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School Committee Minutes 06/08/2010

Approved by School Committee on September 28, 2010

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 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, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Steve Pereira, AAA Representative, Mr. James Robinson and Ms. Maggie Griesmer, Student Representatives and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent:

Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 9:15 and returned at 9:20 p.m.

Ms. Griesmer exited Meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Robinson exited the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 10:27 p.m. and returned at 10:30 p.m.

Reflection, Remembrance, and Recognition

Mr. Joe Curro's reflection focused on the history of buildings in Arlington. He recognized the artwork displayed around the School Committee Room of Arlington High School students. Mr. Curro and Dr. Bodie displayed the Peirce School students' artwork from the MWRA Poster contest.

Public Participation

Ms. Nancy Lowe, Mr. Toni Fentin, Ms. Laura Tracey, Mr. Nawwaf Kaba and Ms. Francesca Coltrera encouraged the School Committee to reconsider reducing the Ottoson Middle School Guidance Counselor position.~Mr. Robert Bartholomew spoke on the importance of the athletics for students in all schools and to have the School Committee consider a reasonable fee and to allocate the fees received to the Athletic Department. Mr. Len Kardon requested the Budget Subcommittee members to continue to meet and review the budget and hire back~as many teachers as possible.

Approval of School Committee acceptance of grant from AEF Part time Mandarin Teacher at AHS 2010 – 2010 school year.

Principal Skidmore and Ms. Julie Dunn asked the School Committee to accept a donation from an anonymous donor given to the Arlington Education Foundation to cover the cost of hiring a (.2) Mandarin Teacher at Arlington High School for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Mr. Thielman moved to accept the offer from the Arlington Education Foundation to fund the Mandarin Teacher position at Arlington High School, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7- 0

Budget Update

Dr. Bodie spoke on how the community had come together with Bridge the Gap fundraising and currently raised \$478,000. The on-line auction raised \$33,000 and with town bakes sales, yards sales, lemonade sales and donations still coming in, the amount will surely go up. The School Committee, Dr. Bodie and administration thanked the fundraising committee for all their work.

Ms. Heigham motioned that the Arlington School Committee extend the Bridge the Gap fundraiser by one week and identify Physical Education at the Elementary Schools, Math Support at Ottoson Middle School, and the Reduction of Athletic Fees at Arlington High School for the next priority funding, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Ms. Starks amended the motion to leave out the Math Support and add in the position of Ottoson Middle School Guidance Counselor, seconded by Mr. Curran

Mr. Curran amended the amendment to include both Math Support and Guidance Counselor to be added at the Ottoson Middle School, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

After a discussion and Dr. Ampe suggested tabling the motion until after the FY 11 Add Backs from Dr. Bodie were heard **Mr. Curran, Ms. Starks and Ms. Heigham all withdrew their motions.**

Ms. Johnson spoke on all fees for Full Day Kindergarten Tuitions, Athletic Fees, Instrumental Music and The Bishop Bus. Dr. Ampe asked how the fees would be voted on, as a group or individually due to Policy: Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest as required by G.L.C.268A s23(b)(3). Mr. Curro said the fees would be voted as one group and all members could vote on them per policy.

Mr. Ted Dever, Athletic Director said he had met with the Budget Subcommittee and others to discuss the various scenarios of athletic fees for high school athletes and said the fees The Budget Subcommittee presented tonight will be the highest athletic fees in the surrounding communities.

After the committee discussed the logic for the increase of fees it was pointed out that financial assistance is available to families in need. The following motion was made:

Ms. Heigham moved to adopt the Fee Schedule for FY 11, which includes Full Day Kindergarten Tuitions, Athletic Fees, Instrumental Music and Bishop Bus fees dated June 8, 2010, seconded by Dr. Ampe.

