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School Committee Minutes 12-12-2000

ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2000
7:30 PM

Present: **Wm. A. Carey, Chair** **Martin J. Thrope**
 Joani LaMachia, Vice Chair **Denis J. Sullivan**
 Michael T. Healy, Secretary **Barbara C. Goodman**
 David W. McKenna

Kay Donovan, Marilyn Bisbicos

Call To Order: 7:40 PM

Public Participation

None

Secretary's Report

Mr. Healy reviewed correspondence

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 24, 2000. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 14, 2000. Unanimous

Notification of Joint Special Meeting with Board of Selectmen

Supt. Donovan announced that a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen would take place on Monday, December 18th @ 8:30 PM in the school committee room to discuss the value of real property. It will be an executive session meeting. Mr. Thrope stated that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was:
Voted to hold a special meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, December 18, 2000. Unanimous.

Notification of Warrant Opening/Special Meeting

The Superintendent stated that the Board of Selectmen would open the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. It will be on the agenda for discussion at the next regular meeting.

Initial FY 2002 Budget Discussion

Mrs. Donovan stated that a slightly different process is being used for this year's budget. Referring to the Summary of Budget Requests the Superintendent noted that this is not the recommended increase for FY2001/02 but just the first draft of the requests from Principals and Department Heads. She outlined the ten issues she is looking at:

- School Committee review of the policy manual
- The administration working on the retirement plus program
- The alignment of the curriculum with the frameworks
- The district/student success plans
- Creating and maintaining small class size
- Updating professional development
- Continued home/school communication
- Technology

Examining the libraries/increasing available publication

Controlling budget costs in the sped account.

The Superintendent reviewed the increase in sped tuition funds. There is an increase of \$363,493.00 in the sped budget due to rising out of district tuitions. There are currently 82 students in outside placements.

Also to be considered in the budget is the 4.25% salary and step raises for staff, and due to increased enrollments we will be looking for additional staff.

Mrs. Donovan will address class size at the high school at the next meeting.

On a motion made and seconded it was unanimously voted to recess for five minutes.

Budget Revenue Task Force

Supt. Donovan and Committee Member Dave McKenna attended the Budget and Revenue Task Force on December 2, 2000. The task force reviewed the projected revenues and expenditures for next year and examined possible negatives and positives that could affect the budget figures. The next task force meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2001.

Foundation Budgets, Chapter 70

Supt. Donovan explained the process which the State uses in creating the foundation budget. Committee members voiced concern on how the formula will be reauthorized and suggested that APS take a leadership role in lobbying for changes. The Committee will invite our State representatives to speak on the issue in January.

Internet Web Page Policy/Vote

Mrs. Donovan stated that the Committee needed to vote on the changes in the web page policy.

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

Voted to accept the changes in the Web Page Policy as presented by the Administration. Unanimous.

Mr. Thrope pointed out that students, teachers, and parents must be aware that if web sites are not hosted by the schools that APS cannot offer anonymity and all should proceed with caution.

Capital Budget Recommendations FY2002

Supt. Donovan reported that the Capital Planning Committee granted all requests with the exception of painting the inside of AHS. The schools will receive \$125,000.00 for technology and \$50,000.00 for computer replacement.

District Success Plans/Student Success Plans

Mrs. Donovan informed the committee that the DOE requires a student success plan for each student who does not pass the MCAS. Joanne Gurry is working with the principals on the document to be submitted to the DOE in order to receive grant money for remedial classes.

Committee members voiced concern about the effort put forth in implementing the plan.

Technology Update

Theresa Jay will give an update at the next regular meeting. Supt. Donovan reported that she has secured the \$71,000.00 needed to create a studio room at AHS.

Superintendent Evaluation

Chairman Bill Carey thanked all members of the School Committee for submitting in writing the superintendent evaluations. Out of 280 expectations the Superintendent rated 'exemplary' or 'exceeds expectations'; in only one evaluation did Mrs. Donovan get rated a 'meets expectations'. Mr. Carey summarized some of the individually written comments from Committee members:

- .. Trusted leader in Arlington
- .. Tireless worker for the School and community
- .. Outstanding administrator and educator.
- .. Juggles with competence
- .. Accomplishes an incredible amount of work
- .. An effective spokesperson and communicator
- .. Gifted, possesses invaluable insight and understanding of local and state financing.

The one area requiring improvement was in funding a human resource position. Mrs. Donovan reported that the position would be filled shortly. Mr. Carey emphasized that the Committee is very pleased with Supt. Donovan's performance and wishes to state that publicly.

New Business

Mr. Sullivan commented on Joanne's memo asking for feedback on the position paper. He liked the format and suggested adding an executive summary. Ms. Goodman would like to know what audience we would be targeting. Kay stated that it would be given out to parents at meetings/workshops, to staff and would be on file at the libraries. The Committee decided that upon completion the paper would be sent to the DOE, our two representatives, our state senator, the Chair of the Senate, the communities that supported our resolution, the Governor, Lt. Governor and the chairs of the Senate and of the Education Committee.

Mr. Healy announced that the policy & procedure subcommittee would meet again on January 9th @ 6:30 PM. He asked that the regularly scheduled meeting start at 7:45 PM to give the subcommittee ample time to finish its business.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted to start the regular meeting of January 9, 2001 at 7:45 PM. Unanimous

Mr. Healy requested to have redistricting placed on the next agenda. He suggested that the Superintendent address the open enrollment policy and the effect redistricting would have on the siblings of open enrolled students.

Mr. Carey stated that he would invite our state legislators in to speak at the 2nd meeting in January. Ms. Goodman stated that the initial data from the Ottoson Survey would be available at that time and requested that it be on the agenda on January 23rd.

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

Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of negotiations and for the discussion of land value. Roll Call: Unanimous
Executive Session 9:50 – 10:40 PM

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was unanimously voted to adjourn @ 10:40 PM.