



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 06/09/2009**

*Approved by School Committee October 27, 2009*

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009**  
**7:30 P.M.**

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

**Interim Superintendent:** Kathleen Bodie  
**Chief Financial Officer:** Sue Mazzarella

**Excused Absence:** Ronald Spangler  
Mark Ryder, Special Education Director

*Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and returned 8:45 p.m.*

*Ms. Burns exited the meeting at 9:17 p.m. and returned 9:25 p.m.*

*Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 9:26 p.m. and return 9:32 pm.*

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Ms. Kim Kay Holt, co-founder of the Arlington Enrichment Collaborative, an after school program and enrichment center at the Ottoson Middle School, spoke to the committee about the Model UN 2008 - 2009 Program. Rep. Sean Garballey presented a citation from the House of Representatives to Ms. Holt.*

*On behalf of the Stratton School Council, Mr. Chuck Hannon read a prepared statement on the renovation of the Stratton School, dated June 9, 2009.*

*Mr. Michael Healy, Stratton School Representative to the School Facilities Working Group and a Town Meeting Member, encouraged the School Committee to declare three school buildings – Crosby, Parmenter, and Gibbs – permanent surplus.*

**Point of Order - Ms. Burns moved to extend Public Participation from the 20 minutes allowed, seconded by Mr. Curro.**

**Voted 6-0**

*Ms. Nanci Ortwein, AHS teacher, Town Meeting Member, stated that she was attending the School Committee meeting at the suggestion of the Town Moderator, following the School Department's presentation of the FY 10 budget to Town Meeting on Monday evening, and she raised concerns regarding legal fees.*

*Mr. Joseph Tully, Town Meeting Member, was here tonight at the suggestion of the Town Moderator to ask the Administration of the School Department about expenses accrued on legal fees.*

*Ms. Anna Collozzo, Ottoson Middle School teacher, told the Committee that she and other teachers have taken zero percent increases over the years, and she noted that Arlington teachers have never caught up and are even lagging behind in salaries compared to other communities.*

Mr. Ron Colosi, President of AEA, thanked Ms. Starks for speaking openly at the previous meetings and encouraged the Committee and Administration to continue to look into Special Education Administration costs, legal fees and how Stoneman, Chandler and Miller is overseeing current arbitrations. Mr. Colosi questioned how the legal fees are not affecting teaching and learning.

#### **STANDARDS-BASED PROGRESS REPORTS UPDATE**

Ms. Marie Janiak and Ms. Evelyn DeRosa reported on the final Standards-Based Progress Reports.

Ms. Leilanie D'Agostino explained how the Standard Based Progress Reports from Power School software would work and how they would be able to analyze the collected data on each student from year to year.

#### **VOTE STANDARDS-BASED PROGRESS REPORT CARDS FOR GRADES 1-5**

After discussion, Mr. Thielman moved to approve the Standards-Based Progress Report Cards from Grades 1-5, seconded by Ms. Heigham. Mr. Curro recommended amending the motion to remove the word "Cards" from the motion, accepted by Mr. Thielman.

**Vote 5-0, Ms. Burns had exited the room**

#### **SISTER CITY NAGAOKAKYO EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Ms. Rieko Tanaka informed the committee about the students, teachers and members of the community who are participating on a trip to our Sister City, Nagaokakyo, Japan this summer.

#### **TITLE IX AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES UPDATE**

Mr. Ted Dever, Athletic Director of Arlington High School presented the Arlington Facility Report dated June 1, 2009 and the Title IX Educational Amendments document along with last year's document.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Kathleen Bodie acknowledged all the work Ms. Nanci Ortwein had done on the successful graduation and recognized the entire faculty involved, especially Mr. Christopher Dangle, who was chosen by the 2009 class as guest speaker.

Dr. Bodie spoke of the progress of the Dallin Principal Search and her hopes to have a decision made by the end of the school year. Superintendent Bodie announced the Teacher Appreciation Awards ceremony, which recognized staff who reached milestones in their years of service, including all teachers who made professional status.

Dr. Bodie said to the committee that it would be necessary for Arlington to prepare for Tier 3 and Tier 4 reductions. The committee discussed the process for teachers to be notified and her hopes to reinstate teachers as soon as possible.

Committee members discussed layoff notice deadlines; needed action by the School Committee to fulfill contractual obligations; and the possibility of holding another meeting before the June 15, 2009 notification deadline to discuss and prioritize Tier 3 and Tier 4 reductions.

**Mr. Thielman moved that the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to take necessary steps to comply with the June 15<sup>th</sup> notification deadline of the Arlington Education Association (AEA) contract, not withstanding the Committee's prerogative to review all reductions when the School Committee takes action on proposed Tier 3 and 4 reductions, seconded by Mr. Curro.**

**Voted: 5-1, Ms. Burns voting No.**

#### **ROUNDTABLE**

Ms. Heigham announced the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee would meet Friday, June 19, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room.

Mr. Curro asked that the Chair set aside time on a School Committee meeting agenda to meet with Stratton School Council over the summer.

*Ms. Starks announced the Community Relations Subcommittee would meet on Thursday, June 25, 2009 from 7-9 p.m. in the School Committee Room.*

*Mr. Thielman inquired if the summer meeting date had been determined, and Mr. Curran replied that the committee would vote on the date at the next meeting.*

#### **SECRETARY REPORT**

*Mr. Curro reported on correspondence the Committee received from one Peirce School parent on proposed teacher reductions and from a middle school special education teacher supporting the A.C.E. Program.*

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Ms. Burns moved to enter Executive Session at 10:50 p.m. for the purpose to conduct strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining or litigation. Collective bargaining may be conducted and to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Thielman.***

***Roll Call: Ms. Heigham - Yes, Mr. Curro - Yes, Ms. Burns - Yes, Mr. Curran - Yes, Mr. Thielman - Yes, Ms. Starks - Yes***

***Voted 6-0 unanimous***

***Ms. Burns moved to exit out of Executive Session and return to open meeting at 11:23 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Roll Call: Ms. Heigham - Yes, Mr. Curro - Yes, Ms. Burns - Yes, Mr. Curran - Yes, Mr. Thielman - Yes, Ms. Starks - Yes***

***Voted 6-0 unanimous***

*Dr. Bodie asked the School Committee members to approve the contract for the Chief Financial Officer for only one year, as requested by Ms. Mazzarella, with no salary increase.*

***Mr. Thielman moved to approve the contract of the Chief Financial Officer, Susan Mazzarella, with alteration to Section 6E to reflect the indemnification language of the Superintendent's most recent contract, pending review by Stoneman, Chandler and Miller, seconded by Mr. Curro***

***Roll Call: Ms. Heigham - Yes, Mr. Curro - Yes, Ms. Burns - Yes, Mr. Curran - Yes, Mr. Thielman - Yes, Ms. Starks - Yes***

***Voted 6-0 unanimous***

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Mr. Curro moved to adjourn at 11:29 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham.***

***Voted 6:0***

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