



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 11/12/2008

Approved by School Committee 1/13/2009

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008
7:30 p.m.

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

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

Student Reps: Lauren Adelman, Adam Formica

Call to order 7:35 pm

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS ON RETREAT

Denise Burns reported out on the School Committee / Superintendent Retreat.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

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 End of Year Report

*Approval of October 14, 2008 School Committee Minutes

*Approval of Warrant # 09063 dated in the amount of \$573,431.32

On a motion by Joe Curran and seconded by Joe Curro it was voted to approve the Consent Agenda with the amendment of pulling the minutes of October 14, 2008.

Vote 7:0

On a motion by Joe Curro seconded by Joe Curran it was voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 14, 2008

Vote: 6-1-0 (abstention by Leba Heigham)

RECOGNITION / STUDENT REP REPORTS

* Arlington Enrichment Collaborative at Ottoson recognized for Community Service

* Arlington Cheerleaders advanced to the Regional

* Arlington Girls Soccer

* Arlington High Drama Club will present The Laramie Project November 14th and 15th

MODEL CONGRESS TRIP - UPENN

Student rep Adam Formica presented the Model Congress Trip to the Committee.

On a motion by Jeff Thielman seconded by Joe Curran it was unanimously Voted to approve the Model Congress Trip as presented.

Vote 7:0

VOTE SOI THOMPSON ELEMENTARY

CFO Sue Mazzarella gave an update on the Thompson School Statement of Interest explaining that the change in rules by the SBA during the summer of 2008 initiated the rewriting of the SOI by the School Facilities Working Group. The Board of Selectmen has approved this, needs the same vote from the School Committee and will be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority on Friday, November 14, 2008.

On a motion by Ron Spangler seconded by Joe Curro it was

Resolved: having convened in an open meeting on **November 12, 2008**, the **Arlington School Committee of The Town of Arlington, MA**, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the **Statement of Interest dated November 15, 2008** for the **Thompson Elementary School located at 60 North Union, Arlington MA** which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Arlington may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. **Priority 1: Major systems deficiencies: roof, heating, fire detection. Priority 5: Aged and inefficient building. Priority 7: Antiquated facility and programmatically substandard;** and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/ Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Approved by the Arlington School Committee 7:0

SPECIAL ED REPORT ON DESIGN

Mark Ryder spoke on the need for additional programs and the needs of structure / protocol of collaborative initiatives. Mark did recommend to add a goal under 1-G to create special education design team to analyze and evaluate current service delivery structure, programs and future service needs in four identified priority areas: Pre K Design, Language Design, Spectrum Design, and Therapeutic Design. Each team within their identified area is charge with examining all service delivery issues spanning Pre- K through Post High School. Teams will consist of no more than eight key people: two administrators, two parents, and two teachers.

Denise Burns requested to include a cost benefit analysis on proposed programs.

DISTRICT GOALS

Kathleen Bodie presented and highlighted the changes made on the district goals. The District Accountability Subcommittee will again meet next week to continue discussions.

After disucssion the follwing motion was made.

On a motion by Mr. Curro and seconded and amended by Mr. Thielman it was voted to approve the District Goals 2008 - 2009 with the following ammendments: add to Goal 1- g which reads To create special education design team to analyze and evaluate current service delivery structure, programs and future service needs in four identified priority areas: Pre K Design, Language Design, Spectrum Design, and Therapeutic Design, and to include a cost benefit analysis on proposed programs and to add to Goal 2 - h "by third quarter" and to add to Goal 3-h "for 2009-2010 school year".

Vote 7:0

FY10 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Kathleen Bodie presented a power point presentation reviewing the 5-year plan and presented "Where Does the Money Come From and Where does it Go"? Arlington Public School would need an increase of 5-6% of revenue to provide the same services. Possible FY 10 offsets to reduce the shortfall would include special education initiatives LABBB reimbursement/credits, overtime savings, turnover savings, foreign students (F-1 visa,) and health care savings. The shortfall could get worse due to state aide but will not be known until January possibly not until June.

The administration team is meeting on Friday and the focus of discussion will be the budget. At the next meeting Kathy will bring recommendations from the team to the School Committee members.

Jeff Thielman noted that Town Manager stated that it is unlikely there will be significant saving if the town goes with GIC and he requested a copy of the research that Town Manager used to come to this conclusion. Jeff also point out that he is not in favor of across the board cuts and Ron Spangler noted that when the operating budget is received the School Committee must be flexible with budget timeline. After Joe Curro asked about energy saving costs, Sue Mazzarella noted that she and Mark Miano are working with NSTAR, they may do a consult for Arlington Public Schools.

MCAS OVERVIEW

Kathleen Bodie thanked Leilanie D'Agostino for preparing the MCAS data and presented the MCAS overview on the Districts Reading, ELA,

Math and Science scores, and noted that students continue to improve and do very well.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Kathleen Bodie presented and updated the committee on grants for Early Childhood SPED 262, Secure Our Schools, Instrumental Music Support Grant, SPED 274 Program Improvement, Safe Schools Initiative, and the Kindergarten Grant which we received an additional \$15,000 through an amendment to this grant. Interim Superintendent Bodie and the Committee discussed the cost effectiveness of using Robert Miller Associates for Grant Revenue in the future because revenues may not be as high as expected.

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Thielman reported out that the Community Relations Subcommittee would meet to discuss biking to school, the ASF Fundraiser will be held on November 17, 2008. Mr. Curro thanked Rick Iannelli for the bus pickup for students on a field trip. Ms. Heigham reported out on Curriculum, Instructions, Assessment Subcommittee meeting from November 6, and that the discussion included roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Burns announced the new Chief Technology Officer, David Good and that the AEA was ready to begin collective bargaining and Ms. Burns will turn this over to Ms. Heigham and Mr. Curro.

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Spangler said the AHS accreditation was received and the Commission has asked that schools officials submit a Pre-Self Study Report, due October 1, 2009 to document that Arlington High School is appropriately prepared for its upcoming self study. Sue Mazzarella was asked to draft a response to Stephen Gilligan on his request of prepayment rental fees for the use of the school facilities. Mr. Curran congratulated the Corbett Family on the recent dedication.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Curran motioned that the School Committee support to have the Town conduct an Audit of areas of three higher fee based programs and the Title 1 Grant, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Members continued the discussion on the Town Audit and requested additional information on the cost of the audit to the school department, the time the CFO would have to be involved with the audit and items the town has requested to be audited, before supporting the motion.

Mr. Curran withdrew the motion.

***Mr. Curro motion to move the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curran.
Vote 7:0***

ADJOURNMENT

***Ms. Sheffler motioned to adjourn at 11:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Vote 7:0***

Recorded by Karen Tassone

*Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee*

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