



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 10/13/2009**

*Approved by the Arlington School Committee November 24, 2009*

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009  
7:30 P.M.**

**Present:** Joe Curran, Chair                      Denise Burns, Vice Chair  
Joe Curro, Secretary      Leba Heigham  
Ronald Spangler                      Cindy Starks  
Jeff Thielman  
**Interim Superintendent:** Kathleen Bodie  
**Interim Assistant Superintendent:** Wallis Raemer  
**Chief Financial Officer:** Diane Johnson

**Absent:** Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

**Student Representatives:** Erin McDonald and Lindsay Diranian.

**Mr. Curran called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.**

*Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 9:01 p.m. and returned at 9:04 p.m.  
Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 9:16 p.m. and returned at 9:18 p.m.  
Mr. Thielman exited the meeting at 10:02 p.m. and returned 10:07 p.m.  
Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 10:03 p.m. and returned 10:06 p.m.  
Ms. Burn exited the meeting at 10:05 p.m. and returned at 10:12 p.m.  
Dr. Spangler exited the meeting at 10: 26 p.m. and returned at 10:31 p.m.  
Ms. Burns exited meeting at 10:48 p.m.*

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**None**

### **SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

*Mr. Michael Quinlan, Director of Science presented the Science and Technology Engineering curriculum for K-12, along with score results on AP and MCAS exams. Mr. Quinlan include described Teacher Professional Development, STEM initiatives for all grades, and departmental needs.*

*Committee members questioned Mr. Quinlan about outdated textbooks, use of online resources, how to bring more girls into the sciences, and how we are preparing and teaching students to compose open responses to questions.*

### **ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) REPORT**

*Dr. Kathleen Bodie presented the AYP report "Striving to Reach our Goals for 2009 - 2010" to the committee and was happy to report that all our schools made AYP, apart from selected special education and low income subgroups at the Ottoson Middle School.*

Mr. Tim Ruggere presented the Ottoson Middle School AYP report: "Striving to Reach Our Goals of 2009 - 2010". Mr. Ruggere noted that he had met with Ms. Deb Perry, Director of English and Mr. James Brown, Director of Math, to review students' assessments to discuss ways to drive the instruction of each subject and to develop improvement strategies.

Ms. Sheri Donovan, principal of Thompson Elementary School, spoke about the leadership team at Thompson, the new Math tutor, the part-time math teacher, and the professional development within her school, who all helped with meeting AYP.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mr. Joseph Curran, Chair of the School Committee, acknowledged with a moment of silence the passing of:

Ray Bohn - (September 25, 2009) former Director of Special Education 17 years - resigned 1989 - One of the co-founders of the LABBB Program

William Phelan (September 29, 2009) Former Teacher of math at AHS & OMS 17 years retired 1985

William Gorman, long-time Dallin Teacher Retired 1997.

### **ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the actual enrollment data as of October 1, 2009 for each elementary, middle school, high school and out-of-district special education placement, along with projected enrollments. Committee members inquired about capacity at each of the schools. Ms. Johnson pointed out that regular education and special education each have different needs.

### **BUDGET FY 11 OVERVIEW**

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent provided the FY 11 Budget Major Elements in Development presentation to the committee. Dr. Bodie reviewed major reductions over the past few years and spoke on the overview of the FY 2011 budget. Some of the elements to look at are increasing enrollments, declining state aid, decrease in circuit breaker numbers, decrease in title grant money and salary expenses. Other concerns include growing health insurance costs, 4% growth limit in operating budget, and the ARRA stimulus funds being reduced by half or more.

Committee members were in agreement to bring the community into the Budget discussion and receive feedback on ideas to help reduce the shortfalls.

The committee questioned and discussed bringing in our Town Counsel.

**Ms. Burns moved that the School Committee direct the Superintendent and authorize Town Counsel to be a part of any future decisions to pursue legal action, seconded by Mr. Curran.**

Following brief discussion, **the motion failed on a vote of 2 - 5 motion.**

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

### **MINORITY HIRING REPORT**

Dr. Bodie presented the Minority Hiring Report for 2009. Dr. Bodie spoke of how the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee was happy with the results of this report, which was presented at a previous Advisory Committee meeting. The Advisory Committee will be hosting a coffee for minority staff on October 22, 2009 in the School Committee room.

### **PRESENTATION OF DISTRICT GOALS 2009 - 2010**

Dr. Kathleen Bodie presented the District Goals for 2009 – 2010. Goal 1 and Goal 2 were discussed, and Dr. Bodie stated that the goals remain the same as last year, but with different action plans. The Committee suggested expanding some of the goals and requested to see measurable outcomes for each goal.

**Ms. Burns moved to suspend policy B DFA-E-2 District-Wide Goal Setting and Performance Objective Process from October 1, until date certain, October 27, 2009, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**  
**Voted 7 - 0**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**\*Approval of Warrant # 10041 dated September 22, 2009 in the amount of \$819,192.65**

**Mr. Curro motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Burns.**  
**Voted 7 - 0**

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

Dr. Bodie spoke briefly about how the Thompson School Building Committee is moving forward and that the Stratton School is working on the 5-year facility plan.

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

Mr. Curro presented examples of surrounding communities' School Committee minutes and spoke about requirements and guidelines around minutes and electronic recordings. Mr. Curro presented the revised and trimmed draft minutes from June 9 & 23, July 2 & 27, September 8 & 22, 2009.

In response to Ms. Burns request for the inclusion of a statement reading, "Ms. Burns excused herself, stating that she will not go into Executive Sessions, due to trust issues with other committee members," Mr. Curro announced that the reason Ms. Burns did not enter executive session will be noted on each School Committee meeting minutes after June 23, 2009 in a consistent fashion.

Mr. Curro reported on all correspondence received.

#### **ROUNDTABLE**

Ms. Burns presented the following policies for Second Reading:  
IGA: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT and IL: EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS.

**Dr. Spangler moved for the School Committee to accept to approval of policy IL: EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS, seconded by Mr. Curro.**  
**Voted 7 - 0**

**Ms. Heigham moved the School Committee to accept to approval of policy IGA CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, seconded by Mr. Curro.**  
**Voted 7 - 0**

#### **Ms. Burns presented the following policies for a First Reading**

KGBA: RESPONSE TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY GENERATION PROOPOSALS

IHBAA OBSERVATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, with attached amendment.

IKB: HOMEWORK delete policy and replace

IKB: HOMEWORK - replace entire policy

IKE: PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS delete policy and replace

IKE: PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS replace entire policy

IKB-E: HOMEWORK PURPOSE, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES delete policy do not replace

IKF: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS delete policy and replace

IKF: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS replace entire policy

CHC/CHCA: ADMINISTRATIVE RULES DISSEMINATION/APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTIVES  
delete policy and replace

CHCA: APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTIVES replace with new policy

*Ms. Burns would like the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee to re-review policy CHCA and then bring it back as a first reading.*

*Mr. Thielman suggested moving all second readings of policies to the consent agenda for approval.*

**Mr. Thielman moved to accept the Proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Timeline, seconded by Ms. Heigham.  
Voted 7 - 0**

**The Budget Task Force will be meeting on October 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall  
The Budget Subcommittee will be meeting October 20, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room.  
Dr. Spangler reported that the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Subcommittee had met.  
Ms. Heigham reported that the District Accountability Subcommittee reviewed the District Goals 1 & 2 from 2008 - 2009.  
Ms. Heigham reported that the next Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee will meet Monday, October 19, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Ms. Starks moved to enter Executive Session at 10:48 p.m. to hear updates on current negotiations and to strategize with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and only to return to regular session for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted 6 - 1**

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

*Ms. Burns excused herself, in accordance with her previous statement that she will not go into Executive Sessions, due to trust issues with other committee members.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Curro moved to exit out of the regular meeting at 10:59 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.  
Voted 6 - 0**

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

*Materials included in packet: Nagaokakyo Host Family packets, Brackett 9/28 & 10/5, Thompson Newsletters, AHS phone numbers, OMS weekly update, Letter from D. Bedo and Parent Education Forums 2009 - 2010, ASF letter, Thompson School Building Committee minutes*