



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 02/27/2007

Approved April 10, 2007

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, February 27, 2007
7:30 PM

Present: Sue Sheffler, Chair
Susan Lovelace, Vice Chair
Paul Schlichtman, Secretary
Sean Garballey
Jeff Thielman
Martin Thrope
Kathy Fennelly

Superintendent: Nate Levenson
Asst. Supt.: Kevin Hutchinson
Chief Financial Off: Sue Mazzarella
Sp. Ed. Director: Barbara Cataldo
Student Reps: Sean Conroy and Ella Hartenian

Call to order: 7:40 pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Anthony Contardo, who resides at 12 Valley Road with his parents, addressed the committee regarding the continuation of the ASA Exchange Students program.

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 07113 in the amount of \$797,636.50*

**Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2007 and January 23, 2007*

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was Voted to approve consent agenda Approval of Warrant 07113 in the amount of \$797,636.50*Approval of Minutes from January 9, 2007 and January 23, 2007*

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Mr. Thielman Voted to reconsider the Approval of Warrant #07113. Vote 7:-0

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Mr. Thrope Voted to move approval of Warrant 07113 in the amount of \$797,636.50 provided Ms. Mazzarella not sign the warrant. Vote 6-1, Sean Garballey abstained from voting

ARLINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Joe Curro, Chair of the Human Rights Commission along with Nancy Rhodes, Christine Deshler, and Bill Shea wanted to remind the School Committee members about their mission and their continue working relationship with the Arlington Safety and Arlington School Department. The Arlington Human Rights Commission (AHRC) was created by Town Meeting in 1993 to advance issues related to the fair and equal treatment of individuals and to create a mechanism for addressing complaints, and to mediate these complaints arising out of these issues. Also trying to organize educational training to students and to provide diversity training for elected and appointed officials in the Town of Arlington

The Human Rights Commission continues to investigate the recent incident at the basketball game against Arlington and

Somerville High Schools and will forward the report to the Committee as soon as it is completed.

REMEDICATION AND INTERVENTION

Kevin Hutchinson, spoke about the TAT document and Section 504 Of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and made a presentation on Building a Pyramid of Interventions and providing a system of support for students. Mr. Hutchinson met with all the elementary schools and spoke about all the work they have been doing and how the work is impacting intervention. Elementary Principals Mr. Penta and Ms. Zerchykov, along with teachers from Pierce and Brackett's respectively also reflected on the intervention strategies and how creating the pyramid has helped to communicate the results to parents and assess the students and teachers progress. The pyramid of intervention starts for students who need additional support as soon as a student begins to struggle. The response is understood school-wide and provides a clear system of directives and documentation.

INPUT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION VISION

Supt. Levenson spoke about the Special Education A Vision of Achievement and summarized how the past 18 months have complied at 98% of the Department of Education changes. Over the past 12 months forums have been held with elementary staff, middle school staff and high school special ed staff and as well as general ed staff, principals, department heads, team chairs, central office staff, advocates, and the School Committee. With over 100 participants and many hours of dialogue 10 beliefs for the Special Education Children of Arlington have been formed. This is Phase 2 of a Draft discussion.

The high points that will shape the vision

- Hold all students to higher levels
- Focus, the ability to socialize
- Intensive target support
- Need to have a range of strategies
- Scheduling is of strategic importance.
- Teamwork, communication and integration goal
- Students who struggle need and deserve great teachers
- Educate students in district
- When a student is able to perform on grade level and service are no longer needed
- General education, not special education should be first level of intervention.

The committee members agreed that this vision was well thought out and the School Committee would like a progress report on these ten objectives next year and for Nate to be accountable for this vision. Barbara Tilsman, Chair of Sped Pac spoke briefly about the vision and felt this vision is a remarkable start and would like to continue in-depth conversation regarding the implementation and continue to work with Mr. Hutchinson and Ms. Cataldo

BREAK

VOTE ON CONTROL OF CROSBY AND PARMENTER SCHOOL BUILDINGS AFTER 2008

It was the overall consensus with the School Committee members to have the Arlington Redevelopment Board come to a have a short discussion regarding the properties.

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly, seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was Moved That the School Committee signify to the Town that the Parmenter and Crosby Schools will no longer be used by the School Department for a period of ten years, ending June 30, 2018, and that jurisdiction of the Parmenter and Crosby Schools be transferred to the Redevelopment Board for this period, No Vote taken.

*On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Mr. Garballey it was Voted to postpone until the end of March, which at such time that the committee engages in pertinent discussion with the Arlington Redevelopment Board regarding these properties and said discussions be concluded prior to the committees last meeting in March.
Vote 6-1 with Ms. Sheffler opposing.*

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Supt. Levenson had a conversation on the Elementary ACE program and that this program is a need and how best do we serve them. The School Committee members would like a comprehensive understanding, and have a discussion in depth with Director and parents on the content and delivery of the program and get additional data and a full picture of all the details. ACE Teachers were all in presence and will be meeting with Nate at a meeting March 6, 2007 to discuss the program. After all discussions Nate will have more feedback on the ACE program.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to move the ACE question to the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Subcommittee and be addressed prior to March
20, 2007
Vote 7-0

Additional Budget Items

The additional budget discussions Supt. Levenson has brought up to the School Committee are: .Do we wait for more money or do we prioritize unfilled needs equally with current staffing and fund based on need, rather than past budgets. At risk students services have been discussed, School Resource Officer, Drug and alcohol counseling, school based social worker/counselor and in house detention and concluded that these services are needed. The need for remediation and intervention for math and reading support for the secondary grades as well as the Academically able students and how we can services their needs. Many agree with the counseling position and library discussions were also suggested looking into for next year.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Supt. Levenson
Statement of Interest

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was
voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated February 27, 2007 for the **Arlington High School** located at 869 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474, AND **Stratton Elementary School** located at **180 Mountain Avenue**, Arlington, MA 02474 AND **Thompson Elementary Schools** located at 60 North Union Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which The Town of Arlington may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. **Priority 5:** Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse: and **Priority 7:** Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements: 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.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was
Voted to move to amend to make the correction on page 13 of the Statement of Interest Forms that the Town Meeting not the Superintendent voted unanimously to create a School Facilities Working Group.
Vote 7-0 unanimously

Principal and Special Ed Search

On a motion Ms. Lovelace seconded by Ms. Thielman it was
Voted to move that the school committee approves the contracts for the purpose of making an offer at an appropriate time contingent upon a final approval by the school committee.
Vote 5-2 Roll Call: Mr. Thrope No, Mr. Garballey No, Ms. Fennelly Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Ms. Lovelace Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes,

Mr. Thrope will not support this vote for his belief it is a subversion of the intent of the policy. The policy speaks of individual contracts and that is what he wants to see, not a boiler plate contract with blanks to fill in, Mr. Thrope expressed if the committee votes this in, this will be an abdication of the committees responsibility and their authority.

On a motion by Mr. Garballey seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was
Voted to move the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 PM
Vote 7:0 unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was
Voted to move the acceptance of Superintendent to change the job description of Elementary Principal qualification 4. to read 4. Previous administrative experience **required** instead of **preferred**.
Vote 6-1 with Mr. Schlichtman no

On a motion by Ms. Lovelace seconded by Mr. Thielman it was
Voted to have the School Committee approval of the Budget Subcommittee survey for launching
Vote unanimous. 7 - 0

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

*On a motion by Mr. Garballey seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to move to permit the ASA program to proceed for next school year tuition free with the understanding that by 10/31/07 the
School Committee will resolve this issue
Vote 7-0 unanimous*

Policy and Procedure Subcommittee will meet Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 3:30 PM
Community Relations Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at Perice Elementary School

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Schlichtman reviewed correspondence

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sheffler asked the School Committee Members who are interested and eligible for office of positions that their request is sent to Karen Fitzgerald by March 14, 2007.

*On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was
Voted to move to add to the agenda that the School Department participate in the Information Technology Advisory Committee
Voted 3-4 motions fails*

*On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Thielman it was
Voted to move the 11 o'clock rule for 5 minutes for purpose of dealing with Mr. Thrope's motions. No vote taken*

*On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Mr. Thrope
Voted to move the 11 o'clock rule for 1 minute to 11:16 PM
Voted 7-0 Unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Fennelly
Voted to Adjourn
Vote unanimous 7- 0*

Adjourn 11:16 pm

*Submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee*