



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 09/23/2008

Approved 10/28/2008

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
7:30 PM**

Present: School Committee Members:

Chair, Denise Burns, Vice Chair, Joe Curran, Joe Curro, Leba Heigham, Secretary Ronald Spangler and Jeff Thielman.

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

Absent: *Sue Sheffler*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Cummings requested the committee's support Voting No on ballot question 1.

Juli Brazille and Cindy Starks, Stand for Children, called on the committee to begin the plan for the search process for the Ottoson Middle School principal.

State Representative Garballey urged Ms. Burns and Mr. Thielman to meet with him and other reps and work together for getting local aid back to Arlington.

LEGAL OPINION FROM TOWN COUNSEL & STONEMAN, CHANDLER & MILLER ON MINUTES.

After reviewing the legal opinion from Mr. Alan Miller and Juliana Rice Mr. Spangler made the following motion.

**Mr. Spangler moved to adopt the Emergency Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2008, seconded by Mr. Curran.
Vote 6-0 unanimous**

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 Special Meeting Minutes September 4, 2008*
- *Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes September 9, 2008 with Emergency Minutes included.*
- *Approval of Warrant 09032 dated September 2, 2008 in the amount of 425,279.66.*
- *Approval of Warrant # 09036 dated September 9, 2008 in the amount of \$202,233.58*
- *Approval of AHS trip to France*

**Ms. Burns entertained the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Mr. Spangler requesting the September 9, 2008 meeting minutes be pulled from the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Vote 6-0**

Mr. Spangler motioned to table the September 9, 2008 Regular School Committee minutes indefinitely for a

**period of time until language on page 2 of 9, third paragraph is straightened out, seconded by Mr. Curro.
Vote 6-0**

RECOGNITION

Ms. Burns acknowledged student rep Adam Formica and welcomed him to his first School Committee meeting. The committee recognized the Dallin School Artwork being displayed in the School Committee Room for the month of September. Ms. Burns reported on the Physical Education/Wellness Program at the Ottoson Middle School and the 5-2-1 Jump up and go program.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT PLAN

Ms. Kathleen Bodie presented her staffing plan to the committee and pointed out her past duties since starting at Arlington High School over seven years ago. The plan included short-term as well as long-term staffing plans. Ms. Bodie stressed the importance of three major issues curriculum, professional development and human resources. Ms. Bodie expressed to the committee approval of Interim Director of Math 6-12 for this school year is needed since this position was not in the budget.

ONLINE POLICY MANUAL UPDATE & ACTION

Mr. Thielman motioned to authorize the Superintendent to direct the IT Department to put out all our policies on a searchable PDF file as soon as possible, seconded by Mr. Spangler. Ms. Burns would like to amend the motion so all policies would come through the administrative assistant per policy BGE: Policy Dissemination.

After discussion on the policy and previous approval Mr. Thielman withdrew the motion.

~

THOMPSON SCHOOL RENOVATION UPDATE

Mr. Spangler spoke on the Thompson School Renovation and the status with the MSBA. State Representative Garballey has also been involved with this ongoing review and will continue to support the need for the renovation. Mr. Spangler reported The MSBA has requested another Statement of Interest for 2008 and must be submitted by November 15th. Arlington has been advised to submit their request early (late October) in order to receive constructive feedback from MSBA before submitting the final document.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Bodie, Interim Superintendent reported on Arlington Education Foundation partnership with Arlington Public Schools and pointed out they are funding our membership with Primary Source. Ms. Bodie described the the Media Center Construction and the improvements in the building at Arlington High School. Ms. Bodie spoke on the Grant opportunity through the State Department on the Rwanda Program and noted that the School Committee chair and the Superintendent signatures are required to start the process of the grant.

Mr. Thielman moved to direct the chair and the Interim Superintendent to sign the appropriate forms to authorize this application for the Rwanda Program, seconded by Mr. Spangler. Ms. Burns would like to amend the motion pending seeing terms and conditions of the grant.

Vote 6-0 unanimous

Ms Bodie, Mr. Skidmore and members of the committee stressed the importance this opportunity is for our students and noted that this was only the application stage, not approval of the actual trip and the Superintendent has the authority to void any trip on any international travel due to risks involved. Once Ms. Burns reviewed the terms and conditions she agreed to fully support the Rwanda Program.

Mr. Spangler thanked Sue Mazzarella, Judi Bohn and Laura Prichard for preparing installment payment plans for Instrumental Music fees. Mr. Spangler noted that of all fees this one was increased the most by the Committee in closing the FY09 budget gap. He asked the administration to monitor participation in the program and report back to the committee.

Mr. Thielman asked Ms. Bodie about the AYP report, and it was noted that the full Adequate Yearly Progress report would be given at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Curro motioned to enter into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, and to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract

negotiations with non-union personnel, seconded by Mr. Thielman

Roll Call Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, and Ms. Burns Yes

Vote 6-0 unanimous

Mr. Curro motioned to Exit out of Executive Session at 10:30 p.m. and return to open meeting, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Roll Call Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, and Ms. Burns Yes

Vote 6-0 unanimous

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Thielman motioned to move the full committee to approve to name Kathleen Bodie as Interim Superintendent thru June 30, 2009, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curran abstained, Ms. Burns Yes

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1 Mr. Curran abstained

Ms. Heigham motioned to approve the contract negotiated with Kathleen Bodie and the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee with terms articulated in the contract, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Roll Call Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curran abstained, Ms. Burns Yes

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1 Mr. Curran abstained

Mr. Thielman motion to move that the Arlington School Committee direct the chair to contact the MASC and MASS to begin a Transition program for the Arlington School Committee.

Vote 6:0

Ms. Burns expressed appreciation to Ms. Bodie on doing a great job as interim superintendent.

Mr. Thielman pointed out a clause in the contract, which reads that the term of this Agreement shall be for the period August 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and shall terminate on that date absent a specific written agreement to extend it, provided that the School Committee shall notify the Interim Superintendent in writing by January 15, 2009 if it does not intend to renew the contract through June 30, 2010.

Ms. Leba Heigham requested point of personal privilege to thank Ms. Burns, chairwoman of Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee and Mr. Thielman on serving on this committee with her.

Mr. Spangler motioned to approve the position of Interim Director of Math 6-12, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Vote 6-0

School Committee Administrative Assistant, Karen Fitzgerald reported on requests from previous meetings: Hiring Analysis report was given to committee members, receipts from Stoneman, Chandler & Miller were attached to warrant for review, and Selectmen's Office confirmed October 28, 2008 for joint discussion on community read. Student rep Lauren Alderman reported on the on goings at Arlington High School. Committee members gave update on subcommittee's work and upcoming meetings.

Point of order was requested by Mr. Spangler, seconded by Mr. Curro to move the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 p.m.

Vote 6:0

Mr. Thielman noted that a draft on Space Needs should be reported to full School Committee on October 14, 2008.

Mr. Thielman motioned to move that the Arlington School Committee oppose Question 1, a ballot initiative that would eliminate the state income tax. Passage of Question 1 would cut the state budget by 40%, cause massive reductions in local aid to cities and towns, and result in drastic reductions in school programs. The Committee urges the resident of Arlington to vote No on this ballot question, seconded by Mr. Spangler.

Vote 6-0

The committee referred to correspondence received from MASC, and thanked Mr. Koocher for getting the Ethics Commission to over rule the ruling previously mentioned at the last School Committee meeting.

Mr. Spangler motioned to move that the Arlington School Committee, along with the entire Arlington Public Schools community, does hereby express its heartfelt and sincere appreciation of the work done pro bono by professional landscape architect Clarissa Rowe to improve the grounds of the Thompson and Brackett Schools, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Vote 6:0

Mr. Spangler reported on correspondence received.

Mr. Curran noted the next Policy and Procedures Subcommittee is October 2,2008 at 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Mr. Curran motioned to move to adjourn at 11:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

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

rs