



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **Community Relations Minutes 09/16/2008**

**Approved Minutes**

**Community Relations Subcommittee**  
**September 16, 2008 – Meeting #6**  
**-Minutes-**

In attendance: Jeff Thielman, Subcommittee Chair  
Ron Spangler, Subcommittee Member

Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 12 Noon.

1. The minutes of the August 5, 2008 meeting were approved. **Motion by Ron Spangler, second by Jeff Thielman. Approved 2-0.**

2. FY '10 Budget Outreach

- Mr. Spangler said he will review the timetable with the Budget Subcommittee to see if it should be revised. The sudden resignation of Superintendent Levenson has pushed things back a bit.
- He sees a need to have a few forums around big issues such as Special Education. The purpose would be to educate the public about the FY '10 fiscal challenges.
- Mr. Spangler said a search for a permanent Superintendent of Schools may take away time for community outreach for the FY '10 Budget.
- Ms. Bodie said that she would be comfortable seeing forums start once the school district had a good idea what the shortfall for FY '10 would be.

3. Crosby and Parmenter

The School Committee adopted the following motion on June 24, 2008:

*The Arlington School Committee supports the Town Manager's recommendation that the Board of Selectmen create an Advisory Committee to determine the value of the Parmenter and Crosby buildings at their highest and best uses, as well as with certain as yet to be determined, limitations placed on their use.*

*The Committee further directs the Superintendent to determine whether the projected space needs of the school district could require use of part or all of either building, and to provide recommendations to the Committee as soon as possible, but not later than Sept. 30th, regarding the associated use limitations the Selectmen's Advisory Committee should consider in its valuation study.*

Ms. Bodie said she could have a report on space needs to the subcommittee close to September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is more likely to be ready by the first meeting in October.

Mr. Thielman and Mr. Spangler said this was acceptable and suggested that a presentation be made at a meeting on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the School Committee room.

Mr. Spangler reported that the School Facilities Working Group (SFWG) is meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> and would like to see the numbers at that time as well. Ms. Bodie could then present the space projections at a School Committee meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Spangler noted that per Policy FA/FB/FBB, **FACILITIES PLANNING ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**, “Each year the administration is to make careful projections of elementary enrollment (separately for kindergarten and for grades 1-5 and 6-8) for the following fall. In addition, the best possible assessments of enrollments two, five, and ten years in advance are to be made. The results are to be reported to the School Committee in March of each year.” He said this report was not presented last year.

4. External Communications – Website

- Ms. Bodie noted that Claudia Bertoli has begun to create a searchable PDF file for each policy in the Policy Handbook.
- Mr. Thielman noted that he had had discussions with Mr. Levenson about improving the external communications of the school district. This was something he brought up in Mr. Levenson’s evaluation. Mr. Thielman asked Ms. Bodie if she had spoken to anyone in the district about an external communication plan. She had not but would check with her staff on this subject.
- Mr. Spangler agreed that the district is not doing a good job of promoting its successes.

5. There was no old business

6. There was no new business

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Friday, October 3, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.