

can use to promote minority hiring. The Superintendent will present an interim report to the school committee at the 1st regular school committee meeting in April.
Unanimous vote.

• Appointment of Sean Garballey to Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee
On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to appoint Sean Garballey as the school committee representative to the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee.
Unanimous vote 7-0.

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT

Supt. Levenson reported on the Adequate Yearly Progress determinations explaining the summary of findings as follows:

- .. The District met AYP for over 90% of the children tested
- .. The District met AYP for Limited English students, with a high average score
- .. The district as a whole did not meet AYP in ELA for low income children
- .. The district as a whole did not meet AYP in math for special education or low-income students
- .. No elementary school had a sufficient number of low-income or special education students to be reported. This means that performance is unknown in those subgroups
- .. Ottoson did not meet AYP in math for special education or low-income students for the second year in a row.
- .. Ottoson has been "identified for improvement" in math.

The Superintendent noted that overall there is much to be proud of with the results, but that certain groups of children are not being well served and concluded that special education students and low income students need more and different help. Nate emphasized that he does not believe that this problem is centered at, caused by, or limited to the Ottoson. Over 60% of the children in these groups are in the elementary schools, but because no elementary school has a large enough population to be reported we don't know their results. There will be an internal assessment to review the achievement at the elementary schools.

The 6th and 8th grade performance is based heavily on K-5 preparation. Supt. Levenson informed the Committee that because the Ottoson has been identified as a "Needs Improvement School" the Ottoson staff, leadership team, and the Math Curriculum Director have put together an aggressive and serious plan of action; implementation will start immediately.

Stavroula Bouris, principal of Ottoson Middle School, reported that the AYP plan is in response to the 2005 MCAS scores, and that the identification as a Needs Improvement school is in two subgroups (special education and low income). The plan is designed to not only focus on the two subgroups, but on all Ottoson students who need assistance. Currently the plan includes:

- .. To identify students in the Needs Improvement/Warning category
- .. To continue to remediate during follow-up time to allow students to work on specific math skills.
- .. Offer math skills review during directed study time for targeted students
- .. Provide time for inclusion specialist to meet with curriculum staff
- .. Offer am/pm tutoring for students identified
- .. Install Success Maker software in math classrooms/special education classrooms so that students/teachers have access
- .. Install Success Maker software on computers at Operation Success
- .. Hire a math coach to provide teacher support and resources for class instruction. The coach will be the "go to" person for questions on math
- .. Explore MCAS alternative assessment
- .. Offer a math class/review for parents of targeted students
- .. Provide transportation options so that METCO students can participate in after school tutoring

BREAK

BUDGET DISCUSSION –

Revenue Enhancement Options

Ms. Sheffler reported that the budget subcommittee was exploring viable revenue enhancement options to support the school budget.

School Choice

Ms. Lovelace summarized that school choice was enacted into law in 1991 to allow parents to send their children to public schools in communities other than the one in which they reside. School district participation is voluntary, and school committees must vote by June 1st of each year not to admit non-residents for the following year. Financial Administration and impact; current trends in school choice and a sample of communities participating in school choice was reviewed and discussed.

Ms. Lovelace will investigate the reason why Arlington has chosen not to participate in school choice.

International Choice

Ms. Sheffler explained the background information on an International Exchange program including costs to the students, responsibilities of host families, selection of students, establishment of criteria and which countries to target.

EdNets

Ms. Owayda explored whether EdNets has signed any school districts in Massachusetts and has any district received any cash payments from EdNets. To date North Reading Public Schools and Georgetown Public Schools have signed and have web pages up and running but have not received any cash payments to date. Richard Trembowicz is prepared to do a demo for APS at any time. Ms. Owayda will continue to monitor EdNets.

The budget subcommittee will continue to explore these options.

