



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 01/13/2004**

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2004**  
**7:30 PM**

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

Superintendent: Kay Donovan  
CFO: Rob Addelson  
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry  
Sp. Ed. Director Marilyn Bisbicos

Call to order: 7:30 PM

### **Public Participation**

Miriam Stein from the Diversity Task Force  
Karen Coleman – Dallin School

### **Secretary's Report**

Review of Correspondence

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia and seconded it was unanimously  
Voted to approve the Regular meeting minutes of October 28, 2003

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia and seconded it was unanimously  
Voted to approve the Regular meeting minutes of November 4<sup>th</sup>

On a motion by Ms LaMachia and seconded it was  
Voted to approve the Regular meeting minutes of November 25, 2003  
(Ms. LaMachia & Ms. Sheffler abstain) 5-0-2

On a motion by Ms LaMachia and seconded Mr. Thielman it was  
Voted to approve and not release the Executive Session minutes of: October 28, 2003.  
Roll Call: Unanimous

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia and seconded it was  
Voted to approve and not release the executive session minutes of & November 25, 2003.  
Roll Call 5-0-2 (Ms. LaMachia and Ms. Sheffler abstain)

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by and Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously  
Voted that the Arlington School Committee holds a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on January 24<sup>th</sup> or an agreeable  
alternate date. Unanimous

Mr. Schlichtman noted that the MASC annual officer retreat would be held on that date and that would be unable to attend. Mr.  
Thrope also noted a conflict due to a religious observance.

Supt. Donovan informed Members that Town Counsel John Maher has requested a joint meeting of the School Committee, the

Board of Selectmen and the Industrial Parties to give an update on Peirce Field. The meeting would take place on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Selectmen's Hearing room at 8:00 PM

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded

Voted to hold a joint meeting with the Arlington School Committee and Town Officials for the purpose of reviewing information on Pierce Field on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM at Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hearing room.

### **Budget Workshop**

The Chair thanked all school committee members who were present and participated in the budget workshop held on Sunday January 11, 2004. The Committee reviewed:

School capacity and the Dallin school rebuild

Discussion on relocating as few special education students outside of Arlington as possible

Ramifications of closing one elementary school and numbers for funding concerning the long term funding of the new Dallin School

A discussion of student fees

A preview FY 2005 proposed preliminary budget

Discussion of restoration of the budget pertaining to School Committee priorities

Discussion of programs

Mr. Thrope expressed concern that the Committee was discussing only selected items on the budget.

### **Committee Votes**

Warrant Approval - CFO Rob Addelson requested approval of warrant #04083 in the amount of \$1, 111,001.40.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was unanimously

Voted approved of warrant #04083 in the amount of \$1,111,001.40.

Dallin School Rebuild – The Chair explained the history of the rebuild project and stated that the question before the committee is whether to go forward with the long term goal of continuing the school reconstruction project or due to short term savings should this goal be abandoned.

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

Voted that the School Committee recommend to Town Meeting and the Board of Selectman that the rebuild of the Dallin School commence with the summer of 2004 and further move that the School Committee reaffirm its commitment to seven elementary schools and urges Town Meeting and other town leaders to join and support to rebuild all seven elementary schools

Infrastructure Meeting will be held on Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup> in the School Committee Room at 6:30 PM.

**Proposed Fee Increase** - Supt. Donovan reviewed school fees and stated that her opinion is that activities are part of student education and asked that CDBG funds be used to offset some of the student fees.

Supt. Donovan requested that the Full Day kindergarten remain the same as this year at \$1500.00.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was

Voted that the fee for full day kindergarten remain at \$1500.00 for the 2004-2005 school year. 6-1 (Mr. Thrope voted no).

Instrumental Music – Supt. Donovan stated that we currently charge \$175.00 and recommended an increase of \$50.00 per year to \$225.00.

On a Motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was

Voted to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to increase the instrumental music fee by \$50.00 from \$175.00 to \$225.00 per year. 6-1 Mr. Schlichtman no

Mr. Schlichtman pointed out that under the State Ethics Commission's rule of necessity members must disclose that they would be affected by the vote/ruling on a particular issue. 5 of the 7 members made disclosures. (Ms. Goodman, Ms. LaMachia, Mr. Thrope, Ms. Sheffler, Ms. Owayda) .

AHS Sports Fee – Supt. Donovan stated that we currently charge \$175.00 and recommended an increase of \$50.00 per year to \$225.00 with the understanding that the total family fee would not exceed \$500.00.

On a Motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was

Voted to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to increase the AHS sports fee by \$50.00 from \$175.00 to \$225.00 per year with the understanding that the total family fee would not exceed \$500.00 per year. 6-1 (Mr. Schlichtman with his no vote pointed out that under the Mass DOE athletics is a part of the expected activities of the school system). 6-1 (Mr. Schlichtman no)

Ms. Sheffler made a substitute motion with a second by Mr. Thrope to accept the proposed fee per student per sport as discussed at the budget workshop on Sunday that would group sports into four groups \$125.00, \$175.00, 230.00 and hockey and gymnastics at 346.00; if charged that way half of the cost of sports would be covered.

