



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## minutes 11-14-2006

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2006**

**Present:** Sean Garballey  
Jeff Thielman  
Paul Schlichtman, Secretary  
Katharine Fennelly  
Martin Thrope

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

**Absent:** Sue Sheffler  
Susan Lovelace

Mr. Schlichtman chaired the meeting in Ms. Sheffler's and Ms. Lovelace's absence and called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

### **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 # 07055 in the amount of \$628,329.30

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was Voted to approve the consent agenda. 5-0

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly seconded by Mr. Thielman it was Voted to enter executive session for a grievance hearing and negotiations, upon return to open session the School Committee will finish the remaining agenda items. Roll call: 5-0

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: from 7:40 to 8:25 pm**  
.. **Grievance Hearing**

### **MATH COMMON ASSESSMENTS**

Assistant Superintendent Kevin Hutchinson gave a quick introduction to link previous concepts on common assessments. Kathy Bodie, Director of Math K-12, Richard Sullivan, Hardy School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Jeanne Wall Bishop School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and Alan Brown Stratton School principal spoke on the process for each grade, timeframe and the common assessment. They also spoke of how common assessments fit into schools as professional learning communities and explained how the three critical questions are asked and answered in Math curriculum: 1. What should students and be able to do. 2 How will we know when each student has acquired the essential knowledge and skills and 3. What do we do when a student hasn't learned? Mr. Thrope would like to see the same type of presentation from English department.

### **DISTRICT GOALS APPROVAL**

Supt. Levenson presented the 5 district goals and requested approval. Mr. Thrope was not in favor of approving the goals stating that there was nothing updated in them and that he did not receive any updated changes in his packet.

Mr. Thielman noted that the school committee needs to put their stamp of approval on the goals, that they can always be modified but that we should vote them

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was Voted to approve the 5 district goals as presented by Superintendent Levenson.

Mr. Thrope moved to divide the question goal by goal. 4-1 motion passes (Ms. Fennelly voting no).

**1. SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ELL: All special education students will achieve their full academic and social potential.**

**Objective: Implement Special Ed and English Language Learning (ELL) reforms per Coordinated Program Review and internal needs assessment.**

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was Voted to approve district goal 1 as above. 4-1 Mr. Thrope voted no due to the absence of a customer service program.

**2. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: All students will attain high levels of academic success through the implementation of a data driven, standards based education.**

**Objective: 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 with the purpose of putting in place the necessary data to track cohorts over multiple years.**

***The performance measures will be specific, significant and meaningful academic indicators of successful learning.***

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was Moved to accept district goal 2. Mr. Thrope amended the motion by adding a bullet that states The performance measures will be specific, significant and meaningful academic indicators of successful learning. Amendment passes.

Mr. Thrope made a further amendment seconded by Mr. Garballey to the last sentence of the objective: with the purpose of putting in place the necessary data to track cohorts over multiple years.

**3. AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATION FOR A COMPLEX WORLD: Ensure that all Arlington graduates are well prepared for social, emotional, and vocational success.**

**Objective: Determine what content knowledge, skills, and habits of mind will best prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**4. SCHOOL CULTURE: Provide a safe, healthy and positive environment for students and staff.**

**Objective: Create a culture and system that promotes appropriate behavior, a safe environment, and effective interventions for inappropriate behavior based on best practice.**

**5. WORK ENVIRONMENT TO SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING: Provide tools and systems that enable staff to focus on student success.**

**Objective: 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.**

***conditions including careful consideration of use of spaces for the purposes for which they were designed.***

Monitor and assess the new administrative structure.

**OVERVIEW OF FY08 BUDGET**

Supt. Levenson reported that we are currently looking at an \$800,000 shortfall assuming a 3% increase in operating expenses. He explained that this serves as a backdrop of what future discussions will be with the budget subcommittee (i.e. either raise revenues or cuts expenses).

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**AHS Assaults**

Supt. Levenson explained that there is very little he can say on the investigations. It remains a top priority and there are ongoing daily conversations with Chief Ryan and Charlie Skidmore.

**Ottoson Middle School**

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the Ottoson Middle School student hit by a car at Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street. They are expediting the process to redeploy a crossing guard at the site with the input from the police, traffic

advisory committee and traffic supervisors. There will be a crossing guard at that location until the report and recommendations are completed.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was  
Voted to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking that they investigate any and all traffic safety improvements at the Ottoson Middle School and vicinity. 5-0.

The Committee discussed the idea of students at the middle school receiving a presentation on safety.

.. **Approval of Job Description**

Supt. Levenson requested approval of the Administrative Committee Secretary and Curriculum Leader Support position.

Mr. Thrope questioned what percentage of time will be devoted to school committee and to the other shared position, what is the interview process and who will hire for the position. Mr. Levenson responded that school committee duties are the 1<sup>st</sup> priority of the job and that we will obtain clarification from legal counsel on who is the hiring authority.

On a motion by Ms. Fennelly seconded by Mr. Thielman it was  
Voted to approve the job description as presented by the Superintendent.

.. **WindPower Update**

Sustainable Arlington did not receive the grant to study windpower at the Brackett School. No reason was given.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

.. **Budget Subcommittee**

Supt. Levenson reported that the concession stand is 99% complete. Nate requested that the policy and procedures subcommittee begin its work clarifying who will have access to the field and concession stand.

.. **Merit Pay Subcommittee** the next meeting is scheduled for December 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm

.. **Policy & Procedures**

At its meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> the subcommittee discussed school committee correspondence and will obtain a sample policy from MASc to discuss at a future meeting. The subcommittee made the following motions to bring to the full committee for approval.

On a motion by Mr. Garballey seconded by Mr. Thielman it was  
Voted that the administration be requested to provide staff and student attendance and substitute numbers data from October 2<sup>nd</sup> the second day of Rosh Hashanah and the first day of Yom Kippur in 2004 and 2005 by the next subcommittee meeting. 5-0.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was  
Voted that Superintendent give a report on how policy GDC-E and B worked this year. 5-0  
The next meeting is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm.

.. **Curriculum & Instruction** to be scheduled.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Reviewed by Mr. Schlichtman

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Fennelly it was  
Voted to adjourn @ 10:45 pm. 5-0.

Submitted by  
Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary