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School Committee Minutes 05/25/2010

APPROVED BY THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE JUNE 22, 2010

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

7:30 P.M.

Present:

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

Dr. Kathleen Bodie Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer Interim Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education, Ms. Rachel Belofsky Student Representative and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald Administrative Assistant.

Absent:

Mr. Steve Pereira, AAA Representative

Ms. Diane Johnson Chief Financial Officer joined the meeting at 9:02 p.m.
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 10:20 p.m. and returned at 10:23 p.m.
Mr. Ryder exited the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Regular Open Meeting Session

Mr. Curro opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Executive Session

Ms. Starks moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to hear Level 3 Grievance Hearing to comply with the provisions of any general or special law to protect confidentiality of personnel matter and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and/or to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, seconded by Mr. Curran.

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

Voted: 7 – 0

Recess 8:50 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.

Reflection, Remembrance, and Recognition

Mr. Joe Curro welcomed student representative Ms. Rachel Belofsky to the meeting. Mr. Curro reflected on Hannah Arendt and had a moment of silence for Mr. Manny Morais, a parent of the community who passed away suddenly. Mr. Curro invited the community to attend the artwork on display at Town Hall. Mr. Curro stated that he and other administration had attended the Recognition for Mr. Carme and Mr. Penta earlier in the evening.

Public Participation

Ms. Nancy Lowe, Mr. Rubin, and Tony Vogel all expressed their concerns and the benefits of keeping the Ottoson Middle School Guidance counselor.

Nagaokakyo Wrap-up

Ms. Sue Sheffler spoke on the successful exchange of the Japanese students to Arlington in April and presented the committee members Japanese fans. Principal Ruggere noted the enrichment of having the Japanese student at the middle school and the ongoing relationship with the sister city. Mr. Ruggere was presented with an official Arlington-Nagaokakyo t-shirt from Ms. Sheffler for all of his help with the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Progress to date on Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Grant (REMS).

Dr. Bodie introduced Kathy Kaditz who manages the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Grant for the Arlington Public Schools. Ms. Kaditz spoke on Arlington Safe Schools Planning Goals and how they are in place and production of the administrative and teacher flip charts with all district's emergency policies and procedures will be available to all staff in late June 2010. The Arlington website will be updated to include the districts emergency plans and all alternative emergency locations.

Budget Update

Dr. Bodie presented to Town Meeting last Wednesday the FY 11 School Budget. The question and answers from Town Meeting members were for clarification on budget numbers, legal numbers and traffic supervisors.

Dr. Bodie stated that lay off notices will be distributed this week and results from Arlington FY 11 Emergency Gap Fundraising Campaign will impact professional staff lay off notices.

Arlington FY 11 Emergency Gap Fundraising Campaign

Ms. Juli Brazile updated the committee on the two benefit concerts and online auction and encourages the community to continue sending in donations and appreciates the efforts of everyone working so hard on fundraising.

Mr. Curro read the following letter and asked the School Committee members to endorse sending this to the Arlington Advocate.

To the Editor,

The past months have been truly excruciating as we and the rest of the community have come to grips with the enormity of the hole that has been blown in our school budget. ~As most know, we face a gap of over \$4 million, which is largely a result of the nation's financial crisis and other factors beyond our control. ~To this point, most of the painful cuts and revenue increases that we must implement have been a matter of talk and speculation. ~Reality is setting in, though, as we begin the process of laying off staff and deciding on potential fee increases.

The School Department has attempted to tackle some problems -- such as the growth in special education expenditures -- by developing programs that will allow us to serve more of our school-age population closer to home and at lower cost. ~But without large new sustainable sources of revenue and regulatory relief -- coupled with further reform -- ~we will be condemned in the future to repeat the cycle of service cuts and the erosion of the shared societal commitment to public education for all.