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 Minutes: August 11, 2005, September 13, 2005
*Executive Session Minutes: June 14, 2005, September 2005

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was
Voted to approve the consent agenda. Unanimous vote 7-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

· Approval of job descriptions and compensation for new positions: Supt. Levenson presented the Behavioral Specialist position and Centralized Grant Coordinator position (per Policy GCA) to the School Committee for approval.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was
Voted to approve the Behavioral Specialist position presented by Supt. Levenson.
Unanimous Vote 7-0

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was
Voted to approve the position of Centralized Grant Coordinator as presented by Supt. Levenson

· Advisor to AHS Video Club – potential use of Channel 9
Supt. Levenson stated that AHS teacher Adam DiLiberto would serve as club advisor.

· September 30, 2005 Financial Report (Policy DI)
CFO Rob Addelson presented the FY06 School Budget Report as required per Policy DI fiscal Accounting and Reporting. The report included budget vs. actual as of 10-6-05 and explained the Program Level, the FY06 Budget as Adopted, Expenditures, Encumbrances and Current Available Balance.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was
Voted that the budget subcommittee work with the administration and the policies and procedures subcommittee to develop a proposal for increasing both the frequency and level of detail of financial reports provided to the Committee in order to enable the Committee to better monitor and direct, consistent with state law and its range of interpretations, actual spending against the budget it has adopted as well as the policy decisions actual spending represents. Unanimous vote 7-0

· Jewish Holidays -
Supt. Levenson requested clarification on what activities and events are allowed on the Jewish holidays; Mr. Levenson is willing to create a one-page document that would explain the philosophy of religious observances, and how to handle any related details.

On a motion by Ms. Lovelace seconded by Ms. Owayda it was
Voted that the policy and procedures subcommittee and Supt. Levenson discuss how to codify religious and spiritual observances working with Supt. Levenson's proposed one page document; to be ready prior to conducting contract negotiations.

BUDGET & REVENUE TASK FORCE UPDATE

· **SC Representative to Town Finance Organization Study Committee**
Ms. Sheffler reported on the memo to the Budget & Revenue Task Force relative to the Town Finance Organization Study Committee. The goal of the Committee is to study and make recommendations on the financial organization of the Town of Arlington. The Financial Organization is defined as all entities which impact Arlington's finances, including but not limited to, the Offices of Selectmen, Treasurer/Collector, Assessor, Comptroller, Town Manager, School Committee/Superintendent, Town Meeting/Finance Committee and the Budget and Revenue Task Force. The Committee shall report its progress to the Budget and Revenue Task Force who will start in 2006 to report its progress of the study to the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Thrope and Mr. Schlichtman were not in favor of the study committee. Mr. Thrope voiced concern over the process and that if anything needs to be fixed it should go to Town Meeting. Mr. Schlichtman agreed pointing out that there is no representation from Town Meeting and that the Town Moderator is not part of the study group.

Ms. Sheffler will bring those issues up at the next budget and revenue task force on October 24th.

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was
Voted to appoint Suzanne Owayda as the School Committee representative to Town Finance Organization Study Committee. 5-0-2 abstentions by Mr. Schlichtman and Mr. Thrope without prejudice.

REPORTS OF OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES (Upcoming meetings, etc.)

· Policies & Procedures – Mr. Thrope presented policies
IHBB (Gifted & Talented Education), BEDB (Agenda Format/Preparation & Dissemination), and BEDG (Minutes) for a first reading.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2nd at 5:30 pm.

- .. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20th at 6:00 pm.
- .. Community Relations- the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 24th at 4:40 pm.
- .. Budget Subcommittee- the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 14th at 8:30 am.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to move the 11:00 rule for 5 minutes. Unanimous vote.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- .. Approval of Warrant 06041 in the amount of \$590,008.13

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope It was
Voted to approve Warrant #06041 in the amount of \$590,008.13 5-2-0
(Mr. Garballey and Schlichtman abstain due to payment conflicts)

- .. Correspondence- reviewed by Ms. Owayda

VOTE ON MASC CONVENTION DELEGATE

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was
Voted to nominate Committee member Paul Schlichtman as the delegate for the Arlington School Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

None

On a motion by Mr. Garballey seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was
Voted to adjourn @ 11:10 pm.

Submitted by
Karen Tassone
Committee Secretary