



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 02/24/2009**

*Approved by the School Committee March 24, 2009*

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009  
7:30 P.M.

**Present:** Denise Burns, Chair, Leba Heigham  
Jeff Thielman Sue Sheffler  
Ronald Spangler, Secretary Joe Curro

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie  
Chief Financial Officer: Sue Mazzarella

Student Reps: Lauren Alderman  
Adam Formica

Excused Absent: Joe Curran, Vice Chair  
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

*Students exited meeting at 9:30 p.m.*

*Ms. Burns opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.*

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Barbara Goodman and Cindy Starks asked the committee and community to join together and go to the State House on March 24, 2009 from 10-11:30 a.m. and rally for more funds for education.*

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES UPDATE**

*Lauren Alderman announced that Pat Cronin won the Division 2 State Championship in his weight class. Trevor Pitts finished second and Matt Willey finished third in their weight classes. All three advanced to All States. Adam Formica announced the Boston Globe Arts awards for students at AHS.*

*Lauren Alderman raised concern on schedules being received in August versus June. She stated that students have fewer options in August if a student is not granted their course selection. Ms. Bodie agrees with Ms. Alderman and would be fond of schedules being sent out in June.*

### **MENTORING**

*Ms. Solomon presented an overview of the Math Mentoring Program Grades K-5 and Ms. Linda Hanson presented an overview of the Reading Mentoring Program Grades K-5. Ms. Karen Hartley explained the overall success of the Mentoring Program and pointed out that the high school and middle school mentors are by department levels and each elementary school has Building Mentors. Handouts included mentor calendars that integrated meeting schedules throughout the year, a segment from the New Teachers Handbook on Mentoring and activity mentoring logs that are used.*

Ms. Hartley pointed out, when asked by committee member Ms. Sheffler, that the Mentor Program is a stipend position. Ms. Burns had requested data from CFO Mazzarella on the cost of substitutes needed to replace the mentor while observing the mentee, plus the total stipend cost for the program.

## **BRACKETT SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Jen Rothenberg and Kim Smith presented the Brackett School Cricket Yard Renovation Schematic Plan and Site Renovation Budget Cost estimate to the committee and asked approval to get the project started. Ms. Rothenberg and Ms. Smith are looking for volunteers as well as donations for the project. A fundraiser is planned at the Town Hall on Friday May 15, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Spangler inquired to Ms. Bodie and Ms. Mazzarella if the Cricket Yard project could be put into the Capital Planning Budget and Ms. Mazzarella stressed the backlogs of projects and could not include this. Ms. Burns requested a postponement on the vote until the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee could discuss community directed projects and think about equity across all seven elementary schools.

**Mr. Thielman motioned for the Bracket Community be permitted to go forward with the project of Cricket Yard, seconded by Ms. Sheffler.  
Vote 6:0 unanimous**

After additional discussion the following motion was made:

**Ms. Heigham moved to direct Policy and Procedures Subcommittee to create language that will help us evaluate community directed projects that ask for school support and compensation, seconded by Mr. Thielman.  
Vote 5-1, Mr. Spangler Voted No,  
Motion approved**

## **SUMMER FUN ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

Ms. Donna Eidson, Director of Community Education presented the Arlington Summer Fun brochure which includes creative learning and enrichment classes for kids entering grades 1-8. All classes will be held at the Ottoson Middle School during the weeks of July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27. Classes will include half and full days taught by some of Arlington teachers.

**Break 9:10 - 9:20**

## **BUDGET TIMELINE UPDATE**

Due to the current situation the Budget Timeline that was approved in June is obsolete; therefore the following motion was made.

**Mr. Spangler moved to approve the Budget Timeline as written, seconded by Ms. Sheffler.  
Vote 6:0 unanimous**

**Mr. Spangler motioned to approve Special Meeting to be scheduled on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 7:30 pm. to finalize and adopt FY10 Budget, seconded by Mr. Curro.  
Ms. Burns amended the motion to strike "Special" and make it a Regular School Committee meeting.  
Vote 6:0 unanimous**

Mr. Spangler presented Budgeting for Public Schools prepared by Massachusetts Association of School Committees Advocacy Committee dated February 26, 2009. Mr. Spangler reported on the Stimulus package for Public Education and the current Grant Funding from Title 1 and IDEA. When Mr. Thielman asked Ms. Bodie how the funds would be allocated, she responded that it would be a collective decision, from the Budget Revenue and Task Force committee, Finance Committee and the Town Manager.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Ms. Bodie presented the part time GRANT WRITER / COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION with a salary range of \$10,000 - \$15,000 for approval from the committee.

**Mr. Thielman motioned to approve the GRANT WRITER / COORINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION, seconded by Mr. Curro.  
Vote 6:0**

Ms. Bodie noted that Katherine Craven would tour Thompson Elementary School with her and Sean Garballey on February 25, 2009.

Ms. Bodie spoke how the Ottoson Middle School Principal Search is moving forward and that she hopes to have a decision made by next week.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Burns pointed out that the Superintendent Evaluation would take place in March. Mr. Spangler suggested suspending the date of the evaluation. Mr. Thielman suggested that the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee meet next week to discuss a plan and to suggest if a change to the evaluation process is needed.

Ms. Burns invited the committee to attend the tour with Mr. Garballey at the Thompson School at 2:30 p.m.

Ms. Burns acknowledged Stacy Kitsis, Arlington High School teacher who won an award from Facing History and Ourselves. Ms. Burns noted that as chair of the School Committee she was invited to attend the Award Dinner.

#### **ROUNDTABLE**

Ms. Sheffler read a prepared statement, announced she will not run for School Committee, and thanked the committee and community for their support over the past six years.

Mr. Curro inquired about the red gym floor issues and Ms. Mazzarella noted that the issue was resolved.

Ms. Heigham commended the Superintendent and Search Committee in regards to the Ottoson Middle School Principal Search.

Mr. Spangler requested the Math and Science Curriculum Directors to come meet the committee and speak on the curriculum, which ties into the District Goals.

Mr. Spangler updated the committee on the recent Budget Subcommittee meeting held on Friday, February 13, 2009. Mr. Spangler summarized the cost estimates on a motion made by Mr. Curran on 10/28/2008 to "direct the Budget Subcommittee by date certain of November 21, to develop a financial plan that addresses a decision by the arbitrator."

Ms. Burns requested that all elementary schools submit their schools monthly publication to the School Committee.

#### **SECRETARY REPORT**

Mr. Spangler reported on correspondence received. Stratton Scene, Ponders Report, Letters from Evelyn Delori, Augusta Sparks and Rajiv Kaushik.

**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 # 09116 in the amount of \$383,734.52 dated February 10, 2009**

**On a motion by Mr. Curro it was voted to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Thielman.  
Vote 6:0 unanimous**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**10:01 - 10:50 p.m.**

**Mr. Spangler motioned to enter into Executive Session at 10:01 p.m. to strategize with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted and return to regular open session only to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Curro.**

**Roll Call: Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes and Mr. Curro Yes  
Vote 6:0**

**Mr. Spangler motion to exit out of Executive Session at 10:50 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Thielman.  
Roll Call: Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes and Mr. Curro Yes  
Vote 6:0**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Curro moved to adjourn at 10:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Spangler.  
Vote 6:0 unanimous**

*draft minutes from January 27, 2009 & February 10, 2009 were reviewed*

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