It is against this backdrop that we would like to thank the countless people of Arlington who have devoted their time and treasure to buffering the impact of the current crisis. ~Hundreds of individuals have made donations large and small to the Bridge the Gap campaign and sacrificed evenings and weekends to run lemonade stands, bake sales, concerts, bottle and can drives, and yard sales. ~They have done this to ensure that the coming year is a little better than it otherwise might be for our kids, and -- in so doing -- they have provided a lifeline as we tackle longer-term issues. ~

This has been a community-wide effort, and it is truly humbling to represent a town that places such a premium on education. ~The campaign will be winding up on June 7, in order that the School Committee can make final decisions regarding the application of funds raised. ~

We hope that you will consider participating in some of the final fundraising events for the campaign, which are listed at <http://www.arlingtoneducationfoundationma.org/>. ~And if you have not already done so, we urge you to support the campaign by donating online or by mail to Arlington Education Foundation (marking your donation *Bridge the Gap*), P.O. Box 80, Arlington, MA 02476.

With gratitude and respect,

Members of the Arlington School Committee

After Mr. Curro read the letter the following motion was made.

Mr. Thielman moved to endorse the letter to the Arlington Advocate, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7 – 0

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie received a letter today from Massachusetts School Building Authority and in order for the Massachusetts School Building Authority to consider and proceed with the larger Thompson School design, the district must agree to initiate and implement a redistricting plan to move 50 students into the Thompson Elementary School district, in accordance with the enrollment information presented by the District to the MSBA.

Dr. Bodie said the vote would move us forward. The meeting minutes must include the vote language and the results of the vote. Dr. Bodie said this should get us moving forward.

Mr. Thielman moved that the Arlington School Committee would initiate and implement a redistricting plan to move 50 students into the Thompson Elementary School District, in accordance with the enrollment information presented by the District to the MSBA, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7- 0

Mr. Thielman moved to direct Mr. Joe Curro to sign the MSBA, Thompson Elementary School, Design Enrollment Certification, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7- 0

Dr. Bodie asked the School Committee to advise and consent to the appointment of Dr. Wallis Raemer to working half time as Interim Assistant Superintendent for next year.

Mr. Thielman moved that the School Committee gives advise and consent to appointment of Dr. Wallis Raemer to the half time position of Interim Assistant Superintendent beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6 –0 (Mr. Curran had already exited the room)

Dr. Bodie stated that many of the directors will be part time for next year due to retirements and Resignations. The Ottoson Middle School will be hosting the Community Educations Summer Fun Courses this summer and the Science camp is already full. Enrichment programs for after school programs will be offered at various elementary schools in the fall.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Starks reported on all correspondence received:

- Invitation to the May 20th Evening of Film Music by AHS students
- Copy of the Lay-off letter sent to teachers by Superintendent Bodie
- email concerning questions about the SC budget
- May 2010 Issue of the Spy Ponder
- Friday May 14, 2010 edition of the Stratton Scene
- Memo regarding the Ida Robbins scholarship and this year's recipients
- Minutes from the Superintendent search committee meetings dated January 21, 2010, February 10, 2010, February 22, 2010, February 24, 2010, February 25, 2010, February 27, 2010, and March 3, 2010
- Draft Minutes from the organizational meeting of the SC on April 13, 2010
- Draft Minutes from the school committee meetings on dates April 13, April 27, and May 11 2010
- May 17 edition of the Brackett School Newsletter
- Letter to Ron Colosi informing him of the hearing date and time of the level 3 guidance case load grievance~
- copy of the MOU regarding private fundraising
- monthly enrollment numbers as of May 1, 2010
- copy of the Fy 2010 Non-retainer legal expenses to date
- letter about concerns at the Ottoson
- PRESS RELEASE: Gov. Patrick Announces Massachusetts Awarded \$13 Million Data Systems Grant

- May 21, 2010 edition of the News from Ottoson
- Letter to Superintendent Bodie from the MSBA about enrollment at Thompson
- Copy of the program from the Teens in Transition Symposium and information on the AHS transition program

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 # 10157 Total Warrant Amount \$252,694.98 dated May 11, 2010.

*Minutes for Approval: March 9, 2010,

*Ida Robbins Scholarship two AHS seniors with highest GPA

*Waiver of Fees for Gap Fundraising use of AHS, June 3, 2010

*Approval of Accounts Payable Principal Clerk Job Description

*Approval of Procurement Officer Job Description

Ms. Curro moved to approve the Consent agenda *Approval of Warrant # 10157 Total Warrant Amount \$252,694.98 dated May 11, 2010. *Minutes for Approval: March 9, 2010, *Ida Robbins Scholarship two AHS seniors with highest GPA, *Waiver of Fees for Gap Fundraising use of AHS, June 3, 2010, *Approval of Accounts Payable Principal Clerk Job Description, *Approval of Procurement Officer Job Description, Ms. Heigham moved to separate the minutes of March 9, 2010 from the Consent agenda, Mr. Pierce moved to remove the Waiver of Fees for Gap Fundraising use of AHS, June 3, 2010, Mr. Curran moved to requested to remove the job descriptions of the Accounts Payable Principal Clerk and Procurement Officer Job Description, The vote to approve the Warrant and the Ida Robbins Scholarship, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Voted: 7 – 0

Ms. Heigham moved to amend the Minutes of March 9, 2010, page 3 of 3 under *Update From The Superintendent Search Committee to strike*” announced that on March 4, 2010 Dr. Kathleen Bodie had withdrawn” and replace with “read a letter from Dr. Bodie dated March 4, 2010 in which she withdrew”, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7 – 0

Mr. Pierce suggested that a vote by the School Committee is the only way a fee can be waived and that he will present a motion in roundtable.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Waiver of Fees for Gap Fundraising use of AHS, June 3, 2010, seconded by ms. Starks.

Voted: 7 – 0

After Ms. Johnson replied to Mr. Curran that no salary increases and no cost to the district would incur for the Accounts Payable Principal Clerk Job Description and the approval of Procurement Officer Job Description, the following motion was made.

Ms. Starks moved the approval of the Accounts Payable Principal Clerk Job Description and the approval of Procurement Officer Job Description, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7 – 0

Roundtable

Mr. Pierce moved that the Superintendent notify principals and custodial staff that all groups utilizing the school buildings must submit permit applications pursuant to policy KF and remind staff that also pursuant to policy KF only the School Committee can waiver rental fees, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7 – 0

Mr. Pierce said after the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee reviews and receives data on rental fees and that the policy will be reviewed and updated next school year.

Dr. Kirsi Allision-Ampe said she attended an Arlington Education Foundation Board meeting and suggested the Budget Subcommittee meet. Dr. Ampe made the following motion and after it was read Ms. Johnson said this cannot be done by the 8th.

Dr. Ampe moved that the Budget Subcommittee is directed to work with the Superintendent and Chief Financial Office to produce, by June 8, 2010, a FY 10 financial report as defined by the Policy manual, file DI: Fiscal Accounting and Reporting. Said report shall also include any necessary budget transfer requests as specified by Policy Manual file, DBJ: Budget Transfer Authority, seconded by Ms. Starks. Voted: 7 – 0

Mr. Curran had attended the Ostergren Awards dinner hosted by the Touchdown Club of Arlington and congratulated the Ostergren award winners, Anthony Taylor and Lauren Willey, seniors of Arlington High School in the opinion of the coaching staff, best exemplify the qualities of loyalty, leadership, athletic ability, character, and consistent scholastic ability.

Mr. Curro apologizes to the Touchdown Club of Arlington for not being able to attend the awards dinner and thanked Ms. Heigham, Dr. Bodie and Mr. Curran for attending.

Mr. Thielman requested that the Policy and Procedures subcommittee submit all policies they intend to review this year.

Ms. Starks attended the Bishop Fair and the next Community Relations Subcommittee will meet May 26, 2010, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room to discuss redistricting.

Ms. Heigham appreciated attending the Ostergren Awards dinner for Mr. Curro.

Ms. Heigham recommended to the Chair of the School Committee to recommend a 5 to 10 minute recess between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m. as part of the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Thielman. Voted: 5 – 2, Mr. Curran and Ms. Starks voting No.

Mr. Curro said the Executive Subcommittee will meet June 1, 2010 at 7 p.m. and the Legal Services Review Subcommittee will meet next Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 8:00 am.

Executive Session (collective bargaining union and non-union) II

Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session to enter Executive Session at 10:56 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect, collective bargaining may also be conducted, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, seconded by Ms. Starks.

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

Voted: 7 – 0

Adjournment

Ms. Starks moved to adjourn at 10:59 p.m., seconded by ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7 – 0

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