

Draft
Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 2015
6:30 PM

Arlington Regular School Committee
Robbins Memorial Town Hall
Selectmen's Chambers
730 Mass Avenue
Arlington, MA

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair, Jennifer Susse, Vice Chair, Jeff Thielman Secretary, Cindy Starks, Kirsy Allison-Ampe, Judson Pierce, and Bill Hayner

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent, Laura Chesson, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent, Rob Spiegel, Human Resources Director, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, Linda Hanson Arlington Education Association President Representative and Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant to School Committee

Absent: Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officers

Open Meeting

Mr. Paul Schlichtman opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and held a moment of silence for the husband of Carolyn Simmons, Ken Simmons, current member of the Finance Committee.

Public Participation

Mr. Matt Dorson, parent of two Ottoson Middle School students, spoke on changing the MBTA Bus Program at Arlington Public Schools to a new program which would be cheaper in the long run and offers a 7 day unlimited monthly pass, which the administration would have to implement. Currently parents need to add money to the Charlie Card when the card runs out and this happens when students get on the bus, which delays departures for everyone on the bus.

Buffer Zone Report

J. Mike Remy presented the Buffer Zone data which indicated students were assigned to their preferred school, school assignment distribution by buffer zone, sibling placement and that data charts were shown for the visual effect.

The committee appreciated the Buffer Zone data, but Ms. Starks suggested that the data include the distribution of how many students were in each classroom per grade at each of elementary schools. Dr. Allison-Ampe would like the data to show class size equity and how the current Buffer Zone policy is impacting and working to improve class sizes, and to grasp what the class sizes would be if we did not have this policy. It was agreed that this data will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Schlichtman said he knows two families living in the same building both ended up at two different schools and were very happy with the decision and the Buffer Zone policy. The committee would like to know if parents are satisfied with the Buffer Zones and asked if the School Committee should expand the lines of the Buffer Zones and maybe continue to discuss policy decisions.

MASC Delegate Assembly

Ms. Starks moved to nominate Mr. Paul Schlichtman to be our MASC Delegate at the MASC Assembly, in Hyannis, November, 2015, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

After the vote, Mr. Schlichtman suggested to the committee members that they send him any resolutions and opinions for him to bring to the MASC Delegate Assembly.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie provided the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester's thoughts he provided her in a letter on PARCC vs MCAS. He has not yet made his recommendation to the Board, but thought about this as a binary decision: whether to adopt PARCC or continue with MCAS. On October 19, he told the Board there is a third option worth considering: using the effort we've invested in PARCC to create MCAS 2.0. On Monday November 16 a meeting will be held at Malden High School and then on November 17th the Board will take a vote. The committee members were concerned for our students taking the test electronically but it was determined that students found it easier since the test can be read aloud by the computer. Mr. Schlichtman said he will contact DESE and ask about the two instruments for students taking the test.

Dr. Bodie said she and the Town Manager would like to move forward with the task force on enrollments and would like to have a committee set up and hold a meeting by the first week of November, and all meetings will be open for public comment. Mr. Schlichtman intends to suggest the members of the Facilities subcommittee be on the new Task Force.

Mr. Hayner moved to approve Mr. Schlichtman recommendation to appoint the members of the Facilities Subcommittee, Ms. Starks, Mr. Hayner and Mr. Thielman to the School Enrollment Task Force subcommittee, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 6-0

Mr. Hayner mentioned APS METCO bus pass procedures, since Mr. Dorson suggested a new MBTA bus pass program this evening, but once the members started discussing the cost to implement the bus passes, Mr. Schlichtman suggested that the committee members table the discussion until the next meeting.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlichtman moved to approve the Consent agenda, on all items listed with an asterisk are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence: Approval of Warrant: Warrant # 16054, Dated

10/8/2015, Total Warrant Amount \$531,749.03, Approval of Draft Minutes: Regular Meeting 10/8/2015, Approval of Job Description: Admin Assist to Principal and Data', and Approval of AHS Foreign Exchange Program: New York City January 15-17, 2016, and San Francisco and Los Angeles April 16-23, 2016, Mr. Hayner moved to pull the two field trips for discussion, Mr. Pierce moved to pull the 10/8/2015 minutes.

The vote to approve the Warrant #16054 dated October 8, 2015 and the job description of the Admin Assist to the Principal and Data.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Starks moved to approve the draft minutes from the regular School Committee dated October 8, 201, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0-1 Mr. Pierce abstained.

Ms. Starks moved Approval of AHS Foreign Exchange Program: New York City January 15-17, 2016, and San Francisco and Los Angeles April 16-23, 2016, seconded by Ms. Susse.

Voted: 7-0

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports & Announcements

Policies & Procedures Jud Pierce (Chair) said the subcommittee met on September 28 to discuss the two policies presented tonight and noted to amend the flag policy.

Mr. Pierce moved to approve and adopt the second read of File: JT Policy on Outdoor Display of The Flag of the United States as amended, seconded by Mr. Hayner

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Pierce moved to approve and adopt the second read of File: JICG Arlington High School Policy on Tobacco, seconded by Ms. Susse.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Pierce said he will review the School Committee charge from the last meeting on Thursday, October 8, on Policy BEDB - AGENDA FORMAT/PREPARATION AND DISSEMINATION which the full committee charges the Policies and Procedures subcommittee to revisit since using Novus.

Budget Kirsi Allison-Ampe (Chair) said the subcommittee met yesterday, with Dr. Bodie and discussed and amended the draft budget calendar for 2015-2016. Dr. Allison-Ampe brought the Draft Budget Calendar for a First read tonight and said the full committee can vote it at the next Regular School Committee meeting.

Facilities Ms. Starks said the Facilities Subcommittee met with Dr. Bodie and Town Manager, Adam Chapdelaine to discuss debt exclusion, the first steps to create the School Enrollment Task Force, and meeting dates on when to hold a meeting to discuss the process and set up dates to break the process into two decisions for the Facilities and Community Relations subcommittees to gather ideas. Dr. Bodie informed the committee that the Advisory Committee on the Stratton

brought important concerns to the administrations attention on recess and art/music. Ms. Starks said she will send along a short clip of pictures of modules from Lexington.

District Accountability, Curriculum/Instruction & Assessment Jeff Thielman (Chair)

Mr. Thielman instructed the committee members to email him if they had any comments on the evidence for Dr. Bodie's evaluation. Mr. Hayner informed the committee he attended an EDCO conference on superintendent's evaluations and will share and information with Mr. Thielman.

Community Relations Jennifer Susse (Chair) *will hold a meeting Nov 2, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the first read on last year survey, and will discuss the website, dashboard, and will do a next step on enrollment challenges and collect all the ideas given to her along with the other 14 ideas she has received so far.*

Executive Session Minute Review Subcommittee Voted 5/28/2015

Mr. Hayner said he has completed both reports and waiting for others to review documents

Warrant Committee - Voted 4/9/2015 Bill Hayner (Chair) completed

Announcements

Mr. Hayner attended the EDCO meeting for roundtable for School Committee members. Ms. Starks informed everyone on two events: AYCC at Town Hall and Arlington Boy and Girls Club fundraiser at K of C both held on Friday, October 23.

Executive Session

Mr. Thielman moved to enter executive session at 7:28 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and /or nonunion in which if held in an a open meeting may have a detrimental effect, and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted, and will exit only to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.

Roll Call: Mr. Hayner Yes, Mr. Pierce Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Susse Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, and Dr. Allison Ampe Yes, and Mr. Schlichtman Yes.

Voted: 7-0

Adjournment

Mr. Thielman moved to exit out of executive Session and to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/jt