

# ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Arlington, Massachusetts 02476-0002*

*P.O. Box 167 • 869 Massachusetts Avenue • (781) 316-3540*

Office Of The School Committee  
November 25, 2020

Subject: School Committee selects Dr. Elizabeth Homan as next Superintendent

Dear families and caregivers,

Last night the seven member Arlington School Committee voted to select Dr. Elizabeth Homan as the next Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools. The next step is to negotiate a contract between her and the School Committee and I will let you know when that work is complete.

Dr. Homan is currently in her third year as Assistant Superintendent in Waltham. Among her primary achievements is the work to align curriculum and establish professional development to narrow the achievement gap through collaboration and improve outcomes for all students. She is actively involved in leading the district efforts to address COVID and to incorporate student wellness and academic progress during this challenging time. Over the last ten days she demonstrated self-awareness during multiple rounds of meetings with stakeholders in Arlington. Her humility around and obvious pride in accomplishments that were achieved when she was leading a team came up repeatedly. Her facility with discussing issues around diversity, equity and inclusion as well as her work with curriculum development and implementation will be significant assets and will contribute to making progress on our district goals. Her collaborative data-driven leadership style was mentioned repeatedly by people familiar with her work. I believe that she will be able to communicate a vision for Arlington that is developed to leverage the considerable talents of our existing administration, faculty and staff and move us forward.

As you know, Dr. Kathleen Bodie plans to retire at the end of this school year. This district has benefited tremendously from stability in leadership over the last thirteen years with her at the head and I am looking forward to being able to fully and collectively express our gratitude to her for her work and stewardship over the coming months. I am confident that she will approach a transition in leadership with her characteristic commitment to collaboration and loyalty that has served us well in Arlington for over a decade.

The School Committee has been most grateful for the engagement of our community during the process of searching for a new Superintendent. Thank you for your feedback, participation and support.

Best wishes for a restorative Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,  
Jane Morgan  
Chair, Arlington School Committee



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

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**Fwd: follow up on committee meeting 11/18/20**

2 messages

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**Leonard Kardon** <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>  
To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 8:32 PM

Not sure she sent this to anyone else. Can you copy the full committee and Dr. Bodie?  
Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eileen Hirsch** <emh222@comcast.net>  
Date: Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 8:22 PM  
Subject: follow up on committee meeting 11/18/20  
To: lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Mr. Kardon,  
I am the parent of a 9th grade and a 12th grade student at Arlington High School. I just watched the webinar with the school committee and the district administration, including Dr. Janger. I believe your line of questioning was on point and helped tease out the issue of trust in a thoughtful manner. My trust in Dr. Janger's willingness and his "bandwith" for leading the formulation of a return to school plan is waning rapidly.

I am a teacher at Lexington High school currently working in a hybrid model. I see first hand both the benefits and challenges of hybrid learning. As a teacher and a parent, I fully support the effort of the district to implement in person learning at Arlington High School.

I respectfully ask that the school committee continue to pursue in person learning at Arlington High School. Please don't acquiesce when Dr. Janger inevitably says all avenues have been exhausted and that in person learning is impossible.

Sincerely,  
Eileen Hirsch  
(mother of Kerry Hirsch '21 and Brendan Hirsch '24)

--  
Len Kardon  
Arlington School Committee Member

---

**Karen Fitzgerald** <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 8:58 AM

To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Fitzgerald, Karen" <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Michael Mason <mmason@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Alison Elmer <aelmer@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Robert Spiegel <Rspiegel@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Please see below

[Quoted text hidden]

--  
Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee  
Superintendent of Schools  
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor  
Arlington, MA 02476  
781-316-3540  
[kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us)

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## Re: AHS semester 2 slides and survey

2 messages

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geoff freed <gfreedmnf@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 27, 2020 at 11:26 AM

To: Matthew Janger <MJanger@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us, whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us, pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us, kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us, lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us, lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us, jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us, kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us, aps\_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us

Hi, Dr. Janger.

