

Arlington School District Study Committee
Minutes—August 28, 2017

The Arlington School District Study Committee met on August 27 from 8:00 to 9:40. Present at the meeting were Dr. Joshua Sherman (Chair), Nicol Whalen, Terri O’Dea, Elizabeth Berger, and Florence Belnap.

Dr. Sherman suggested goals for the Committee include:

- Understanding terms and acronyms.
- Creating a timeline.
- Reviewing various options for supervisory structure.
- Reporting recommendations to the Community and School Board.
- Determining what needs to be in a self-study report.

The group started by reviewing the “ASD Study Committee Information (Draft)” supplied by Superintendent Bill Bazyk. The group raises a number of questions including:

ADM

1. How does the funding work for students? Explain specifically how the funding formula is affected by students outside the Arlington Community that attend Arlington School District. Please give examples that include a student from a choice town, a student from another public school, and an international student. Can Arlington accept tuition for students? Under what circumstances?
2. Define the homestead tax rate and how it is calculated. How does the ADM translate into reimbursement from the state?

AOE

Please confirm that our understanding of the hierarchy is correct:

1. AOE
2. SBE
3. SU
4. School Board
5. School District

Also, who heads the SBE?

SU

What are the specific roles of the SU? In what specific areas does the SU have power to push down decisions to the school districts?

3X1

Other towns in the 3X1 have calculated exactly how much their taxes will go up or down. Please provide how much property taxes will go up or down under the 3X1. When will any change go into effect—2018 or upon the vote in November 2017? Likewise, please provide how much property taxes will go up or down if Arlington joined the BRSU and the SVSU, assuming we joined today.

Other

1. Is there a difference between an independent and private school? Please define each.
2. Please provide a map of all school districts and where they are in the merger process under Act 46 & 49 (Nicol thought this existed and could be accessed).

The group discussed in detail the 3X1 option with the following conclusions:

- There is no monetary benefit to Arlington School District in joining the 3X1.
- Other options for the school district have not been explored to date.
- It would be premature for the Board to recommend a vote on the 3X1 without educating the public on all possible options.

As a result, the group agreed to write a letter to the Arlington School Board recommending that they not recommend the 3X1 to the State and town.

Submitted by: *Shenae Kelly*