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School Committee Minutes 10/26/2004

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2004**

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

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

Mr. Schlichtman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM, the Chair reviewed the policy on public participation making note of the fact the Committee does not comment or respond to statements made during public participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Leslie Mayer, AHS parent, Town Meeting Member, and Parks and Recreation commission addressed the Committee relative to the lights on the boys' freshman baseball field at Peirce Field. Ms. Mayer pointed out that by having lights for the boys' field which allows for night games and not offering the same to the girls' teams creates a serious disparity between girls and boys athletics at Arlington High School. She emphasized that it is an unacceptable inequity. Ms. Mayer noted that the "administration and School Committee are responsible to ensure equal athletic opportunities" and requested that if funding is not available for lights for the girls' field due to of the expense of the remediation work other alternatives need to be explored:

.. Consider relocating the girls' softball field to the lighted location so that it can be used by a girls' sport in the spring and the boys in the fall

.. Light the girls' softball field in its location near Brigham's and see how much it would be to light the boys' varsity baseball field in its uncontaminated location at Spy Pond.

Amanda Noonan – captain of the AHS girl's softball team also spoke on the lighting issue.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Warrant Approval

*On a motion by Ms. LaMachia seconded by Ms Owayda it was unanimously
Voted to approve warrant # 05048 in the amount of 973,050.85*

Field Trip Approval

*On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously
Voted to approve the AHS Honors String Orchestra field trip to Baltimore, Maryland on March 4-6, 2005 to perform at the All Eastern Division Conference of the National Association for Music Education.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Infrastructure Meeting/Update on SBAB

Supt. Donovan will schedule a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee to bring everyone up to date on new SBAB rules & regulations. Tentative dates for the meeting are November 3rd or 4th. Mrs. Donovan stated that it is possible that within the next two fiscal years we will receive reimbursements on the Peirce & Dallin Schools.

Peirce Field Update

Supt. Donovan reviewed the remediation plan agreed upon by the Town and the Industrial Parties and explained that since security lights were required in the Peirce Field area of the boys' freshman baseball field they were able to work in the placement of permanent lights as opposed to temporary lights.

Mrs. Donovan does not agree with the statement that AHS has not been fair and reiterated that Mr. DiLoreto has tried to balance the sports teams to make access equal for both boys and girls playing sports. The Committee discussed the feasibility of adding more lighting on the field; Supt. Donovan stated that the cost of any additional lighting at this point was cost prohibitive and would result in the delay in the completion of the project. Further Mrs. Donovan pointed out that nothing could be done until after the contractors leave and that any changes would have to meet the approval of the DEP.

Capital Planning Report

CFO Rob Addelson reviewed the recommended FY06-FY10 Capital Plan for the Committee and requested approval from the Committee on the proposed plan. A lengthy discussion ensued on the process and the estimates on the lights, bleachers, concession stand and storage shed and why the bids came in much higher than the estimates. The issue of lights on the field and the equity of fields, playing times of boys vs. girls was referred to the Specialized Student Services Subcommittee for review. Mr. Thielman suggested that the Committee take no action on the Capital Plan until the identified items are addressed at the subcommittee level.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget

Mr. Thielman reported that at its meeting the subcommittee discussed the draft of the budget implications of the Goals and Performance Objectives, reviewed the initial draft questions for the Winter Workshop and also reviewed the Municipal yardstick report on Arlington Public Schools. The working meeting on the budget will take place on Tuesday, November 9th. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 8th at 3:00 pm.

Ms. Goodman requested that the subcommittee consider holding its meetings at a later time to accommodate other members and community members who are unable to meet during the day. Although Mr. Thielman was agreeable to holding an evening meeting, Ms. Sheffler pointed out that meeting during the day works better for the members of the budget subcommittee.

Community Relations

Ms. LaMachia reported that the policy manual is now on the school web site. The school committee secretary will maintain the update of the site with Steve Mazzola. The committee also reviewed the questions for the building and maintenance meeting and added questions regarding the needs of the old school buildings, the pay scale and the number of custodial and maintenance workers.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to make a formal request to Vision 2020 and the Board of Selectmen to set a joint State of the Schools/State of the Town address at the opening of Town Meeting next year.

Policy & Procedures

Mr. Thrope presented the following policies for a 1st reading:

• **BEDB** Agenda Formation/Preparation and Dissemination (Consent Agenda)

• **BDH-E** School Committee Staff Assistant Evaluation Instrument

• **CL/CM** Administrative Reports/School District Annual Report

• **Policy BID and DKC** – changes in the cross reference section only.

Ms. Goodman moved with a second by Ms. Sheffler to suspend the rules to approve the cross-reference changes in Policy BID and Policy DKC. Unanimous Vote

Mr. Schlichtman noted that there is proposed legislation that would add state regulations to the school lunch programs and invited the policy & procedures subcommittee to investigate and review any issues related to food service. Ms. Goodman suggested that site based management, i.e. each school would discuss/decide with school councils if they want soda or candy machines in their schools. Mr. Thrope stated that policy & procedures would check what applicable polices are already in existence.

Mr. Thrope noted that the next subcommittee meeting would take place on Wednesday, November 3rd at 3:00 pm.

Redistricting Advisory Team

Ms. Sheffler reported that at its meeting the advisory team reaffirmed the district's basic policy of 22.5 students per classroom, discussed the changes in SBAB financing and the need for new projected student location maps. CFO Rob Addelson will obtain the maps based on current knowledge and they will be reviewed with the principals in December and by the full advisory team in January.

• **Superintendent Search Committee** -Ms. Owayda reported that the deadline for candidate applications is November 5th, the search committee would meet on November 10th to review the screening process, and the resume reviews would take place through November 22nd.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

.. **Correspondence** – reviewed by Mr. Thrope

.. **Approval of Minutes:**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously

Voted to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2004 with the inclusion of the main motion on the Superintendent Search Process

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

Voted to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2004 6-1-0 (abstention by Mr. Thielman)

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

Voted to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2004

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

Voted to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2004 6-1-0 (Abstention by Mr. Thielman) with Mr. Schlichtman noting the two issues not yet ready for release.

New Business

Ms. Sheffler reported that a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen is in the making. Ms. Sheffler proposed any Monday after 7:30 pm.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously

Voted to Adjourn @ 9:10 PM

Submitted by

Karen Tassone

Committee Secretary