



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 9-12-2006

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006**

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

Superintendent: Nate Levenson
Asst. Supt. Kevin Hutchinson
CFO: Sue Mazzarella
Sp.Ed. Director Barbara Cataldo
Student Rep. Sean Conroy

Call to order: 7:30 pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

David Hill, an Ottoson Middle School parent stated that he disapproves of the granting of the five liquor licenses in Arlington and voiced strong opposition to A & A Deli and K & J Variety stores receiving any of the licenses citing their close proximity to the Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School.

Roseann Casazza, President of the Arlington Traffic Supervisors read a statement requesting that the Arlington School Committee and Superintendent Nate Levenson formally recognize the Arlington Traffic Supervisors Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for all of the Arlington Traffic Supervisors. The traffic supervisors requested to be placed on the September 26th school committee agenda for further discussion on the issue.

HARDY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL INTRODUCTION

Supt. Levenson introduced and welcomed Deb D'Amico as the new principal of the Hardy School. Mr. Thrope requested discussion of policy GCB Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans. Supt. Levenson suggested discussion of that policy under New Business.

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 requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

- *Approval of the regular meeting minutes of June 13, 2006 (pulled)
- *Approval of Warrant #07011 in the amount of \$619,831.69
- *Approval of Warrant # 07017 in the amount of \$289,721.96
- *Approval of Warrant # 07024 in the amount of \$243,832.32

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was Voted to approve the consent agenda as amended (minutes of June 13th pulled). Unanimous
Mr. Thrope cited a correction in the minutes and requested approval at the next meeting.

READING PROGRAM REPORT

The Reading Team made a presentation on the new reading initiative. The Reading Team is made up of Thompson School Principal, Mike McCabe as the K-5 Reading Coordinator, along with reading coaches Linda Hanson, Evelyn DeRosa and Marie Janiak. The implementation of the initiative focuses on student's needs and the assurance that they are in fact learning. It is a Tier III model.

The power point presentation outlined:

- What's different with this model; comparing what we were doing and what we are implementing. The goal being to have all children read at grade level by the end of grade 3.
- The 3-Tier reading model has three levels of instruction; Tier I, core classroom instruction, Tier II, intervention (5 x wk for 30 min) and Tier III, intensive intervention (5 x wk for 60 min)

The 3-tier model provides a system that is responsive to students' changing needs by 1) benchmark testing (fall screening plus winter and spring progress monitoring) helps identify or re-identify students in need of support. 2) Once a student receiving Tier II or tier II instruction is able to achieve the benchmarks, the additional instruction may no longer be needed.

The key elements of the 2006-2007 school year include:

- .. Uniform spreadsheets – all 7 schools
- .. Consistency in recording data
- .. Student progress and service review meetings 203 times per year
- .. 3 Tier Model (service delivery model)
- .. Literacy Team at all elementary schools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- .. **Grievance Hearing**
- .. **Negotiations**

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of a grievance hearing and for negotiations. Upon return to open session the Committee will complete the remaining agenda items. Roll Call: Unanimous

Executive session from 8:45 pm to 10:20 pm.

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE & DISCUSSION

Postponed until the meeting of September 26, 2006.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

School Opening

The Superintendent reported a smooth opening for the first day of school, acknowledging the collective efforts of all involved.

AYP Update

Supt. Levenson reported that the preliminary AYP results showed meaningful gains. Ottoson Middle School did meet AYP in mathematics in all subgroups (but had not in the past two years). Focus will continue on academic achievement in the special education and low-income subgroups.

Peirce Field Update

The Superintendent reported that the final fields have been turned over to the school and are ready for use. Nate acknowledged that Kay Donovan and many others deserve much credit. The final pieces of the athletic upgrades, however are struggling a bit to get over the finish line. The issues fall into two areas: 1) Difficulty with vendors and 2) A town wide learning curve.

The contractor has been submitting change orders that seem unreasonable. In consultation with the town manager, town counsel, building inspector, director of purchasing, DPW director, and our CFO we have decided to do part of the Baseball Field lighting work ourselves. We need to install a large transformer. This will save approximately \$20,000. The Town will also oversee the construction of the concession stand. The sports user groups and the building inspector have approved the design. We expect to save over \$75,000 and get a larger, better-designed concession stand.

The lights will be ready for the baseball season, and the concession stand, may or may not be ready for Thanksgiving.

The scoreboard was ordered back in June and scheduled to be shipped in August. It has been manufactured, but the vendor "lost" the unit.

It is scheduled to be installed 9/14/06.

The Superintendent noted that as we try to maximize the use of the field and protect the field, we are going through a learning curve. We have decided to purchase vinyl signs for now, (through a generous donation) and decide on more permanent signs after we use the vinyl ones for a while.

We have shared the new field hours with the users, and are locking the main gate as requested. We are, however, having some difficulties ensuring that the users are locking the gates. Sue Mazzarella will investigate a card access locking system, and discuss the option with the DPW, sports user groups, and all interested parties.

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Mr. Garballey reported on the last subcommittee meeting and presented JLCE and JLCE-E to the committee for a first reading (since being reformatted). The subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 3:00 pm to discuss the cyberspace policy. Mr. Garballey did point out that the subcommittee did wish to express disappointment with administration on the progress of this work. The subcommittee had asked the administration to direct an attorney to meet with us, and that did not happen. The subcommittee will meet tomorrow with school attorney Joan Stein and AHS principal Charles Skidmore to review the policy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- .. Correspondence-Reviewed by Mr. Schlichtman

NEW BUSINESS

.. **Appointment to State Aid Task Force** it was determined that the Committee had appointed committee member Jeff Thielman to serve as the school committee representative at a previous meeting.

.. The Committee decided to take no action on the public participation item on liquor licenses.

.. Mr. Thrope requested a brief discussion at the next meeting on policies GCB and GCBA and their compliance.

.. Mr. Thrope requested that the traffic supervisors be placed on the next agenda as they requested during public participation. There was discussion on whether the community relations subcommittee may be a better forum for discussion but was decided to allow discussion at the next meeting with follow up with the subcommittee if warranted.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Garballey it was Voted that the Arlington Traffic Supervisors be placed on the agenda at the meeting of September 26th with a time limit of 25 minutes. Unanimous vote.

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was Voted to adjourn @ 11:00 pm. Unanimous vote.

*Submitted by
Karen Tassone
Committee Secretary*