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School Committee Minutes 04/12/2005

*THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2005
7:30 P.M.*

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

Superintendent: *Kay Donovan*
Chief Financial Officer: *Rob Addelson*
Asst. Supt. *Joanne Gurry*
Special Education Director: *Marilyn Bisbicos*

Call to Order: 7:30 PM

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Jeff Thielman thanked his colleagues for their vote and support as chair. Jeff welcomed the new members of the school committee, Sean Garballey and Susan Lovelace. Mr. Thielman pointed out that the two significant tasks of the coming year include; 1) the passage of the proposition 2 ½ override on June 11, 2005 and 2) the smooth transition of outgoing Superintendent Donovan, Assistant Supt. Joanne Gurry and Special Education Director Bonnie Bisbicos and incoming Supt. Nate Levenson.

New School Committee members

Sean Garballey and Susan Lovelace thanked the voters for their support and look forward to working on ensuring a quality education for all of students.

Other members

Ms. Sheffler welcomed new members Sean Garballey and Susan Lovelace. Since she was not present at the last meeting Sue took the opportunity to publicly thank and acknowledge out going members Barbara Goodman and Joani LaMachia for their work on the School Committee.

Members Owayda, Schlichtman and Thrope welcomed Mr. Garballey and Ms. Lovelace, stating that they look forward to working with them.

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents

Supt. Donovan and Jeff Thielman presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents award to the two AHS seniors with the highest GPA. Jessica Daniell Early GPA 3.968 and Jonatan Hejzlar 3.843.

AHS FENCING CLUB

AHS student Alex Clos addressed the Committee to propose setting up an after school fencing club at Arlington High School. The club would meet once a week on Tuesday afternoons for 90 minutes. The students are requesting space at the school and permission to meet. Costs will be kept to a minimum by borrowing equipment from the Boston Fencing Club; insurance would be covered by the Boston Fencing Club with no cost to the system. Students will be monitored and supervised by AHS teacher Mr. McCarthy.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms Sheffler it was Voted to approve the creation of the Arlington Fencing Club at Arlington High School. Approved 7-0

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 requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.
***Approval of Warrant 05130 in the amount of \$768,807.84**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was
Voted to adopt the consent agenda as presented. 7-0

AUTHORIZATION OF NEW CHAIR TO SIGN PAYROLL WARRANT (Policy DGA)

Mr. Thielman requested that the school committee authorize the chair to sign payroll warrants according to policy DGA. Mr. Thrope noted that according to policy the School Committee is to be informed when payroll warrants are ready in the event that they would like to review them. The Committee was informed that payroll warrants are ready every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am. Any member is welcome to review the warrant at that time.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by
Voted to authorize the chair of the committee Jeff Thielman to sign APS payroll warrants as outlined in Policy DGA. Approved 7-0.

REPORT ON TRANSITION PLAN BY SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee member Suzanne Owayda outlined and reviewed the transition plan with incoming Supt. Nate Levenson. Ms. Owayda noted that at this point Nate's goals are to listen and become familiar with the issues. Action steps to be taken between now and July 1st include:

- .. Mr. Levenson will be meeting with principals on April 12th
- .. A similar meeting with department heads, date to be determined
- .. Meetings with Rob Addelson, Joanne Gurry and Bonnie Bisbicos
- .. Nate will meet with the Industrial Parties relative to the Peirce Field
- .. Nate will be involved in the hiring of the Assistant Superintendent, Special Education Director and the principal for the Dallin School.
- .. Mr. Levenson will attend Town Meeting when the School Department presents the budget and when it is voted on.

Mr. Thielman will keep in contact with Nate during the transition phase.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Warrant Article on Pleasant Street historical district/Parmenter School

Supt. Donovan presented the warrant article proposed by the Board of Selectmen that would enlarge the existing Pleasant Street Historic District. Since the Parmenter School is part of the proposal and still under school jurisdiction the School Committee must vote approval for the school to be part of the district.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was
Voted to approve the warrant article supporting the Parmenter School as part of the historical district on Pleasant Street.

SBAB Update

Supt. Donovan reported that the newly constructed SBAB board is run by the State Treasurer (rather than the DOE –as previously). Mrs. Donovan has been pushing for the audits so that the town would receive the funding due them. Additionally the Superintendent agreed to have the Ottoson Middle School participate in a audit pilot program that would also help to set benchmarks for future audits statewide. Rob Addelson met with the executive director of the SBAB who reported that it was a good meeting. APS has documentation of proof of all expenditures including 2400 pictures of the Ottoson project. The SBAB requested that APS submit a letter with their documentation explaining the overages on the building project. Supt. Donovan offered to hold the first meeting with the SBAB at the Ottoson Middle School.

Proposed "No Override Budget"

CFO Rob Addelson presented a power point presentation on the FY06 recommended budget that explains:

.. the basic components of the FY06 budget: salary increases, cost of living adjustments, step increases, lane changes, longevity, increased staff positions, an electrician and a half time account payable position, items to support the recommended goals and objectives of the school committee.

Mr. Addelson explained that in order to fund the budget the town must pass a \$6million override to address current and future shortfalls. If the override fails the finance committee is asking the schools to cut \$2.62 million out of their budget.

Supt. Donovan and Rob Addelson reviewed the Preliminary Proposal: Adjustments to FY06 Recommended Budget (attached) and outlined the ramifications of each cut that totals \$2,628,237.00 and 43.41 positions.

Supt. Donovan would like to send the preliminary proposal to the Finance Committee at this point. Mr. Thrope stated that he was not prepared to vote on the recommendations at this point without further review. Mr. Thielman suggested that the Committee authorize the Supt. to send the cuts to the Finance Committee as the "Superintendent cut list".

The Committee discussed at length the options that were looked at and the criteria used in determining the cuts in programs and positions. Members of the Committee recommended sending the proposed cuts to the budget subcommittee for further study and review. The subcommittee would also look at redefining the problem and consider other approaches. Mrs. Donovan pointed out that teachers must be notified of non-employment by June 15th

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was
Voted to send the Preliminary Proposal: Adjustments to FY06 Recommended Budget to the Finance Committee recognizing that the proposal will be further reviewed by the budget subcommittee as well as the full committee. 6-1 Mr. Thrope with a no vote.

The budget subcommittee will meet before the next regular meeting; members may attend with questions or submit them to Ms. Sheffler and the administration before the meeting.

Override – June 11, 2005

Supt. Donovan stated that the proposition 2 ½ Kick Off was held on April 11th and reported that it went well.

VOTE ON FISCAL STABILITY PLAN

Mr. Thielman stated that with the election of two new members that the Committee reaffirms its support of the five-year stability plan and its support for \$6 million proposition 2 ½ on June 11th.

New members Sean Garballey and Susan Lovelace voiced their support of the plan.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was voted

The Arlington School Committee reaffirms its commitment to the five-year fiscal stability plan presented by the Board of Selectmen in March and reaffirms its support for the \$6 million Proposition 2 1/2 Override that will be placed before the voters on June 11th.~

BREAK

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Procedures – Mr. Thrope presented the following policies for a 1st reading

Policy IL: Evaluation of Instructional Programs

Policy GDE/GDF: support Staff Recruiting/Posting of Vacancies/Support Staff Hiring

Policy FF/FFA/FFB: Policy For Special Dedications of School Facilities

Mr. Schlichtman was not in favor of supporting the addition of the public memorial committee in policy FF/FFA/FFB.

Mr. Thrope offered to contact the public memorial committee and invite them to the next meeting to speak about the charge of the advisory group.

Budget – Working Meeting on AHS

Mr. Thielman met with AHS principal Charlie Skidmore as directed by the budget subcommittee to further develop questions and materials to be addressed at the April 26th working meeting. Mr. Skidmore was asked to report on what is going well at AHS, what the current challenges facing AHS and what will AHS look like with and without an override. Pertinent materials will be in the packets in preparation for the meeting. Relative participants will also be invited to attend.

PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Mr. Thielman presented his proposal for the 2005-2006 subcommittees and appointment explaining that the specialized students services subcommittee will be merged with the curriculum, instruction and assessment subcommittee. The Chair reviewed the tasks of the subcommittees as well as the expectations of subcommittee chair.

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

Voted to approve the 2005-2006 subcommittees and appointments as outlined by Mr. Thielman.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondence Reviewed by Ms. Owayda

Approval of minutes:

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 8, 2005. 5-0-2 abstentions by Mr. Garballey and Ms. Lovelace

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted to approve the executive session minutes of March 8, 2005. 5-0-2 abstentions by Mr. Garballey and Ms. Lovelace

NEW BUSINESS

None

On a motion by Ms. Lovelace seconded by Mr. Garballey it was

Voted to adjourn at 10:00 PM.

Submitted by

Karen Tassone

Committee Secretary