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School Committee Minutes 11/13/2007

Approved November 27, 2007

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007
7:30 PM

Present: Susan Lovelace, Chair
Sean Garballey, Vice Chair Joe Curran
Jeff Thielman, Secretary Ronald Spangler
Sue Sheffler

Superintendent: Nate Levenson
Asst. Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Interim Sp. Ed. Dir: Gerald Kopperschmidt
Student Rep: Callie McHugh

Absent: Denise Burn
Chief Financial Off: Sue Mazzarella
Student Rep: Bobby McWatters

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 Warrant 08057 in the amount of \$507,885.45

*Approval of October 23, 2007 Regular and Executive Session minutes

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Garballey it was Voted to approve the consent agenda with *Approval of Warrant 08057 in the amount of \$507,885.45 & *Approval of October 23, 2007 Regular and Executive Session minutes

Mr. Curran would like to amend the motion and pull Warrant 08057 in the amount Of \$507,885.45 out for review.
Vote 6 – 0 unanimous

Mr. Curran would like the bill from Stoneman, Chandler & Miller itemized. Superintendent Levenson noted that Ms. Mazzarella would continue to give the committee an updated forecast each month of all itemized bills from Stoneman, Chandler and Miller. He noted that waiting to review this bill from the warrant would hold up payments for an additional two weeks. Therefore the committee would accept a summary each month and a motion to approve the warrant as is.

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted to approve the Warrant 08057 in the amount of \$507,885.45.
Vote 5-1 with Mr. Curran voting No

RECOGNITION

Susan Lovelace would like to recognize the following contributions in the Athletic Department, under the direction of our Athletic Director, Ted Dever:

§ Cheerleaders - 25 girls participated in the program and placed 2nd at our GBL Competition, which qualified them for regions.

§ Girls Soccer - 54 girls participated with a final record 16-1-1 .GBL Champs and the participated in the semi finals against Wakefield.

§ Boys Soccer – 62 boys participated with a final record 9-5-4.

§ Golf– 14 boys and 1 girl participated with a final record 5-2 second in GBL with Rich Gallagher having the best Arlington score who shot a 76.

§ Volleyball – 41 girls participated with a final record 10-10 first tournament victory and it was against Greater Lowell Tech.

§ Field Hockey – 61 girls participated with a final record 10-6-2, first tournament victory and it was against Greater Lowell Tech.

§ Football – 83 boys participated in our program and will play Somerville at 10:00 am Thanksgiving morning here in Arlington.

Ms. Lovelace would also like to acknowledge three teachers from the high school, two were the recipients of the Joseph P. Greeley Town Employee Award, Maryann Orlando O'Brien and Pasquale Tassone and Nanci Ortwin was a recipient of The Chambers of Commerce, Volunteer of the Year Award.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Allan Miller, Stoneman, Chandler and Miller

Ms. Lovelace would like to entertain the idea to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 pm with the intent to return from executive session to open session, Mr. Curran seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL Mr. Spangler Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Garballey Yes and Ms. Lovelace Yes.

6:0 unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Curran it was voted to exit out of executive session at 8:05 pm and continue on with our agenda.

ROLL CALL Mr. Spangler Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Garballey Yes and Ms. Lovelace Yes.

6:0 unanimous

MCAS

Kathleen Bodie, Assistant Superintendent, reported on MCAS statistics jointly prepared by Leilanie D'Agostino to the committee with handouts and a presentation was given. The data includes district scores of students in out-of-district but does not include students who attend Minuteman.

The data was given from two perspectives, grade level trends and cohort trends. Overall all grade levels show improvement from 2001 to present.

Kathy expressed we have new teachers and they are continuing to improve our schools and student scores. This is partly due to administration hiring these new teachers and our veteran teachers here in Arlington who continues to mentor new teachers.

“WHAT WE'RE DOING AND WHY?”

Susan Lovelace reported to the committee and presented again what was offered at the State of the Schools Address at Town Hall on November 6th.

The five concepts of what we are doing are:

1. Build on past strengths
2. Melding 9 schools into 1 system, to help kids learn
3. support and challenge student learning
4. support our students social and emotional needs
5. prepare all students for the 21st century.

The five concepts of why we are doing this:

1. *we have dedicated and talented staff,*
2. *a history of strong performance,*
3. *a higher rate of students going on to college,*
4. *outstanding arts and athletic programs,*
5. *caring staff and a welcoming environment.*

GOALS DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

Superintendent Levenson recommended the District Goals of 2007-2008 draft 11/12/07, version 6 to the committee for approval. Nate pointed out that the goals have been fine tuned from meeting with the community, staff, discussions from the School Committee / Retreat and cabinet meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Garballey it was Voted to approve the Four District Goals of 2007-2008 draft 11/12/07 version 6. Vote 6:0 motion passes

The committee members articulated positive comments and will continue discussion on the goals to see how they are working.

CHAIR REPORT

Ms. Susan Lovelace acknowledged the oversight for not sending a personal invitation to The Board of Selectman to attend the State of the School Address but noted the meeting had been clearly posted for anyone to attend.

Ms. Lovelace handed out the Town of Arlington Financial Summit III for the committee to review and the draft version of the Arlington Public Schools vision with strategy and objectives for 2007 – 2008. Questions from The State of School Address were compiled and distributed.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Levenson reviewed the Professional Development that was held on Thursday November 1, 2007. Nate has received mostly positive feedback from the day and noted 18 seminars were offered for staff to choose from.

Nate addressed the major trends that were mentioned at a conference attended by over 10 special education administrators and team chairs, it was not an upbeat event.

The state wide major trends were:

1. *more frequent use of advocates*
2. *parent funded evaluations with long lists of added services*
3. *increased out-of-district placements*
4. *regulations increasing the quality and detail of documentation needed to defend a district recommended IEP.*

We are in the process of developing a tool that will closely monitor and track all student services, out of district placements, transportation and price increased to tell us what impact this will have on the budget.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Garballey it was Voted to approve the four District Goals for 2007 – 2008. Vote 6:0 unanimous

SUBCOMMITTEE

Accountability Subcommittee

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was voted to change the Superintendent Accountability Subcommittee to become the District Accountability Subcommittee. Vote: 6:0 motion passes

Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Garballey reported that there has been increase discussion on minority hiring and will report additional information next

School Committee meeting.

Policy & Procedures

Mr. Spangler reported the subcommittee has met several times October 29, and November 13 and will report at the next School Committee meeting.

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Thielman received the following correspondence: EDCO Collaborative, Metco Legislative Alert, Getting Ready for Kindergarten flier, MLK Jr. Committee flier and Letter from Ms. Bakey

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Ms. Lovelace entertained the motion to adjourn and Mr. Curran seconded this.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

At 10:36 p.m.

Submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

School Committee