



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 03/03/2005

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
EMERGENCY MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005
6:00 PM
ARLINGTON TOWN HALL
SECOND FLOOR HEARING ROOM**

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair
Martin Thrope, Secretary
Barbara Goodman
Joani LaMachia
Suzanne Owayda
Sue Sheffler

Superintendent Donovan

Call to order: 6:10

Vote/Public Hearing Date for School Budget

Mr. Schlichtman noted that the date for the public hearing on the school budget must be set and suggested the meeting of March 22nd to do so. Mr. Thielman pointed out that at the regular meeting of March 8th, school committee members would have the opportunity to discuss, ask questions and make any proposals on the FY06 budget.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to hold the Public Hearing of the FY2005-2006 School Budget on March 22, 2005 at 8:00 pm in the school committee room.

Reverse the Curse

Mr. Schlichtman presented the "**Plan for Financial Stability – Restore State Aid Cuts over a two year period – Reverse the Curse**" proposal by Selectman Charles Lyons and requested the Committee's support of the plan.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted that:

The Arlington School Committee urges the full restoration of the state aid cuts of FY04. The Arlington School Committee endorses the "Reverse the Curse" plan that restores 50% of the FY04 cuts in FY06 at a statewide cost of \$120,696,901 as a reasonable, prudent, and affordable first step toward full restoration of the local aid cuts. The Arlington School Committee will communicate its endorsement of the "Reverse the Curse" plan to our state representatives, our state senator, other school committees, and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, and will urge their support of the "Reverse the Curse" plan.

Fiscal Stability Plan and Recommended Override Parameters

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia seconded by Ms. Owayda it was

Moved:

The Arlington School Committee reaffirms its support for the five-year fiscal stability plan presented by Selectman Lyons and endorsed by the committee by its vote on February 15, 2005.

The Arlington School Committee urges the Board of Selectmen to vote, at its next meeting to place an operating override question on the ballot with the understanding that the override is tied to the five-year fiscal stability plan.

The Arlington School Committee recommends that the Board of Selectmen set the dollar amount of the operating override at \$6 million, that a special election should be called for Saturday, June 11, 2005.

Initially Ms. Goodman stated her intention to abstain from the vote believing that the override plan should be a more collaborative effort by all parties involved. After much discussion Ms. Sheffler suggested language that would ensure that the School Committee and Board of Selectmen meet on a regular basis to discuss and review the town's financial status.

Ms. LaMachia withdrew her original motion.

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler seconded by Mr. Thielman it was

Voted that The Arlington School Committee commits to meet jointly with the Board of Selectmen twice per year to discuss the Town's financial status.

Roll Call: Unanimous 7 – 0

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted that the Arlington School Committee recommends that the Board of Selectmen set the dollar amount of the operating override at \$6 million, and recommends that a special election should be called for Saturday, June 11, 2005.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to adjourn @ 6:35 pm.

Submitted by

Karen Tassone

Committee Secretary