Voted: 6-1, Mr. Curran voting No

FY 11 Fee Increases							
			Total FY10 Budget Revenue	Total FY11 Budget Revenue	FY10 Fee	FY11 Fee	Fee Increase
Full Day Kindergarten Tuition	\$ 766,500	\$ 970,000	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,000	\$ 600		
Athletic Fees		\$ 178,550	\$ 450,000	see detail	see detail	varies	
Instrumental Music		\$ 119,768	\$ 130,000	\$ 425	\$ 435	\$ 10	
Bishop Bus		\$ 16,000	\$ 25,000	205 or 305	270 or 370	\$ 65	
				Athletics	FY10 Fee Schedule*	FY11 Tiered Fee Schedule	FY11 Fee increase
				Indoor Track	\$ 235	\$ 425	\$ 190
				Cheerleaders	\$ 235	\$ 425	\$ 190

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				Tennis	\$ 235	\$ 500	\$ 265
				Soccer	\$ 275	\$ 500	\$ 225
				Outdoor Track	\$ 235	\$ 500	\$ 265
				Cross Country	\$ 235	\$ 500	\$ 265
				Swimming	\$ 275	\$ 500	\$ 225
				Lacrosse	\$ 235	\$ 500	\$ 265
				Golf	\$ 275	\$ 500	\$ 225
				Volleyball	\$ 235	\$ 500	\$ 265
				Field Hockey	\$ 275	\$ 500	\$ 225
				Basketball	\$ 315	\$ 500	\$ 185
				Baseball	\$ 315	\$ 500	\$ 185
				Wrestling	\$ 275	\$ 500	\$ 225
				Softball	\$ 315	\$ 500	\$ 185
				Football	\$ 315	\$ 550	\$ 235
				Gymnastics	\$ 315	\$ 750	\$ 435
				Ice Hockey	\$ 315	\$ 750	\$ 435
				* Assumes all participants pay the first sport rate			

After Dr. Bodie had meet with the Administration Team to discuss Add Backs and the goal of Bridge the Gap was to reach the one million dollars. The highlighted list below shows the add backs that Dr. Bodie is recommending to the School Committee. The Bridge the Gap fundraising amount received so far is \$483,000 and the add backs reflect this amount.

DRAFT FY 11 Budget Add-Backs April 21,2010

1.	Classroom Teachers - Elementary	(220,000) 50,000	Equalizes class sizes so that no school has more than 27 students in a class.
2.	World Language - Middle School - Grade 6	50,000	Allows world languages to be taught as exploratory courses in the sixth grade. Students who are not receiving reading support will have an opportunity to study Spanish, French, and Latin for one quarter. In seventh grade, students will choose one world language to study.
3.	English Language Arts Teacher - High School (Lit Lab)	(50,000) 25,000	Allows more English electives to be offered in Grades 11 and 12.

4.	Transition Counselor - High School	50,000	Provides transition support for students who are returning from hospitalizations to the high school. Prior to the creation of this position, many students who returned from hospital stays were unable to remain in school. With the transition counselor, students are able to transition at their own pace into a full schedule.
5.	Math Support - Middle School	50,000	Restores a math support position in the middle school. In the FY11 budget, the number of math support teachers who provide additional math instruction to both regular education and special education students is reduced from two to one. Currently, students who struggle with mathematics as identified by MCAS scores and classroom performance receive 2-3 additional periods of math instruction per week. Without two math support teachers, approximately only half the students who presently receive additional instruction in mathematics will receive that support next year.
6.	Art Music Teachers -Elementary	(78,400) 150,000	Restores fully the elementary art and music program in the elementary schools (one class of art and music per week). Without this addition, students will receive art and music instruction only half the year.
7.	Physical Education - Elementary	(105,000) Would need 175,000	Restores fully (2 classes per week) the physical education program in the elementary schools. Without this addition, students will only have physical education instruction one period per week.
8.	.5 Physical Education -Middle School Change to TA	(25,000) 15,800	Restores a half-time physical education teacher in the middle school. Without this addition, PE class sizes will average 40 students.
9.	.4 Art-High School	(25,000) 15,000	Restores a part-time (0.4) art teacher in the high school. Without this position, 40-60 students who have selected art as an elective will not be able to take art.
10	.5 Family & Consumer Science - (Middle School) High School	20,000	Restores a half-time position in Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) allowing all students in grades 6-8 to have one quarter of FACS as an exploratory elective. Part of the health curriculum is taught in FACS classes.
11	ACE & Drama- Middle	(42,000)	Partially restores the ACE and Drama program in the middle

\$ 483,800

	School	23,000	school. Neither ACE nor Drama is funded in the FY11 budget.
1 2.	Library Teacher Assistants - Elementary + 3TA	80,000 50,000	Restores a library-teaching assistant in each elementary school. Without this addition, elementary libraries will need to be staffed by parent volunteers, resulting in reduced times during the school day when students can take out books.
1 3.	ACE Teacher Support	50,000	Restores one ACE position at the elementary level. This addition will continue the support teachers received this year in differentiating the curriculum to provide more challenge for students.
1 4.	Traffic Supervisors (8)	(55,000) 20,000	Restores 8 of the 31 traffic supervisors, one for each elementary school and one for the middle school. Principals with advice from the police department will determine where they feel that the safety of students is most compromised by the movement of cars during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up.

15	Reading Support - Middle School	(50,000) 25,000	Restores a reading teacher at the middle school. The FY11 budget only funds one reading teacher. Currently, two reading teachers provide reading support/instruction. Without this addition, many students who have been identified as needing reading support will not receive this support.
16.	Athletic Fees	50,000	Reduces the proposed increase in athletic fees by 20%, which affects 55-60% of the high school students.
	Total	\$1,010,400	

Total (BOLD)

Recess

9:35 – 9:47 p.m.

Dr. Bodie continued to discuss the highlighted FY 11 Budget Add-Backs after the committee took a recess. Ms. Heigham made the following motion:

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the FY 11 Budget Add Backs that Dr. Bodie recommends, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 5-1-1, Dr. Ampe Abstain, Mr. Curran voted No

Mr. Pierce and Mr. Curran expressed their concern that Traffic Supervisors were not included in the Add Backs and suggested adding public safety to the add backs list for FY 11. The Budget Subcommittee had discussed with The Bridge the Gap group to extend the fundraiser for one additional week and is eager to receive an additional \$100,000. to be used, as recommended from the administration, to sustain Physical Education, Math Support and reducing athletic fees at the high school. The success of the fundraising for one additional week could result in other appropriations to the add-back list.

Ms. Heigham motioned that the Arlington School Committee extend the Bridge the Gap fundraiser by one week and identify Physical Education at the Elementary schools, Math Support at Ottoson Middle School, and the Reduction of Athletic Fees at Arlington High School for the next priority funding, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Ms. Starks amended the motion to include Ottoson Middle School Guidance, seconded by Mr. Curran.

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

Voted: 4-3

The motion as amended the Arlington School Committee extend the Bridge the Gap fundraiser by one week and identify Physical Education at the Elementary schools, Math Support, Guidance Counselor at Ottoson Middle School, and the Reduction of Athletic Fees at Arlington High School for the next priority funding,.

Voted: 7-0

Metco Program update

Dr. Bodie spoke on the METCO Reductions for FY 11. These reductions include the METCO counselor and all benefits, paraprofessional benefits, METCO cell phone, supplies and METCO services totaling \$117,688. Dr. Bodie said the Director of METCO would reduce out of district commitments and cover both the high school and middle school students. It was stated that no special certification is required from the Director to cover the METCO counselor position that has been reduced.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed plan for METCO Reductions as presented, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

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

Voted: 5 – 2

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie welcomed everyone to attend the Staff Appreciation Day at the Ottoson Middle School on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. Dr. Bodie said Dr. Raemer will share the Collaborative Team Projects (CLT) Professional Development update at our next meeting. The Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee and METCO will be co-hosting the third annual Coffee Social for educators of diverse backgrounds on June 10 at 4:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room. The Math Expo will be held Saturday, June 12 at the Museum of Industry and Innovation in Waltham.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Starks, Secretary reported on all correspondence received:

- many emails in support of more guidance counselors at the Ottoson Middle School
- Invitation to the June 17, 2010, Massachusetts Committee for Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve's annual Employer Appreciation Day at Hanscom Air Force Base
- Emails in support of teachers who received pink slips
- Email about preschool fees
- Ottoson Newsletter dated June 1, 2010
- June edition of the Bishop Pennant
- June 7 edition of the Brackett School Newsletter
- June 1, 2010 High School Guidance newsletter
- Draft of the minutes from the regular SC meeting on May 25, 2010, May 11, 2010, April 27, 2010, April 13, 2010 as well as the organizational meeting of April 13, 2010
- Approved copy of the March 9, 2010 regular SC meeting minutes
- MASC/MASS joint conference registration information - being held in Hyannis November 3-6
- Copy of a press release from the superintendent to Mr. Bob Sprague about the recent layoffs of pre-professional teachers
- Copy of an email from superintendent Bodie about her decision to appoint an interim principal at Bishop
- List of the staff to be recognized on Wednesday, June 9 at 2:45 at the Ottoson Middle School
- Updated list of FY10 non-retainer legal expenses
- June 2010 issue of the Ponder Report
- Email concerns about ACE and PE cuts at the Ottoson
- Letter from varsity baseball & football coach about athletic fees
- Email in favor of elementary ACE
- Email questioning some budget restorations
- Email concern over appointments to sub-committees
- Letter from Mr. Skidmore & Ms Dunn about obtaining funds from AEF to fund a part-time Mandarin teacher at the high school for next year
- Copy of a letter sent to Ottoson parents from Superintendent Bodie explaining the cuts for next year at the Ottoson
- Copy of a memo to Mass. superintendents about Health Insurance Plan design proposal recently approved by the Senate
- June 1 Monthly enrollment numbers of the Arlington Public Schools and May FY 10 Non-Retainer Legal Expenses

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 # 10166, Total Warrant Amount \$662,635.82 dated May 25, 2010.

*Minutes for Approval: April 13, 2010 Organizational meeting minutes, Regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2010, April 27, 2010 and May 11, 2010.

*Human Rights Commission Appointments: William Shea

*Approval of Community Education Temporary Job Description

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Consent Agenda as noted, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7-0

Roundtable

Mr. Pierce said the next Policy and Procedures Meetings will be held Monday, June 14, and June 21, 2010 and wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

Dr. Ampe had attended one of the Bridge the Gap fundraisers.

Mr. Curran had attended the Greek Festival and attended the Soap Box Derby.

Mr. Thielman School Committee liaisons to the Town Government Reorganization Committee said the committee is currently forming subcommittee assignments and working hard.

Ms. Starks had attended the Arlington/Belmont Crew banquet and attended Bridge the Gap fundraiser and the Ottoson Middle School Play; I Hate Shakespeare and attended the Greek festival too. Ms. Starks said the Community Relations Subcommittee met on April 26 and discussed redistricting and with continue to gather information on this over the summer and will hold a meeting then.

Ms. Heigham said the Budget Subcommittee meet on Friday June 4, and recessed the meeting till Monday, June 7. Ms. Heigham said the subcommittee would work on tracking expenses versus the budget and look into policy language for DI - FISCAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

Ms. Heigham did say that it was not feasible for Ms. Johnson to have the report the committee motioned last meeting for tonight but the Budget Subcommittee will meet on Friday, June 11, 2010 at 4:30 to discuss Chart of Accounts.

Mr. Curro thanked the Recycle Committee and said he attended the Art Reception at Town Hall. Mr. Curro attended Colonial Day with Dr. Ampe at the Stratton School. Mr. Curro and Dr. Bodie attended Colonial Day at Pierce School and he will attend Hardy's Colonial Day on Wednesday.

Mr. Curro said the 5-Year Planning Committee would like another School Committee member appointed to this process along with Mr. Curro and Dr. Ampe.

Ms. Heigham moved to appoint Mr. Thielman to the 5-Year Planning Process Subcommittee, seconded by Dr. Ampe.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Heigham said the Relay for Life was well represented by many Arlington students. Arlington High School will hold graduation this Sunday, June 13, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Legal Services Review Subcommittee Report

Mr. Curro said a letter from Mr. Allan Miller, Stoneman, Chandler and Miller dated June 2, 2010 proposing a new two-year retainer through June 30, 2010 at the same \$45,000 per year rate was received. Mr. Curro said the Legal Services Review Subcommittee has more work to do and no recommendation can be given at this time.

Mr. Curran recommended that Mr. Thielman recuse himself from serving on the Legal Services Review Subcommittee.

Mr. Thielman replied that two attorneys did say it is not a conflict of interest for him to serve on this subcommittee.

Mr. Thielman said he would consider stepping off the Legal Services Review Subcommittee if Dr. Bodie and the committee is uncomfortable and suggests this.

Executive Session (collective bargaining union and non-union)

Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session at 11:00 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 to exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Ms. Starks.

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

Voted: 7-0

Adjournment

Ms. Heigham moved to adjourn at 11:04, seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted: 7 – 0

**Respectfully Submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald**

**Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee/cs**