



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## minutes 10-10-2006

### THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006

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

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

Call to order: 7:40 PM

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Roseann Casazza, President of the Arlington Traffic Supervisors, requested that the school committee and the superintendent take a yes or no vote relative to them being recognized as a collective bargaining unit. Ms. Casazza also requested a written copy of the evenings meeting minutes.

**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 the regular meeting minutes of June 27, July 26, & Sept 12, 2006  
\*Approval of Warrant # 07039 in the amount of \$449,518.37

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

##### **Policy & Procedures**

The Committee discussed the issues regarding the Traffic Supervisors request to be recognized as a bargaining unit.

Superintendent Levenson wanted to be sure that everyone understands implication of this vote. Everyone agrees that we should try to resolve this situation. There is an easy route and a more difficult route. Apparently the formal steps are 1) that we will begin discussion about this route. Then we will need to post notice of that decision for 30 days. During that time, other unions could say that they should be represented by their union, or employees could make claims. After the 30 days, then the agreement can move forward.

On a motion by Mr. Garballey seconded by Mr. Thrope it was voted:  
That the Arlington School Committee recognizes the Arlington Traffic Supervisors organization as a collective bargaining unit pending the outcome of the legally mandated process. ~We authorize the superintendent to follow through on the negotiating process to make this happen.  
Voted unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded it was Voted  
That the Superintendent get clarification in an expedient manner and that the negotiations happen as quickly as possible. Voted unanimously

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BRACKETT PRINCIPAL**

Supt. Levenson introduced Stephanie Zerchykov as the new principal of the Brackett School.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously  
Voted to move the agenda.

## **DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT GOALS**

Supt. Levenson presented the following draft of the 5 district goals:

1. Implement Special Education reforms per Coordinated Program Review and internal needs assessment.
2. Continue to implement essential standards and common assessments in math, reading, writing, science, and social studies k-12, which build upon the foundation of our standards-based education.
3. Determine what content knowledge, skills, and habits of mind will best prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
4. Create a culture and system that promotes appropriate behavior, a safe environment, and effective interventions for inappropriate behavior based on best practice.
5. Improve the work environment for staff and administrators by providing tools and systems to make work simpler and more efficient, as well as improving (where practical) the physical work environment.

Nate explained the 5 goals and some of the necessary steps to reach those goals; he pointed out that we are early in the process and that it takes much concentrated effort to move the district forward. The presented goals are for discussion at this point and that input from the staff, school committee and community will be incorporated into creating the final product.

The Superintendent requested that the timeline for approval of the goal be moved to the school committee meeting of November 14<sup>th</sup>. This would allow for more feedback and ensure buy-in from school committee, staff and community.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **School Committee Presentations & Reports**

The Superintendent made note of the draft schedule for reports and presentations for school committee meetings during the year; Nate stated that the calendar largely mirrors the one used last year and he welcomed any input. At its next meeting, the policy & procedures subcommittee will check time driven policies that may need to be included in the calendar.

### **Early Release date change**

Supt. Levenson requested the change of the early release day currently scheduled March 20<sup>th</sup> be rescheduled to April 10<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Levenson explained that doing so would avoid any conflict with MCAS administration.

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was unanimously Voted to approve the change of the early release day from March 20, 2007 to April 10, 2007.

### **School Safety**

Mr. Levenson stated that in light of the recent school tragedies nation wide he wanted to emphasize that the safety of students is the number priority for every school. Each school has developed safety and emergency response plans working closely with police, fire, board of health and others. The Superintendent will continue to meet with principals, police and fire personnel. Nate will send a letter to staff and community detailing safety plans.

### **MCAS Results**

Supt. Levenson reported that the MCAS is a major external assessment and noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> grade did outstanding. Mr. Levenson pointed out that we had significant gains in Advanced and 50% decreased in Needs Improvement and Failing.

### **Ottoson Literacy Program**

Postponed until the next agenda.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Correspondence reviewed by Mr. Schlichtman. A letter from teacher Jane Chertoff relative to having school opened during the Jewish holidays was referred to the policy & procedures subcommittee.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was unanimously Voted to refer correspondence of and revisit the issue of school during the Jewish holidays.

A letter from Colleen Kirby Cho on the traffic supervisor issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Student representative Sean Conroy informed the Committee that Town Hall had denied their request to hold the AHS Junior/Senior Gala there.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously Voted that the School Committee request that the AHS Junior/Senior Gala be held at the Town Hall.

Ms. Fennelly requested that the policy & procedures subcommittee address school committee correspondence; a process and procedure on how to acknowledge correspondence.

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was unanimously Voted to adjourn @ 10:00 pm.

**Submitted by  
Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary**