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School Committee Minutes 03/10/2009

Approved by School Committee 3/31/2009

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009
7:30 P.M.**

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

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Chief Financial Officer: Sue Mazzarella
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

*Ms. Burns entered meeting at 8:25 p.m.
Mr. Curran returned after break at 9:28 p.m.*

Absent: Sue Sheffler
Student Representatives

Mr. Curran opened meeting at 7:40 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Meg Maloney, Thompson School parent spoke about the conditions at the school and demanded that Capital Planning Committee members should unfreeze the funds that had been set aside to fix the Thompson Elementary School.

Ms. Hillary Rappaport, Thompson School parent stressed that all students should receive equal equity in attending Arlington Public School buildings.

Mr. Spangler and Mr. Curro pointed out that the Thompson School continues to be a priority with them and the entire School Committee.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES UPDATE

No student reps present. Mr. Curran noted the Thompson School student's artwork is displayed in the School Committee Room this month. Mr. Curran presented Athletic Director Ted Dever's Athletic report on the winter teams.

THREE WARRANT ARTICLES FOR DISCUSSIONS

The Town Government Reorganization Committee of 2009 was not discussed; Mr. Bilafer was out of town.

Ms. Barbara Goodman presented Warant Article to purchase creditable service toward retirement for her time spent as

a member of the Arlington School Committee as if she had received compensation for that service. A type of creditable service document was presented to the committee from Ms. Goodman. Due to the full committee not being in attendance and having two school teachers on the board no action was taken on this warrant.

Jane Howard (Co-chair), Josh Lobel and Andrew Fischer of Vision 2020 Standing Committee presented Warrant Article "After School Scholarship Fund". Mr. Lobel noted the new fund was created to offset public school fees and set it up to be similar to Dollars for Scholars. Mr. Lobel noted that the Town Treasure is reluctant to support this article due to the process of collections and disbursement. Mr. Lobel is here tonight requesting support from the School Committee members and Superintendent.

**Mr. Curro motioned to endorse the Concept of the New School Fund by Vision 2020, seconded by Mr. Spangler.
Vote 6:0**

After discussion from the committee and Ms. Bodie on supporting this warrant article, Mr. Lobel requested assistance on the correct wording for this article to help individuals and to lower fees across the board.

Ms. Heigham motioned to refer the Budget Subcommittee to work with Vision 2020 Committee on this article. Ms. Heigham withdrew the motion after deciding it should be forwarded to the Community Relations Subcommittee.

**Mr. Spangler motioned to move the Community Relations Subcommittee to work with Vision 2020 Committee on this wording of the School Scholarship Fund Article, seconded by Mr. Curro.
Vote 6:0**

Ms. Burns congratulated Interim Superintendent Kathleen Bodie on successfully receiving her Ed.D.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2009 - 2010 DISCUSSION

Kathleen Bodie presented three calendar scenarios for a second reading and reiterated that the union would have to be part of this decision and has not received a green light yet from union. Ms. Bodie also included a calendar of World Religion sacred times and a camp start date data sheet with various start dates for summer camps for this school year. A survey was on the school website for parents to choose their preference to start school next year before Labor Day or after and the majority of parents choose before labor day.

The members were in agreement that future school calendars should be reviewed and approved earlier so parents and teachers have not doubt on the start date of school. Future start dates should not be an issue due to Labor Day being closer to the first of September in the next few years.

BREAK 9:05 - 9:25 p.m.

BUDGET TIMELINE DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Spangler reviewed the new timeline, announced the new date for the Public Hearing for April 14, 2009 and suggested that the committee retain the March 31, 2009 meeting to continue budget discussions.

**Ms. Heigham motioned to move the March 31, 2009 start time to 8:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Spangler.
Vote 6:0**

**Mr. Thielman motioned to postpone the March 24, 2009 Public Hearing to April 14, 2009, seconded by Mr. Curran.
Vote 6:0**

**Mr. Curro motion to adopt the revised Budget Timeline presented March 10, 2009, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Vote 6:0**

**The Arlington School Committee
Budget Subcommittee**

It is the policy of the Arlington Public Schools that the school department budget shall be prepared and reviewed in accordance with a timetable established by the School Committee.

FY10 Budget Timeline (Tentative):

February 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Update on FY10 revenues, impact of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
March 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Update on FY10 revenues, impact of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)· Administration presentation
March 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Update on FY10 revenues, impact of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)· TBD discussion
March 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· School Committee votes revised bottom line FY10 operating budget if possible, sets best estimate of revised revenue if not· Administration presents draft of FY10 budget, including additional revenue enhancements / cost reductions· Committee provides feedback and guidance for revisions and alternatives
April 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Public hearing on proposed FY10 budget, per MGL 71:38N (at regular SC meeting)· Superintendent and School Committee review the Administration's revised FY10 budget proposal(s)
April 28 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· School Committee finalizes and adopts FY10 budget
May 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Budget presented to Finance Committee
TBD (June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Budget presented to Town Meeting

The School Committee will work to keep to this timeline. However, in this time of extraordinary fiscal uncertainty it may be necessary to revise this timeline yet again before the adoption of the final FY10 school budget.

BUDGET UPDATE

Interim Superintendent Bodie explained why the timeline has been changed and presented Arlington Public Schools FY 10 Budget Update. Mr. Spangler presented the State Fiscal Stimulus Fund report released by the US Department of Education regarding funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Mr. Spangler explained the components of the ARRA that will affect Arlington's schools, and said he thought as much as \$3 million would be made available to the Arlington Public Schools by the end of September of this year. The Committee and Superintendent continue to receive budget data daily and will continue to update us at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Interim Superintendent Bodie announced the appointment to the position of Ottoson Middle School Principal to Tim Ruggere, Principal of Dedham Middle School. His start date will be July 1, 2009.

Ms. Bodie addressed the AYCC relationship within the Arlington Public Schools and the change for the AYCC interns to continue to support regular education students, but not students on IEPs.

Other items that Ms. Bodie pointed out on the Energy Star Low Carbon IT Campaign that the district is participating in to put all computers in sleep mode and to minimizing air pollution, with a savings to the district. Marie Janiak has successfully completed her National Board recertification and Ms. Bodie thank Cindy Bouvier, Julie Dunn and Nancy

Crasco for completing the Safe School Grant which could provide the district and town \$750,000 each year for four years. The annual audit of the school districts finances was successfully completed and correct. Ms. Bodie and Mr. Ryder spoke on the cost neutral reorganization of responsibilities among the four coordinators within Special Education.

Mr. Spangler said he understood the need for the counseling change for special education students, and that he hoped that the gains made in supporting the social and emotional well being of regular ed students would be maintained and extended in collaboration with AYCC. Ron asked that Cindy Bouvier, Director of Health, Wellness and Student Support Services, attend a future committee meeting to address this issue.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Burns Chair Report included the Supt Evaluation Tool that committee members will need to complete the evaluation of the Superintendent that is required by Policy CBI and CBI - E. This will be sent electronically as requested by the committee, and is due to the chair March 17, 2009. Ms. Burns gave an update on the recent meeting with Rep Will Brownsberger at Belmont High School, which included a presentation from Glen Koocher, Director of MASC and Tom Scott, Director of MASS.

Ms. Burns noted an Appt of SC member to Evaluation Rating Committee for Crosby and Parmenter building use was needed for the Director of Planning.

Mr. Curran motioned to appoint Mr. Curro to the Evaluation Rating Committee for Crosby and Parmenter Buildings Use, seconded by Mr. Spangler.

Vote 6:0

Mr. Spangler motioned to hold the Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.

Vote 6:0

ROUNDTABLE

Members reported on the following meetings in the last two-week:

- § Visit to Thompson School on Feb. 25th by Katherine Craven, Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority,
- § Parent Forum at the Stratton School - Girls: the 21 Century Rollercoaster
- § Meeting with Mitchell Chester, arranged by Rep Will Brownsberger, at Belmont High School
- § Visit to Thompson School by Rep. Brownsberger on March 6th, also attended by committee members Thielman, Spangler and Curro
- § Upcoming Youth & Health Safety Coalition, Thursday, March 19, 2009 Town Hall 7-9.

SECRETARY REPORT

Ms. Burns thanked all the school secretaries on sending newsletters to the committee members.

Mr. Spangler reported on correspondence received: Arlington High Honors Orchestra notice, Elementary School newsletters, Metco report, Sean Harrington's letter from U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman on support of the Pledge of Allegiance and John DiTomaso presentation of the award-winning "Illumination from the Mountaintop" that was held at the Robert Ford Community School Auditorium, Lynn, MA in February.

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 #09124 in the amount of \$566,885.12 dated February 24, 2009

* Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2009 & February 10, 2009

On a motion by Mr. Spangler it was voted to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Vote 6:0

ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Thielman motioned to adjourn at 10:55 p.m. seconded by Mr. Curran.
Vote 6:0**

Draft minutes from February 24, 2009 for review

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