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School Committee Minutes 03/23/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2004

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

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

Call to order: 8:00 PM

Public Participation

None

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY2004-2005 SCHOOL BUDGET

Chair, Suzanne Owayda called the public hearing on the FY2004-2005 school budget to order. Ms Owayda explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to give the public an opportunity to speak for or against the budget.

Superintendent Donovan and CFO Rob Addelson presented a power point presentation of the APS recommended FY 05 budget.

- .. Key budget elements
- .. Components of recommended budget
- .. Appropriation /Staffing history FY03-FY05
- .. Primary factors driving increase
- .. Restoration items at AHS, OMS and at the elementary level
- .. 2003-2004 Grant Funded programs

The School Committee voted a budget figure of \$32.4 million dollars, a \$2.4 million increase over last year's budget.

Break

WARRANT APPROVAL

CFO Rob Addelson requested approval on warrant article # 04116 for the amount \$209,738.26

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was unanimously Voted to approve warrant article # 04116 for the amount \$209,738.26.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget

Mr. Schlichtman reported on some of the budget line items discussed at that subcommittee meeting. Mr. Schlichtman then sent a draft of the budget subcommittee minutes via the Internet.

Mr. Thielman suggested using private funds to cut the athletic budget and use the savings to restore academic positions. Mr. Thielman pointed out that this could be a one-time effort much like the funds used to restore the reading positions this past year.

Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. Sheffler

Moved that the budget subcommittee continue the process of investigating the possibility of private fundraising for athletics.

Mr. Thrope amended the motion seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to read

That the subcommittee first meet with groups within the community who are particularly interested in athletics. Unanimous vote

.. **Policy & Procedures**

Mr. Thielman brought the following policies before the committee for a first reading:

- .. Policy "ADDA" (CORI Requirements)
- .. Policy "ADDA-E" (CORI Requirements – Exhibit)

Mr. Thielman recommended the following deletions/amendments to the committee as a first reading:

.. the updated Statement of Objectives for Arlington High School replace the current "Statement of Objectives" (Policy ADA-E) in the Policy Manual. (First Reading)

.. Policy "ADA-E-1" (Goals for Education in Massachusetts" be deleted. (First Reading)

.. Policy "BCB" (Conflict of Interest Policy) be amended in Section 3 by adding the words "or other personnel designated by the Superintendent" after the words "Human Resource Officer" in lines one and three. (First Reading)

.. Policy "BDA" – School Committee Organizational Meeting be amended as follows: In paragraph 3, strike "The member with the earliest date of committee membership" and replace it with "The most recent past chair then serving on the committee . . ."

.. In paragraph 4, strike the entire paragraph, which reads: "For the purposes of defining seniority of school committee members under File BDA and File BDAA, the following rule shall apply: When two or more members are elected for the first time at the same election, and when both members have had identical lengths of service on the committee, the senior member shall be determined by the member receiving the greater number of votes received in the election in which the members were first elected."

Mr. Schlichtman noted that he would not be in favor of the policy change.

Mr. Thrope is working on policy language change and the process of serving as chair in policy BDAA.

.. Policy "BDEA" - School Committee Subcommittees (Current Standing Committees) be amended as follows:

1. Delete the word "six" in the first line of the first paragraph, and insert the word "five".
2. Delete the "Maintenance and Operations" Subcommittee and the "Technology" Subcommittee.
3. Add the "Budget" Subcommittee.
4. The new numbering will read as follows: 1) Policies and Procedures, 2) Curriculum and, Instruction, 3) Specialized Student Services, 4) Community Relations, and 5) Budget.

Mr. Schlichtman pointed out that the curriculum subcommittee is named the Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Subcommittee.

.. **Superintendent Search Update**

Ms. Owayda reported that the committee met, reviewed, and updated language on the RFP for consultant services that were used in 1993 to assist the school committee in the Superintendent search. The subcommittee also worked on changes in the timeline to reflect community input with the consultant in creating the superintendent job description.

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler, seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to accept the **Request for Proposal** as written and agree to move forward with the process.

Ms. Owayda will work with the town purchaser on sending out the RFP. The next meeting will be held on April 10, at 10:00 am in the Community Safety Building.

AHS PRINCIPAL JOB DESCRIPTION

Ms. Owayda presented the AHS job description to the committee for their input/approval. Mr. Thielman made the motion seconded by Mr. Thrope to make changes under numbers 2, 3, 6, 7, & 11 under qualifications. Mr. Thrope also amended the motion to change number 10 to reflect MGL Chapter 71, Section 59B.

Mr. Schlichtman was not in favor of approving the proposed changes stating that the changes require further discussion and made the motion seconded by Ms. LaMachia to refer the AHS principal job description to the curriculum, instruction, & assessment subcommittee.

After a discussion on the time frame of having the job description ready for dissemination Mr. Schlichtman withdrew his motion and Mr. Thielman's motion was amended to read

To approve the changes in the AHS principal job description as follows under qualifications:

#2. Delete "preferably as a principal" in line one.

#7. Delete "Three years previous experience as a high school principal of its equivalent" in lines one through two, and insert "Three years previous experience in school administration..."

The remaining proposal along with Mr. Thrope's proposal would be referred to the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Subcommittee for review. Unanimous vote.

The curriculum subcommittee will meet on April 7th at 5:00 pm.

Supt. Donovan informed members that she will create a screening committee consisting of: 1 school committee member, 4 teachers, 2 administrators, 1 principal, 3 parents, 1 community member, the Assistant Superintendent, 1 student and 1 other paraprofessional. The job notice is in the papers with a timeline of April 23rd.

Ms. Sheffler requested that the community relations subcommittee meeting investigate transportation options with the various after school care in the schools.

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler and seconded it was unanimously

Voted that the CFO and the Community Relations Subcommittee work together on investigating transportation options for students being transported to various after school programs.

Mr. Thrope noted that the School Committee meeting of May 25th falls on a religious holiday and requested the committees' consideration on changing the date of that meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to adjourn @ 10:00 PM