



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 07-22-2003**

**The Arlington School Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 22, 2003**  
**Minutes**

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

Superintendent: Kay Donovan  
Asst. Supt: Joanne Gurry  
Special Education Director: Marilyn Bonnie Bisbicos

Call to order – 7:30pm

**Public Participation** –  
None

**APEF Fundraising** – Cindy Friedman, Vice-president of the foundation reported that so far \$123,000 has been raised from 400 donors, 11 businesses, 15% of donors have given over \$500. The gifts range from \$5 to \$5000 dollars. The average gift is \$312. The web site is getting 100 hits per day.

**Future Meeting Agenda/Format** – there was a consensus among committee members that this was a good way for us to proceed. There were concerns raised about the possibility of the discussion being limited and not being as full as it should be.

**Warrant Approval** – Mr. Schlichtman moved to approve warrant number 03181, second by Ms. Goodman. Approved 7 – 0. Ms. LaMachia moved to approve warrant number 03184, which is the final warrant for FY 03, second by Mr. Schlichtman. Approved 7-0.

**Superintendent's report** – Supt. Donovan handed out the list of staff not returning to the APS. Mr. Thrope asked about an update on the CFO – Kay should be able to have two finalists by the week of 7/28 and present one to us for ratification in early August. Mr. Thrope asked for a guidance update – the search is in progress and we should have a job description soon. The committee asked for a FY04 budget book as soon as possible. Mr. Thrope had a question about enrollment, specifically the number of students going from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and how that compares to last year. Those numbers can be looked at in September when they are more stable.

**Policy Approvals** – Mr. Thielman presented the Field Trip Policy for final approval, approved 7 – 0. Mr. Thielman presented the Private Donations to APS for final approval, approved 7 – 0. Mr. Thrope moved, Ms. Goodman seconded that the School Committee formally thank Josephine B. and Chuck K. for their work on the release form. Voted 7 – 0, Ms. Owayda stated she would write thank you cards to each.

**Subcommittees** -

**Budget** – Mr. Schlichtman summarized the last meeting.

**Curriculum and Instruction** – Ms. Owayda handed out rough notes from the July 11, 2003

meeting. The committee making sure the C & I subcommittee follow-up with a meeting early October to get anecdotal evidence on how the change is working and then another meeting after the first marking period to get actual data on how students are doing. The committee discussed the importance of somehow tracking the students who moved up without teacher recommendations, but also to track other students who may have gotten a recommendation but not the full endorsement from their teacher. Mr. Thielman stressed the importance of the prerequisite issue in the overall discussions surrounding the number of levels offered at AHS and that this conversation/discussion may be a one to two year process.

Adjourned from regular session at 9:35pm

Entered Executive Session at 9:40 – 10:00pm  
Roll call vote – all yes

Executive Session 9:40 0- 10:00 pm

Submitted by  
Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary