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## School Committee Minutes 07/27/2009

*Approved by the Arlington School Committee October 27, 2009  
and enter ACMI video into record*

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2009  
7:30 P.M.**

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

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie  
Interim Assistant Superintendent: Wallis Raemer  
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

**Excused Absence:** Ronald Spangler  
Cindy Starks  
Sue Mazzarella, Chief Financial Officer

**Mr. Curran opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

*Ms. Burns exited meeting at 7:45 p.m. and returned at 9:15 p.m.  
Mr. Ryder exited meeting at 7:55 p.m. and returned at 9:15 p.m.*

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Mr. Tino D'Agostino, Instrumental Director, supported Dr. Bodie's proposal to hire Interim Director of Visual Arts, Grades K-12 and Interim Director, Performing Arts, Grades K-12, and he stated that this support is shared with others from his department.*

### **APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

**Mr. Thielman moved to table agenda items 2) Executive Session and agenda item 3) Additions and Revision to AHS 2009 - 2010 Student Handbook and go to agenda item 4) Approval of Job Descriptions, seconded by Ms. Burns.  
Voted 5-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the job description of the Interim Director, Visual Arts, Grades K-12, seconded by Mr. Curro.  
Voted 5-0**

*Subsequent discussion included the suggestion that the Superintendent avoid hiring interim appointments in the future.*

**Mr. Curro moved to approve the job description of the Interim Director, Performing Arts, Grades K-12, seconded by Ms. Heigham.  
Voted 5-0**

Dr. Bodie expressed appreciation for the support of the School Committee and confidence that this job share will be successful

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Ms. Burns moved to remove from the table Agenda item 2. Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Curro. Voted 5-0**

**Ms. Burns moved to enter Executive Session to hear level 3 grievances and to conduct strategy session with respect to collective bargaining; collective bargaining may also be conducted, seconded by Mr. Curro. Voted 5-0**

**Roll call: Ms. Heigham - Yes, Mr. Curro - Yes, Ms. Burns - Yes, Mr. Curran - Yes, and Mr. Thielman - Yes**

Ms. Burns excused herself, stating that she will not go into Executive Sessions, due to trust issues with other committee members.

**Mr. Thielman moved to exit out of Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. and returned to the regular School Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Heigham. Voted 4-0**

**Roll Call Ms. Heigham - Yes, Mr. Curro - Yes, Mr. Curran - Yes, and Mr. Thielman - Yes**

## **RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT - Bob Penta, Principal, Peirce Elementary School**

Dr. Bodie announced the retirement of Mr. Bob Penta and thanked Bob for his years of service with the Arlington Public Schools. The Committee also thanked Bob for his dedication to the students, parents and staff, and members joined Dr. Bodie in wishing Bob well in his new pursuits.

## **ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS TO AHS 2009 - 2010 STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Ms. Burns moved to remove from the table Agenda item 3. Additions And Revisions To AHS 2009 - 2010 Student Handbook, seconded by Ms. Heigham. Voted 5-0**

Principal Charlie Skidmore presented the student handbook changes and additions in the **Code of Discipline** area of the handbook, which had been reviewed by Stoneman, Chandler, and Miller and administration at the high school. After the committee's discussion, the following motion was made:

**Ms. Burns moved to approve the Additions and Revisions of the Student Handbook for 2009 - 2010 pending review from the Parent Advisory Council and from the Student Advisory Council, seconded by Mr. Curro.**

After reviewing the policy CHC/CHC-A, the committee determined that the School Committee did not need to vote to approve the student handbook and **Ms. Burns withdrew the motion.**

## **REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Heigham, chair of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee, along with subcommittee members Cindy Starks and Jeff Thielman presented a PowerPoint presentation on their research findings, consultations with other districts, and a recommendation for a process with a potential timeline for a 2009 - 2010 superintendent search. Some key considerations from the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee were the cost of a full search, the number of vacancies and desirable candidates, the impact a highly qualified internal candidate would have on the search, and the need for transparency and community involvement.

Ms. Heigham stated that it is the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee's recommendation, before a search process was started, to consider our current Interim Superintendent as a serious candidate. The subcommittee also recommends that each committee member meet individually with Dr. Bodie in August 2009 and discuss qualifications and considerations and ensure before we go to an outside search that we consider our internal candidate and gauge that candidate's interest in the job. After this process, the School Committee would determine whether to go forward with a formal interview of the internal candidate or to proceed to a full search.

Ms. Heigham recommended ground rules for discussion.

**Point of Order by Ms. Burns - stating that Mr. Curran is the chair and responsible for the conduct of the meeting.**

*Committee members discussed other districts' experience with similar searches; the advisability of holding private interviews with the Superintendent before having a public process for hiring; suggestions on how to bring the public into the process earlier; and the option of doing a full search at the very beginning.*

**Ms. Burns moved to ask the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee to define what an open search process would look like and what kind of timeline we could see that happening in.**

*Ms. Heigham pointed out to Ms. Burns that the subcommittee's data presented included the search process and if the subcommittee just eliminated June – August in the current timeline the intent of her motion would be satisfied. Ms. Burns withdrew her motion.*

**Ms. Burns moved to direct the Superintendent Search Process Committee Subcommittee to begin conducting an external search for a Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Curran.**

**Voted 2-3 motion fails**

**Roll Call Ms. Heigham - No Mr. Curro - No Ms. Burns - Yes, Mr. Curran - Yes, and Mr. Thielman - No**

*There was further discussion about the proper process for considering an internal candidate; bringing the public into the discussion; and the charge of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee to recommend a process.*

**Mr. Curro moved to support the proposed process of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee, to request that the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee report back to us, the full School Committee, with suggestions for further public involvement in Stage 1, and request that the Budget Subcommittee accelerate planning for a public visioning exercise around the direction of the Arlington Public Schools, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

*Mr. Curro accepted Ms. Heighams proposed amendment to change to the motion to read "and request visioning exercises from the public by the Budget Subcommittee." Mr. Curro did not support Ms. Burns' request to split the motion.*

**Mr. Curro moved to support the proposed process of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee and request that the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee, report back to us, the full School Committee, with suggestions of further public involvement in Stage 1 and request visioning exercises from the public by the Budget Subcommittee around the direction of the Arlington Public Schools, seconded by Ms. Heigham. Voted 3-2, Ms. Burns and Mr. Curran voting No**

**Mr. Thielman moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro  
Voted 5-0**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**\*Approval of Warrant # 09183 Eff Date 6/30/2009 Chk Date 7/2/2009 2009 Total Warrant Amount \$121,495.76**

**Mr. Curro moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Heigham.  
Voted 4-1, Ms. Burns voting No**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Bodie announced the appointment of Ms. Karen Hartley to the position of Interim Principal at the Peirce Elementary School due to the retirement of Mr. Bob Penta and said that she will begin a search in January 2010 to fill the position for the next school year. Dr. Bodie stated that Mr. Coughlin's arbitration ended on July 15, 2009 and that the Arbitrator will have a decision by the end of October. Dr. Bodie expressed delight that Nigel Kraus, AHS Math Teacher, was awarded Most Valuable Teacher at a recent Red Sox game for organizing the S.A.V.E club at AHS.*

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

*Mr. Curro reported on all correspondence received: thank you note from Brian & Ann Sullivan; copy of letter regarding traffic concerns; press release on AHS award announcement; copy of letter from Town Treasurer to Mr. Beal's regarding scholarship funds; letter from Castle families to Germaine Lawrence expressing concerns on closing of their school.*

### **ROUNDTABLE**

*Mr. Curran moved to appoint Mr. Curro as the School Committee representative to the Arlington Schools Foundation, Cindy Starks to the Town-wide PTO and Ms. Burns to the Town Government Reorganization Committee, seconded by Ms. Heigham.*

*Voted 5 – 0*

*Mr. Curro moved to accept the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee's recommendation that the full committee establish an account (pending legal approval) for the purpose of collecting and distributing funds to:*

- Ensure that sufficient revenues are available to fund fee-based programs (Athletics, Music, and All Day Kindergarten) and ensure that all students can participate in programs that now charge fees*
- Offset the loss from revenues not collected*
- Share the burden of these services across a broader range of the community, seconded by Ms. Burns.*

*Voted 5-0*

*Mr. Curro moved to accept the recommendations of the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee to authorize Stoneman, Chandler and Miller to meet with the Policies and Procedures subcommittee for the purpose of reviewing sections G and H of the Policy Manual, seconded by Ms. Burns.*

*Voted 5-0*

*Mr. Curro moved to have the School Committee transmit a letter to each student rep expressing appreciation for their services over the past year, seconded by Ms. Heigham.*

*Voted 5-0*

*Mr. Curro moved the Budget Subcommittee's recommendation for the Chief Financial Officer's salary range to begin at \$91,515 and to end at \$104,000, based upon previous experience, certifications, and other relevant background, seconded by Ms. Heigham.*

*Voted 4-1, Ms. Burns No*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Thielman moved to adjourn at 11:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.*

*Voted 5-0*

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Karen M. Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Arlington School Committee/ jc*