

Extension of Nate Levenson's contract  
Statement by Jeff Thielman

I am pleased to vote for this contract extension. As several of our principals stated at last week's meeting, in the past two years the district has built upon the good work of the past and is doing a better job today of serving the broad range of students who attend our schools.

I appreciate the different views that have been expressed about Mr. Levenson's tenure in Arlington. This is a sign of a diverse, not a divided community.

I am pleased that Mr. Levenson will be the Superintendent in Arlington until at least June 30, 2011. I think this is very good news for our children. A number of studies have shown that keeping Superintendents in office for significant periods of time helps improve teaching and learning. Stability at the top of the district is good for kids.

The School Committee's focus now must shift from a debate over the Superintendent's contract extension to the hard work of reviewing the progress Mr. Levenson and his staff make on the goals we approve each year. The Committee has to put aside whatever differences we may have because we have a lot of work to do to make this district all that it can be.

We need to ensure that there is real progress on the 21<sup>st</sup> century goal, that professional development for faculty is helpful and meaningful, that our students are receiving the counseling and other support they need, and that all students are reaching their full potential. We have a lot of due diligence to do in the months and years ahead to ensure that the district continues to move forward, and we have to do our part to make sure our schools have the resources they need for optimal teaching and learning. I look forward to the work ahead.