Ms. Goodman amended the substitute motion to cap the fee at \$500.00 per family.

3-4 motion fails. Roll Call: Ms. Goodman, Mr. Thielman, Ms. Sheffler voted yes,

Ms. LaMachia, Mr. Thrope, Mr. Schlichtman, Ms. Owayda voted no.

AHS Club – Activity Fee Supt. Donovan recommended a maximum \$50.00 per year club/activity fee for all students wishing to participate in any clubs.

Ms. Goodman moved with a second by Mr. Thielman to implement a \$50.00 per year for clubs/activities. 6-1 motion fails

Supt. Donovan recommended a \$500.00 family cap per year between instrumental music and sports.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was  
Voted that the total activity fee per family for sports and instrumental music shall not exceed \$500.00 per year. (later amended by Mr. Thrope to read ) **but may be exceeded on a voluntary basis.** Unanimous.

Ms. Sheffler amended the motion with a second by Mr. Thielman to raise the family cap to \$750.00 to participate in instrumental music and athletics. 4-3 motion fails Roll Call:

Ms. Goodman, Ms. LaMachia, Mr. Thrope, Mr. Schlichtman voted no, Mr. Thielman, Ms. Sheffler, Ms. Owayda voted yes.

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

Voted that the School Committee shall request \$20,000 from the Community Development Block Grant funds from the Town to pay for students who cannot afford the fees.

School Bus Advertising – Supt. Donovan suggested putting out an RFP school bus advertising.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded it was

Moved to ask the Supt. to implement a bus advertising program for the 04-05 school year, the program should comply with State Law and generate revenue for the school dept; additionally the Supt shall report on the revenues of the program by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. And concurrently the policy and procedure subcommittee look into policies related to advertising on the buses and on our fields.

Mr. Thrope amended the motion to strike the entire motion except for the referral to the policy and procedures subcommittee.  
Unanimous

On a motion made and seconded it was unanimously

Voted to refer the amended motion on advertising to the policy & procedures subcommittee.

EdNets – Mr. Thrope moved, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman, to have EdNets give a presentation on their program and that the concepts of EdNets be referred to policy & procedures subcommittee. Unanimous

#### Parmenter School

Superintendent Donovan requested that the School Committee vote to signify to the Town that the Parmenter School will not be used by the School Department for a five-year period of time.

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

Voted the Superintendent's recommendation

#### Subcommittee Report

**Curriculum & Instruction** met and discussed the AHS Program of Studies, the physical Education waivers, prerequisites and the graduation requirements

Graduation requirements - the subcommittee reaffirmed the graduation requirements for the class 2008. They were held in abeyance last year for the class of 2007 due to budget constraints.

Program of Studies – subcommittee supports the recommended additions by the administration to meet the new graduation requirements.

Ms. Goodman moved, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to approve the summary of changes to the AHS 2004-12005 Program of Studies.

Ms. Owayda requested that in order to give members time to review the program of studies the committee would vote on the entire program at the next regular meeting and will hear the rest of the report on the physical education requirement and pre requisites.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Goodman to table the curriculum subcommittee discussion until the next meeting.

#### Warrant Articles

Supt. Donovan requested support from the School Committee to submit the following articles to John Maher for the Annual Town Warrant:

File for grants

Early retirement if legislature permits

Education reform

Any Special Education to accept any legislation

Revolving funds, All Day Kindergarten, Hardy After school program

Any fiscal item between the School Committee and Town Meeting

Motion to accept the warrant articles as presented by Supt. Donovan. 6-1 Mr. Thrope no

**Budget Subcommittee** – Mr. Schlichtman referenced the minutes of the last meeting making note of the alternate language proposed and voted on by the budget subcommittee on policy DBJ Budget Transfer Authority.

**Policy & Procedures**

**1<sup>st</sup> read on DBJ** Budget Transfer Authority – Mr. Thielman reviewed the changes noting that under paragraph six there are two proposals A from p & p was voted 2-1 from the policy and procedures subcommittee and proposal B from the budget subcommittee.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading DI** modifies the current policy to require the Supt. to make a financial statement to the school Committee on dates certain.

Policies to be approved tabled until the next meeting.

Leslie Mayer from Parks and Recreation requested that the school committee co sponsor warrant articles on advertising. Chair Owayda suggested that the School Committee not sponsor at this time but to speak to the issue at Town Meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was

Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of a legal issue and contract negotiations with no further business to be conducted upon the return to open session except to adjourn. Roll Call: Unanimous

Executive Session 10:45 – 11:20 pm

Voted to adjourn @ 11:20 PM