

Arlington School District Study Committee
Minutes—September 2, 2017

The Arlington School District Study Committee met on September 2, 2017 from 8:00 to 9:45. Present at the meeting were Dr. Joshua Sherman (Chair), Marshall Cross, Kate Bryan, and Florence Belnap.

On a motion made and seconded, the group approved the minutes from the last meeting held on August 28, 2017. It was agreed that Ms. Belnap would send the minutes to Superintendent Bazyk and request that they be posted on the website, so that minutes are available to the public.

The group reviewed the document supplied by Superintendent Bazyk titled “ASD Study Committee Information Request.” This exercise led to further questions to be requested from Superintendent Bazyk, including:

ADM

School Choice Financials to Arlington:

From Choice BRSU Towns

1. How is Arlington’s tuition of \$15,177 calculated? Please use most recent year’s calculation and explain how derived.
2. If Arlington receives a choice tuition student midyear, is the tuition prorated? Please explain calculation.
3. How is the tuition money of \$166,947 (i.e., \$15,177*11 students) being spent in this year? Last year? Who has authority in deciding how it will be spent? How has it been used in previous years? Are there any restrictions on this money? Is it a use it or lose it situation (i.e., must it be used within the school year).
4. Has Arlington received additional students since you provided the 11 student figure (i.e., did more children enroll since then?)

From Act 150 (SVSU) Towns

1. Are there any students attending MAU from Arlington? How many?
2. Although no money is exchanged under this agreement, can Arlington count the 4 Act 150 School Choice Students in its ADM calculation?
3. Can foreign exchange students be counted in the ADM calculation?
4. In calculating the Dollar Equivalent Yield, how does the state determine the “equalized pupils in the state?” Please explain who is included.
5. Please provide the actual calculation of yield for the past year.
6. Has Arlington’s CLA changed over the past three years? Please provide CLA for past three years.
7. Please provide the homestead tax rate calculation for Arlington for the past three years.

AOE Hierarchy

It is important that we as a committee for purposes of clarity understand which group is in charge of which issues. Please give us detail on which legislation is designated to which group and the oversight role.

SU Oversight

1. Please breakdown special education services that the SU provides.
2. How much in federal funding does Arlington receive and where does it go?
3. What financial services does the SU provide?

3X1 Taxes

1. With deadlines fast approaching, we would like to have the property tax calculations for joining the BRSU and the SVSU by Friday, September 8. Please show the calculations and explain how derived.
2. What happens to the Arlington High School building if Arlington joins another supervisory union? Does that supervisory union take over running the building? Who would own the building?
3. How much outstanding debt is on the high school building, including the most recent approved bond?

Independent School and Private School

What would Arlington gain or lose by becoming an independent school?

Adult Education

Can the Guidance office please provide graduation rates over the past 20 years?

Dr. Sherman will communicate these questions to Superintendent Bazyk and request information on them by September 8.

Dr. Sherman explained that he had not received a response from Nicol Whalen regarding his letter to the Arlington School Board recommending that they not recommend the 3X1 to the state and town of Arlington. Further, the group was unclear as to whether Superintendent Bazyk was proceeding with a Public Forum on September 16 to explain the 3X1 option. The group agreed that Dr. Sherman should write a second letter to the Board explaining that a representative from the Study Group will read a letter at the Public Forum, should it occur on September 16.

The group targeted September 10 for its next meeting. Dr. Sherman will send an email to the group to see if members can attend on this date.

There being no further business, the members agreed to adjourn.