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School Committee Minutes 10/20/2005

**ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005**

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

Supt. Nate Levenson
Asst. Supt. Kevin Hutchinson
Sp. Ed. Director Barbara Cataldo
Student Rep.: EJ Harris

Call to order: 7:40 PM

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AHS student, Amanda Formica, invited the School Committee to attend the 11th annual day of dialogue at Arlington High School on Friday, October 21, 2005.

SKILLS NEEDED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Supt. Levenson led school committee members in discussion of an excerpt from Thomas Friedman's book The World is Flat. Mr. Levenson distributed a handout that posed 15 questions; with the premise,

"What if the world is indeed getting flat?"

If the world is changing

If the work is going to change even faster...

If Thomas Friedman is even half right...

.. Then what languages should be teaching?

.. Then what is the role of a library

.. Then should PowerPoint be taught in English

.. Then is graphing in Excel part of math or computer lab

.. Then is engineering a high school department, not just a college program

Part two of the handout presented what Supt. Levenson stated are the most difficult questions:

1. What is the process with which we as a community will answer these questions?

2. Will we have the strength of our convictions to implement changes when:

.. Every addition requires a subtraction (time in the day is fixed)

.. Every subtraction has a constituency, but the additions do not.

The Superintendent stated that at this point this is just a conversation leading to decisions.

HIGH SCHOOL IS THE MIDPOINT, NOT THE END

AHS principal Charlie Skidmore reported that AHS staff read and reflected on two articles that explored high school as the midpoint of students' lives.

Ms. Farinato, Supervisor of Guidance, explained the process used to help students with their college applications, including timeline for senior transcripts, a parent response form providing guidance counselors a different perspective of the student when writing letters of reference, the creation of the AHS Secondary School Report Form and the program "My Road Map". Ms. Farinato also distributed a list of AHS college acceptances for 2005.

1ST QUARTERLY REPORT ON DOE CONSOLIDATED REVIEW (ELL & SPECIAL EDUCATION)

Supt. Levenson gave a report on the 1st quarterly report on the Department of Education consolidated review for Special Education and English Language Learners. Mr. Levenson explained the monthly monitoring timeline, the major initiatives analysis that explained each initiative, due date and status and then the Detailed Analysis that outlined the action required, due date, section and the status. Most items have been completed on time in addition to a number of actions completed ahead of schedule. There are four items still outstanding. Nate stated that there is a sense of optimism and cooperation between parents, the Special Ed PAC and the special education staff.

In response to Mr. Schlichtman's question on the number of rejected IEP's (25) BJ Cataldo stated that considering the number of special education students in the system that the number is not unusual, but Ms. Cataldo hopes to resolve a number of them through meetings with the parents. BJ reported that she has been holding staff meetings regularly that have been very positive. Her goal is to implement best practices in all of the schools; they are currently in place at the Hardy and Thompson Schools.

Supt. Levenson reported that ELL is doing very well and reviewed the timetable and milestones in the corrective action plan. The current date for the full implementation of the new ELL program is on track for January 3, 2006. Mr. Thrope questioned if the current program is meeting student needs. Mr. Levenson responded that the current program is not at the level that we want to be but explained it was one of the consequences of focusing energy on the implementation of the new program.

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.

*2nd Reading of amendment to Policy BEDB (Agenda Format/Preparation & Dissemination)

*2nd Reading of amendment to Policy BEDG (Minutes)

On a motion made and seconded it was
Voted to approve the Consent Agenda. 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Professional Development Plans – Supt. Levenson informed the Committee that the 2005/2006 Professional Development Plans have been finalized and are ready to be put into written form. Nate will present them to the committee at the meeting of November 22nd as part of the updating of progress towards the goals.

Superintendent's Goals - The Superintendent stated that in preparing his goals he has arranged for input from staff, curriculum leaders and principals. There will be a community/parent session scheduled in early November to give everyone an opportunity to have input. To date Nate has refined and modified the goals and will continue to do so with more input. Nate hopes to post the goals on the school web site by the end of the month.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REPORT

· 2nd Reading of amendment to Policy IHBB (Gifted & Talented Education)

Mr. Thrope reported that Policy IHBB was sent back to subcommittee for rewording and explained that proposed language changes are to encourage expansion of the program.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was
Voted to approve the language changes in Policy IHBB (Gifted & Talented Education) 6-0.

Ms. Sheffler (not present for the vote) commented that Supt. Levenson met with ACE parents to discuss the value of the program and noted that the ACE program will continue in its current form. Ms. Sheffler stated that she was in favor of the language changes in the policy.

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

· Report of 10.14.05 meeting Ms. Sheffler reported that the subcommittee had follow up discussions on School Choice, International Choice and EdNets and will continue to discuss those options.

· Next meeting – Friday October 28, 2005, at 11:30 AM.

REPORTS OF OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES (Upcoming meetings, etc.)

· **Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment** (Mtg. 10.20.05 @ 6 p.m.) Ms. Owayda reported that at its meeting the subcommittee reviewed data collected on the amount of time students spend in non-core academic classes at the elementary schools, OMS and AHS. Suzanne will update and refine the data to report on at the next school committee meeting. The subcommittee has not yet scheduled their next meeting.

· **Community Relations** (Next Mtg. is 10.24.05)

MASC CONVENTION – DELEGATE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

The Committee reviewed and voted on the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1-MCAS Passing Scores

Submitted by the Brookline School Committee

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

Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on Resolution 1 at the MASC Delegate Conference.

6-1 Ms. Owayda with a no vote

RESOLUTION 2-Opposing the Addition of Science and Technology/Engineering

> MCAS Testing as a Requirement of the Competency Determination

> Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors

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

Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote no on Resolution 2 at the MASC Delegate Conference.

4-3 motion fails (Mr. Garballey, Ms. Lovelace, Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Thrope with no votes, Ms. Owayda, Ms. Sheffler, Mr. Thielman with yes votes).

RESOLUTION 3-Appointments to the Board of Education

> Submitted by the Pentucket School Committee

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

Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 3 at the MASC Delegate Conference. 7-0.

RESOLUTION 4-Use of Race in Desegregation Plans

> Filed on behalf of the Lynn School Committee at the School Committee's Request

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

Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 4 at the MASC Delegate Conference

6-0-1 Ms. Sheffler abstains.

RESOLUTION 5-"Costing Out Study" for Education Reform

Submitted by MASC Resolutions Committee

On a motion by Ms. Lovelace seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously

Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 5 at the MASC Delegate Conference

RESOLUTION 6-State Accountability and Assessment Systems

Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors
On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was unanimously
Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 6 at the MASC Delegate Conference

RESOLUTION 7-Value Added Assessment

Submitted by the Worcester School Committee
On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously
Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 7 at the MASC Delegate Conference

RESOLUTION 8-METCO Funding

Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors
On a motion by Ms. Lovelace seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously
Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 8 at the MASC Delegate Conference

RESOLUTION 9-Advocacy

Sponsored by the MASC Board of Directors
On a motion by Ms. Lovelace seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was unanimously
Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 9 at the MASC Delegate Conference.

RESOLUTION 10-Social Security

Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors
On a motion by Ms. Lovelace and seconded it was unanimously
Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to take no position on resolution 10 at the MASC Delegate Conference.

RESOLUTION 11-Social Services Safety Net

> Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors
On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was unanimously
Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 11 at the MASC Delegate Conference.

RESOLUTION 12-School Improvement Plans

Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors
On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Lovelace it was unanimously
Voted to direct Mr. Schlichtman to vote yes on resolution 12 at the MASC Delegate Conference.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondence- reviewed by Ms. Owayda, The Arlington Human Rights Commission Summit, and The AHS Honors String Orchestra has been selected to perform at the Music Educators National Conference held in April in Salt Lake City, and the Stratton Scene.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thielman noted that the next regular meeting is scheduled for November 8th; at that time Supt. Levenson will present his five goals and the measures for those goals.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to adjourn @ 10:45 pm. Unanimous vote

Submitted by
Karen Tassone
Committee Secretary