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## **School Committee Minutes 09/27/2005**

**ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2005**

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

Superintendent: Nate Levenson  
Assistant Supt. Kevin Hutchinson  
Special Education Director: Barbara Cataldo

**Call to order: 7:30 pm.**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM CHANGES**

Supt. Levenson introduced Jill McCarthy as the new ELL K-12 Program Developer and Director. Nate stated that best practices in ELL have yet to be discovered and reviewed the handout on best practice concepts. Mr. Levenson explained that any discussion of ELL must answer three questions:

1. What to teach? – English as the Content versus Content in English
2. How much teaching time? Most districts decide, “Based on Available Funds” versus “Based on Need”.
3. Who does the teaching? A combination of ELL teachers and skilled classroom teachers. Not all teachers will be highly skilled and not all dual certified teachers will be highly skilled

The Superintendent identified the factors needed for a successful program:

1. Data – to identify language ability, academic ability, progress or lack of progress
2. Coordination – a complex child by child scheduling
3. Clout & Diplomacy – the programs and services do not easily fit into normal schedules; programs require space and involvement in student and teacher assignment
4. Resources- staffing based on need, and resources must be concentrated based on need
5. Time – most children will take years to gain proficiency in a second language

Ms. McCarthy will supervise, evaluate staff, and will teach one class in addition to developing the program; she will be housed in one of the elementary schools.

Mr. Levenson stated that the program start date is scheduled for January 2, 2006

### **DATA USES & NEEDS**

Supt. Levenson engaged the committee in a discussion on how and why school systems use data. During the power point presentation Why Do We Need Data? Mr. Levenson reviewed what he deemed important questions.

- “ Is the district successful? What are the district’s areas of strengths and weaknesses?
- “ What is important and how to measure what is important?

The Superintendent then identified first steps to be taken

- “ As a District we must decide what we value; find or create accurate indicators, noting that MCAS is likely to account for less than 10% of the indicators

In terms of district and school wide data, Mr. Levenson stated that we must define how we are doing as a system, where if necessary to shift resources and what should be celebrated and shared. After data is collected it must be compared to something, and how will the district want to compare data.

Success Factors depend on:

- Wide acceptance of what is measured (cannot be debatable)
- Belief that the measurement reflects reality
- Hands on, bottom up collection and analysis of data
- Time to review, debate and draw conclusions

Supt. Levenson emphasized that as we move forward in finalizing the five goals, this will be a major multi year undertaking.

**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.  
\*Second reading/approval of amendments to CBD/CBE, GCB, ICA, ID, JEB, JLF, JJ-E, IGA, IGB, IGBH, IL, IMA. (JJ& JBA removed)

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

Voted to approve the items on the consent agenda except for Policies JJ and JBA as noted.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Job descriptions and compensation for new positions: Behavioral Specialist and Centralized Grant Coordinator (per Policy GCA)

Mr. Thrope stated that any new position or a change in job description requires a vote of the school committee; Mr. Thrope is not prepared to vote on the proposed positions without a detailed job description.

Supt. Levenson will present detailed job descriptions at the next meeting.

- Dallin Principal – Wallis Ramer began work on September 26<sup>th</sup>; she will be introduced at the next school committee meeting.
- School Committee room redesign update; work is expected to start this week; the cost will not be prohibitive.

### **MAGNA GRANT APPROVAL**

Ms. Sheffler explained to the committee that the American School Board was offering grants to school boards; Ms. Sheffler presented the two Magna Grants; Funding Schools in an Aging Community and Aligning Committee meetings with District Goals and requested approval from the Committee.

Mr. Thrope voiced concern of the process issue; pointing that the full committee should have the opportunity to decide if they to agree to proceed with proposed projects

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

Voted to approve and submit the two Magna Grants to the American School Board with amendments as noted. Unanimous vote.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT**

Will take place on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Whittemore Robbins House 12:00 – 4:00 pm; lunch will be served. Mr. Levenson will present a review of the last three months.

### **CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of September 22, 2005 meeting, The Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment subcommittee is charged with making a list of all the non-core departments, programs, and activities. The subcommittee will also determine how many minutes a typical student spends per year in non-core curriculum areas, how many students are impacted in each program, and the cost of running the different non-core programs.

The next step is to determine how each program supports what students need to know and do in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- Next meeting date – Tuesday, October 13, 2005 @ 5:15 pm.

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

- Report of September 26, 2005 meeting

Ms. Lovelace reported that she attended the Peirce Field update meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Supt. Levenson distributed a timeline for field use, bleachers, concession stands, scoreboard, basketball courts and the pre-school playground. To keep all user groups etc. informed of the progress of the field the subcommittee will suggest that the district and town websites be regularly updated. A clear list of rules will be created and distributed to user groups, parents, website and the Advocate. Mr. DiLoreto will be the point person providing written instructions to user groups on scheduling, accessing and closing the fields; Mr. DiLoreto will also work with the Park & Recreation Department to access the needs of user groups and the availability of AHS fields.

Field Naming Process – to ensure adequate community input in naming the stadium, the subcommittee will seek input from sports user groups on the Dedication Selection Committee consisting of: 2 representatives from town sport user groups, 2 current AHS athlete student representatives, 2 parent representatives, 2 coaches and 1 AHS alumnae who received recognition for athletic achievement.

Improved communication between the school committee and public via cable. Jeff Munroe from the Arlington Studios suggested that Channel 9 (AHS studio) could be utilized to display calendar information about all of the schools; PTO's could designate a cable liaison that could then sign up for free workshops and have special school functions televised for broadcast. Jeff also noted that there is untapped potential for utilizing the public and high school cable channels using the members of the Cable Club.

- Next meeting date – October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm, the Cable Club Advisor, the APS IT director and Jeff Munroe will be in

attendance.

**REPORTS OF OTHER SUBCOMITTEES (Upcoming meetings, etc.)**

*Policy and Procedures*

Mr. Thrope addressed the two policies removed from the consent agenda JBA and JJ and noted that the change in those policies included the insertion of a date.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was Voted to approve the changes in policy JBA. Unanimous vote

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was Voted to approve the changes in policy JJ. Unanimous vote

· Next meeting- Mr. Thrope reported that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm

· Budget tSubcommittee -the next meeting will take place on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am; the agenda will be to follow up on school choice.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Ms. Owayda noted correspondence from Vincent Livoti relative to the naming of the football stadium as well as draft minutes for review.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Schlichtman informed the committee that the MASC Annual Conference will be held October 26-28<sup>th</sup> and that the committee must vote a delegate for the conference; Mr. Schlichtman requested that the Chair place it on the next agenda.

Mr. Schlichtman also requested that the results of the AYP report and the MCAS results be sent to Committee members on Wednesday.

Mr. Thrope asked if Supt. Levenson would look into restoring administrative support during subcommittee meetings; Mr. Levenson will take the request under advisement.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was unanimously Voted to ADJOURN @ 9:50 pm

Submitted by  
Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary