



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## School Committee Minutes 11/27/2007

*Approved by School Committee December 11, 2007*

### ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007 7:30 PM

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

Superintendent:     Nate Levenson  
Chief Financial Off:     Sue Mazzarella  
Asst. Superintendent:     Kathleen Bodie  
Student Rep:             Bobby McWatters

**Absent:**             Denise Burns  
Interim Sp. Ed. Dir:     Gerald Kupperschmidt  
Student Rep:             Callie McHugh

#### **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 08061 in the amount of \$477,166.84

\*Approval of November 13, 2007 Regular minutes

\*Approval of Agreement between Town of Arlington, School Committee and Local 680 Traffic Supervisor.

**On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Curran it was voted to approve the consent agenda.**

**Vote: 6:0 unanimous**

#### **RECOGNITION**

Ms. Lovelace paid recognition to the following:

- § Arlington High School Football team on winning the Thanksgiving game against Somerville High School.
- § Elise Frangos and 10<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for organizing the field trip to Boston to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- § 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who were part of the fun pages of the Boston Sunday Globe.
- § Bishop community for completion of the playground
- § Hardy literacy team presented "Learning to Read" to Hardy 1<sup>st</sup> grade parents.

#### **READING**

Evelyn DeRosa, Marie Janiak and Linda Hanson, the District Reading Coaches, presented the K-5 Reading program. The School Committee members enjoyed the interaction with a story read by Ms. DeRosa, Ms. Hanson presented the overview of the past two years and the committee viewed a DVD prepared with Ms. Shediacs 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students from Stratton School during a classroom lesson lead by Ms. Janiak.

Dr. Judith Malone Neville and Ms. Mary Fischer summarized the school wide approach on improving Reading at the Ottoson Middle School. Ms. Fischer explained that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were tested at the beginning of this year and will again be tested at the end of the year to see how the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have developed. Andrea Marquant explained how the data was collected and analyzed and presented this to the School Committee members. Anna Collozo noted with much collaboration from many teachers the Reading program has come full circle and continues to be successful.

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Bodie presented to the committee the professional development goals and how they are aligned with the District Goals and explained that the varied professional development opportunities going on improves student learning. Many sources of professional development are done through graduate courses, workshops, attending conferences and study groups, participating in leadership roles and attending department

meetings. Ms. Bodie acknowledged that nearly every teacher in the district is involved with professional development one way or another.

The committee received copies of professional development and stipend opportunities for the 2007-2008 school year.

**BEGINNING BUDGET DISCUSSIONS FY 09**

Superintendent Levenson presented the first draft of the FY 09 Budget Development "Another Tough Year". Superintendent Levenson noted what we have already done over the last 2 years and the challenges facing us are the rising health insurance costs, declining grant funding, special education services and special education transportation rising rates and more students. Over the next several meetings Nate will share additional data and will continue with the budget discussion.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

All members received the superintendent report and Nate will follow up on this at the next School Committee meeting.

**On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Curran it was voted to move the 11 o'clock rule to 11:10 PM.**

**Vote: 6:0 unanimous**

**SUBCOMMITTEE**

Subcommittee Chairs will report on their past meetings at the next School Committee meeting.

**SECRETARY REPORT**

Jeff Thielman reported that the members of the Ponder Report are selling items to seek revenue for our school paper.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Garballey would like committee members to attend the next Budget Subcommittee Meeting to discuss possible ways to raise revenue. Sean noted on displayed at Town Hall on Nov 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-8 will be a document display from the Massachusetts State Achieves Arlington 1807-2007.

**ADJOURN**

**On motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was voted to adjourn at 11:08 p.m. Vote 6:0 unanimous**

Submitted by:

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant, Arlington School Committee