peirce METCO parent, stated how hard it would be next year if his fourth child were not able to attend Arlington Public Schools.

Mr. Len Kardon, Dallin Parent said little actions has been done since speaking at the budget hearing on March 9th to improve the budget concerns and recommends asking the town for additional monies.

Ms. Robin Vellere, METCO parent and soldier, encouraged the committee not to reduce the METCO program because it adds diversity in the classroom. Ms. Amy Jackson, METCO parent and mother of student representative James Jackson encouraged the committee not to reduce the program. Ms. Suzie Talukdar, Arlington resident and Ms. Cheryl Antone are deeply concerned on cutting METCO as is Ms. Maguire.

Mr. Curran apologized to the Committee and hoped the Committee will accept his apology for raising his voice at the last meeting.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE: DENISE BURNS AND RON SPANGLER

The Committee member's and the administration recognized the past three years of service of Dr. Spangler and Ms. Burns.

CROSBY/PARMENTER WARRANT ARTICLE DISCUSSION AND VOTE

**Ms. Burns moved to table the Crosby/Parmenter discussion until after the Budget Update, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 6-0**

Ms. Burns exited the meeting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ANALYSIS

Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Mark Ryder, Special Education Director, and Ms. Julie Dunn presented documents on the Distribution of Special Education Students by Grade 2009-2010 and substantially separate In-district Programming, Costs and Savings of Expanded In-district Programming 2009-10 and Maximum Enrollment. They showed the Committee how Arlington has recently built internal separate programs and a lower amount of students are placed out-of-district. The reports showed that we currently have open slots for our in-district programming at all levels. The analysis of the in-district programs shows the costs and savings to Arlington Public Schools.

FY 2011 BUDGET UPDATE

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, and Ms. Diane Johnson presented the FY 2011 Budget changes that were suggested by the administrative team.

The discussion around the FY 2011 budget was to restore teachers, reduce fees, keep class sizes small, and to ask the town for additional money. The Committee agreed that no one wanted to reduce the METCO program, raise any fees, reduce faculty and understands that funding from the state, when it comes through, could help restore some of the proposed reductions.

VOTE APPROVAL OF FY 11 BUDGET

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the School Fiscal Year 2011 Budget of \$44,222,832 with Fees and Reductions as recommended, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

**Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, and Mr. Curran No
Voted 5-1**

**Mr. Curro moved to support a proposal to look at using additional revenues of \$550,000 to benefits Arlington School system and direct the Superintendent and Administrative Team to draft a proposal regarding add backs and /or Fee reductions covered in that event, seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Voted: 4-1 Mr. Curran voting No.**

CROSBY/PARMENTER WARRANT ARTICLE DISCUSSION AND VOTE

**Mr. Thielman moved to direct the Superintendent, Mr. Curro and Ms. Starks to meet with Ms. Carol Kowalski and others to draft Warrant Articles for Crosby and Parmenter and report back to the full School Committee by April 13, 2010, seconded by Mr. Curro.
Voted: 4-0**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Curro stated many emails were received regarding the budget and class enrollment.

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: none**

***Minutes for Approval: Regular School Committee meeting minutes of January 12 & 13, 2010, February 9, 2010,**

***February 23, 2010, Special School Committee meeting minutes, March 4, 2010**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Curro.
Voted: 4 – 0**

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Thielman moved to table Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee until Ms. Heigham returns,

**Seconded by Ms. Starks.
Voted: 4 – 0**

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Thielman said that the Thompson Building Committee will hold a public hearing to talk with the architects and receive feedback from the community.

Mr. Curro noted that the Stratton parents spoke with Architects regarding the Stratton School 3-year plan, which will start this summer. Mr. Curro recognized Mr. Curran's services over the past year as the Chair of the Arlington School Committee, and thanked him for his community service.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Heigham announced that the contract for Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bodie was negotiated and approved by the subcommittee. Ms. Heigham said she would like to suggest the following two motions: recommends that Dr. Kathleen Bodie hereafter be referred to as Superintendent in any and all publications and communications of the Arlington Public Schools and that the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee's work is done and the committee be dissolved.

After Mr. Curran suggested that Dr. Bodie's evaluation should be done first before negotiating a contract, the following motion was made.

**Mr. Curran moved to vote on a contract for Dr. Kathleen Bodie after her evaluation is done, seconded by Mr. Curro.
Roll Call: Ms. Starks No, Ms. Heigham No, Mr. Thielman No, Mr. Curro Yes, and Mr. Curran Yes
Voted: 2 Yes – 3 No Motion fails**

**Ms. Heigham motioned for a five-minute recess at 10:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.
Voted: 5-0**

RECESS

10:45 – 10:55

Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

**Mr. Thielman moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:10 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 4:0**

**Ms. Heigham voted to adopt Dr. Kathleen Bodie's contract as the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee recommended, seconded by Ms. Starks.
Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro Yes
Voted: 4-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved that the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee recommends that Dr. Bodie hereafter be referred to as Superintendent in any and all publications and communications of Arlington Public Schools, seconded Ms. Starks
Voted: 4-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved that the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee's work is done and the committee be dissolved, seconded by Ms. Starks.
Voted: 4-0**

Mr. Curro congratulated Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bodie.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie thanked the School Committee Members and said she enjoys working for Arlington Public Schools and is honored to receive this appointment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

**Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 11:03 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Voted: 4-0**

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee/cs