



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476  
Phone: 781-316-3000

[webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us)

## School Committee Minutes 09/28/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

**Present:** Paul Schlichtman, Chair  
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair (@ 7:55)  
Martin Thrope, Secretary  
Barbara Goodman  
Joani LaMachia  
Suzanne Owayda  
Sue Sheffler

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

Call to order: 7:35

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Robin Zeitz- spoke as a representative of Arlington Spanish Network updating the Committee on its various activities. The Arlington Spanish Network is comprised of over 100 parents, educators, and community members whose goal is to help support Spanish in the Arlington Public Schools.

### NEW STAFF

#### Introduction of New Administrators

Supt. Donovan introduced Eric Saum, Asst Principal at Ottoson Middle School, Kathy Kaditz, House Dean AHS, Paula Leoni-Bacchus ELL Director k12, Martha Batten, Interim principal at Brackett School. Mrs. Donovan stated that they come to APS and their positions highly qualified.

### SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

#### Selection Process

Ms. Owayda reviewed the selection process and read the list of nominees for the Leadership Profile Committee and the Superintendent Selection Committee. There were 11 applicants for the leadership profile committee and 43 applicants for the selection committee.

From the list of 10 nominees for the leadership profile committee each School Committee Member nominated one person to make up the committee of seven. The nominees are as follows:

#### Leadership Profile Committee

Karen Buetens – selected by Barbara Goodman  
Stephen Pereira – selected by Martin Thrope  
Peg Callanan – selected by Joani LaMachia  
Mary Paradis – selected by Suzanne Owayda  
Charlotte Pierce – selected by Paul Schlichtman  
Kathy Bodie – selected by Jeff Thielman  
Annie LaCourt – selected by Sue Sheffler

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was unanimously  
Voted approval of the list of names as appointments to the Leadership Profile Committee

Ms. Owayda stated that Future Management Systems would be in touch with the appointees and that the first meeting is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the School Committee Room.

#### Selection Committee

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

Voted to appoint Suzanne Owayda as the school committee representative on the Superintendent Selection Committee. 7-0

Ms. Owayda explained that from the 29 applicants nominated to the Selection Committee each school committee member would

choose two people with Suzanne choosing one since she had been nominated to serve on the committee.

Suzanne Owayda – selected by vote of the school committee

Stephen DeCoursey – selected by Barbara Goodman

Pearl Morrison – selected by Martin Thrope

Roland Chaput – selected by Joani LaMachia

Janet Collins – selected by Suzanne Owayda

Colleen Kirby – selected by Paul Schlichtman

Charles Skidmore – selected by Jeff Thielman

Awinja Otiato – selected by Sue Sheffler

Michelle Deakin – selected by Sue Sheffler

Judi Bohn – selected by Jeff Thielman

Fay Lee – selected by Paul Schlichtman

Todd Sundstrom – selected by Joani LaMachia

Michael Healy – selected by Martin Thrope

Andrew Spooner – selected by Barbara Goodman

On a unanimous vote by the school committee the list of nominees were appointed to the superintendent selection committee.

Ms. Goodman seconded by Mr. Thielman amended the motion to nominate Trish Orlovsky – to the to represent special education parents on the selection committee (7-0) So Voted

Ms. Sheffler seconded by Mr. Thielman amended the motion to nominate Pasquale Tassone as a department head representative (7-0) So Voted

Ms. Owayda, seconded by Ms. Goodman amended the motion to nominate Farid Quraishi as the student representative to the selection committee (7-0) So Voted

Ms. Owayda stated that Future Management Systems would be in touch with the selection committee and that the first meeting is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

#### **Next Steps**

Ms. Owayda informed the Committee that Future Management Systems has begun advertising and that the School Committee has placed ads in Education Week, MonsterTrak, Bay State Banner, and hopes to do so in the New York Times.

### **COMMITTEE VOTES**

#### **Warrant Approval**

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously Voted to approve warrant # 05039 in the amount of \$729,073.07.

#### **Contract Votes**

Supt. Donovan requested a public vote on the AAA contract approved previously by the School Committee in executive session at the meeting of September 14, 2004.

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

Voted to approve the AAA contract as presented by Supt. Donovan and approved by the School Committee on September 14, 2004.

(3% retroactive for last year, 3% for the current year, 4% for next year)

Additional lanes have been added for in service credits and graduate credits; effective September 2005 health insurance will increase to 20%.

### **MASC/MASS JOINT CONFERENCE DELEGATE**

Mr. Schlichtman reviewed the details of the upcoming MASC Conference, October 27-29 at the Worcester Centrum. Mr. Schlichtman noted that a member of the School Committee is needed to present the Arlington METCO Resolution at the conference on Wednesday. School Committee member Joani LaMachia will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Chair also pointed out that attendance at the conference would provide a good resource and recruiting tool in the superintendent search.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **Redistricting Working Group**

Ms. Sheffler reported that one of the biggest challenges facing redistricting is the increasing population. Two concerns to be addressed are: when to include the possible increased enrollment to the Bishop/Stratton districts (as a result of the Symmes construction site) and when to review student capacity at Stratton School so that the specialty rooms in the schools can be used for the purpose for which they were designed.

#### **Budget**

Mr. Thielman reported that the budget subcommittee met and voted to draft a memo to the Community Relations Subcommittee with possible suggestions for the working meeting on Building Maintenance.

Ms. Goodman questioned how the topics are chosen and questioned the process on how issues are being generated. Mr. Thielman explained that the motion was made because the Budget Process Motion adopted at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting directed the Community Relations Subcommittee to develop the questions for this topic by November 1<sup>st</sup> for the working meeting in December.

The chair stated that his vote on the budget process motion noted his concern with time constraints, pointing out that although the Committee voted the budget process it can at any point amend the vote to take a different direction (i.e. that the Committee could receive a paper only report on buildings and maintenance until time permits a working meeting. The Chair would consider that to be an appropriate motion from now until December).

Ms. LaMachia, chair of the Community Relations subcommittee will call a meeting to consider the questions of the budget subcommittee and for additional input from the community relations subcommittee.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to move unfinished business policies and procedures off the table. 7-0.  
Still soliciting comments on CBI and CBI-E

Mr. Thrope brought forth the following policies for a second reading and approval

#### **.. BEDG Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Thielman it was  
Voted to approved policy BEDG with amendments as presented. 7-0

#### **.. BEDG-E**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously  
Voted approval of policy BEDG-E as presented.

Mr. Thielman exited the meeting

#### **.. Policy BGE- Policy Dissemination**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously  
Voted approval of the changes in policy BGE, referring on what server the online version of the manual will be kept to Community Relations Subcommittee.

Mr. Schlichtman would prefer not maintaining a personal electronic file and just use the on line version .

#### **.. BHE Use of Electronic Messaging By School committee Members**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted the recommended changes (the second sentence in the last paragraph) in Policy BHE 6-0

#### **.. BIA New School Committee Member Orientation**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted approval of the recommended changes (the addition of **both written and electronic** under A of the first section) in Policy BIA. 6-0

#### **.. Policy BK - School Committee Memberships**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve the recommended changes (typographical error in the last paragraph) in Policy BK.  
6-0

#### **.. Policy KCC Private Donations to the APS**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted approval of the recommended change (dollar amount from \$100,000 to \$50,000.) in Policy KCC  
6-0

#### **.. Policy KHCA**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Moved approval of KHCA – Display of Signage and Advertising at School Sporting Events.  
Motion to table by Ms. Goodman pending development of a policy or guidelines on advertising on school property.

#### **.. Policy BDE School Committee Subcommittees**

Mr. Thrope noted that the changes in the policy ensures designated personnel at meetings and helps to avoid situations where a member must report out at a meeting and also do the note taking.

Supt. Donovan pointed out the difficulty of securing coverage of meetings in the absence of the committee secretary; additionally Mrs. Donovan emphasized that Central Administration must be notified in advance of subcommittee meetings if they are expected to attend subcommittee meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted approval of the recommended change (the last sentence under number 7) in **Policy BDE**  
5-0-1 - Mr. Schlichtman voted no .

#### **BDH School Committee Staff Assistants**

Tabled pending clarification on who is responsible for evaluating School Committee personnel. Mr. Schlichtman will investigate.

#### **.. Policy BDB School Committee Officers**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted approval of the recommended changes in (#1 and duties of the secretary) Policy BDB. 6-0.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

.. Mr. Thrope reviewed correspondence

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

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 27 2004. 6-0

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 8,2004. 6-0

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 22, 2004 5-0-1 (abstention by Ms. Sheffler)

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 30, 2004 5-0-1 (abstention by Ms. Sheffler)

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 3, 2004 with amendments as noted  
4-2 in favor of the motion (Ms. Goodman yes, Ms. Owayda yes, Ms. Sheffler yes, Mr. Thrope yes, Ms. LaMachia no, Mr.  
Schlichtman no).

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of May 27, 2004. 6-0.

On a motion Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Owayda it was  
Voted to approve executive session minutes of June 22, 2004. 5-0-1 (Abstention by Ms. Sheffler)

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Schlichtman requested the Committees' sponsorship of Representative Jay Kaufman's forum Reinventing Public Education.  
Approved 6-0

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Goodman it was  
Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of a legal issue with no further business to be conducted upon return to open  
session except to adjourn. Roll Call: 6-0

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 10:20 – 10:48 PM**

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously  
Voted to adjourn at 10:48 PM.

**Submitted by**  
**Karen Tassone**  
**Committee Secretary**