Thanks for responding. I did find the videos useful, but they-- along with your appreciation of my difficulties-- do not address the point I am trying to make: parents have no way to ask questions directly to you or other AHS administrators about the proposed second-semester options for AHS. I find your response to my request for an extended deadline in order to accommodate questions from parents-- "Our timeline is tight and I'm uncertain whether an additional presentation is going to be possible. I will consider it and see if we can complete the analysis if we push that back"-- flippant. You had a least ten days during which you could have scheduled at least one online Q+A session. No such session was scheduled. I find this lack of planning and foresight disappointing.

I also find that the survey itself suffers from a similar lack of planning. I have no reason to feel confident about the value of this survey because you are **requiring** participants to answer questions that may not apply to them. For example, for each of the three plans you ask participants to judge effectiveness on special services. I don't know what's involved in an IEP or a Section 504 accommodation. I have no idea whether or not any of these plans will be effective for students that require these services. And yet you *\*require\** me to answer this question three times. My answers here will be worthless, yet they will still be tabulated and included as part of the final count. Why isn't there a checkbox for "I don't know," or "Not applicable?" This is not only disappointing, it's dishonest.

Again: please extend the 11/30 deadline. Please schedule a question-and-answer session so parents can make informed choices.

Geoff

On Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 7:23 PM Matthew Janger <MJanger@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Dear Geoff,

I appreciate the difficulty of working through these details. I hope you were able to access the three videos that I just added. You can also watch the video from last night's presentation and discussion with the school committee. Our timeline is tight and I'm uncertain whether an additional presentation is going to be possible. I will consider it and see if we can complete the analysis if we push that back.

Thanks for your understanding,  
Matthew

On Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 7:08 PM geoff freed <gfreedmnf@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello, Dr. Janger:

Thank you for all your work in assembling the slides that outline the semester-2 approaches that are under consideration for our high-school students.

I know that the schedules themselves were difficult to develop, but I'm sure I am not the only parent to say to you that the slides were very difficult to understand. I'm not an educator, so I am not entirely familiar with the vocabulary that educators use to describe their work. I am intimately familiar with the importance of unambiguous writing and speaking when trying to explain ideas and concepts to people outside of one's industry, however. Terms that are second nature to you, or which may have obvious meaning to you, are a foreign language to me.



I strongly request that you extend the survey deadline and schedule these sessions as quickly as possible. I for one am reluctant to complete the survey with my current level of understanding of the second-semester offerings.

Matthew Janger, Ph.D. (he, him, his)  
Principal, Arlington High School  
(781) 316-3594  
For AHS Calendars and News  
For AHS Newscast

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Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 2:28 PM

Your email will be included in the record of the school committee meeting on December 10, 2020.

[Quoted text hidden]

**Karen Fitzgerald**  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee  
Superintendent of Schools  
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor  
Arlington, MA 02476  
781-316-3540  
[kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us)  
[Quoted text hidden]



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

## Letter to the School Committee

2 messages

**Betsy Cameron** <betsy.s.cameron@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 4:19 PM

To: "kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us" <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Hello. I'm a parent at Arlington High School, and I've been given a survey to fill out which tries to shoehorn me into making decisions I'm not comfortable with. I literally cannot submit the survey without saying one of the three hybrid options is "the safest", when all of them seem dangerous to me.

I'm going to find a way to answer anyway, but I wanted to let the School Committee know that at least one parent feels that this survey is specifically written to get a response I don't want to give.

**Karen Fitzgerald** <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 8:41 AM

To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Fitzgerald, Karen" <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Matthew Janger <MJanger@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Alison Elmer <aelmer@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Michael Mason <mmason@arlington.k12.ma.us>

See below.

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--

**Karen Fitzgerald**

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee

Superintendent of Schools

869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor

Arlington, MA 02476

781-316-3540

kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

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## High school survey thoughts

2 messages

Carrie Finison <carriefinison@me.com>

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 4:55 PM

To: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, Matthew Janger <MJanger@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Dr. Janger & Arlington School Committee-

I've just completed the survey about Semester 2 at AHS and wanted to share a few thoughts that the survey didn't seem to cover.

Context: I have a son in 10th grade at AHS and, in general, the instruction he's getting this year has been effective for him. He's probably not doing as well as he might be if he were attending regular, in-person school, but for him it is VERY important to have daily instructional time with a teacher. I also have a daughter in 6th grade at Gibbs who is in the hybrid model. The days when she attends school in-person are great for her, socially. However, the days when she is home are...I don't want to say 'wasted' but let's just say they're WAY less robust in terms of learning. For 6th grade, it's fine. She's smart and she'll be OK long term, academically. However, I think this model would be a disaster at the high school level for my son. He really needs that direct instructional time, every day, especially given the fast pace of a semester-long course.

Although the survey did not allow a choice for keeping the current model, it would be my strong preference to keep things as they are for Semester 2, especially in the context of Massachusetts Covid cases on the rise.

What I would love to see, however, is a more concerted effort to bring kids to school regularly for in-person SOCIAL activities - on Wednesdays and after school. Things like extracurriculars, clubs, intramural sports, volunteer work, etc. could all be happening, with social distance, at school. This would give kids time see other kids, a reason to get out of the house, and something enjoyable to look forward to. And, if we have to shut down again, academic work is not interrupted. Also, academic teachers would not have to reinvent their curriculum yet again for a hybrid model. I hope you will consider that idea in your future planning.

Sincerely,

Carrie Finison  
Walnut Street

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 8:51 PM

To: Alison Elmer <Aelmer@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Bodie, Kathleen" <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <Ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsii Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Robert Spiegel <Rspiegel@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>

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## letter to school committee for 11/24 meeting

2 messages

caitlin lauchlan <clauchlan@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 12:15 AM

To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Members of the School Committee,

I am writing regarding the proposals for the second semester at AHS. My daughter is a freshman at AHS this year and has had a pretty positive introduction to high school. Her teachers have been working hard to find ways of connecting with students, she has formed virtual study groups with friends in her classes, and she has been finding her way to a routine with varying degrees of success. She has ADHD, so we are all learning a lot about where the weaker spots in her executive function are, and she may actually come out of this a little more aware of herself and her learning needs than she might have in a typical year. Like most teenagers, she misses the casual social interaction of being in a school building during a normal year. Like everyone in our household, and like most people that I know, she has struggled at times with the changes the pandemic has necessitated. But with all of that said, her introduction to high school has been solid: she is engaged and learning and her days have a predictable structure to them. As the semester has progressed, she has auditioned for plays and begun rehearsals, she has joined a club, and is coming closer to her pre-pandemic levels of busy. Before our eyes she has become a high school student and is exploring new elements of this community. That this is all happening remotely is unfortunate but necessary and ultimately does not seem to be hampering her progress and development in any greater way than any of the other pandemic-related restrictions.

I participated in one of Dr. Janger's focus groups about the schedule for semester two. I was impressed at the amount of thought, problem solving, creativity, and hours of work that went into the plans he presented. I appreciated his efforts to balance the social needs of teenagers against the hard facts of the building and the complexities of the schedule, while also bearing in mind what is already being asked of teachers and what any changes to the schedule will mean for them. After all, teachers pushed to their breaking points cannot effectively meet students' academic or emotional needs, nor can they find the energy and creativity to sponsor clubs, organize events for seniors, write recommendations, hold study sessions, or authentically engage students in academic or non-academic activities. Living with an APS employee, I know more than many parents just how close to the breaking point many teachers are right now.

When we look at adjusting the schedule for the second semester, it is very important to look at what we are sacrificing and what level of benefit would come out of this trade. Right now, students get 4 solid days of direct instruction in all of their courses and plenty of independent work to fill afternoons and any free moments of their increasingly busy Wednesdays. They are moving ahead academically in a way that seems comparable to what might happen in a typical year. Any plan to change the way that the schedule works will come at a cost to educational time. I am not usually one to argue for academics over social needs, but when students are dealing with limited time to prepare for AP exams or are working through college requirements, trading in some of those minutes for masked, distanced, unmoving interactions where students may not even be able to hear each other, much less have the casual interactions they are craving, seems like an unbalanced trade. Any of the proposed changes creates inequity by isolating students who cannot come in person due to personal or familial health or the complications of going to and from school for portions of days. And unlike the elementary and middle schools, the high school has been very clear that it cannot staff an equitable remote program if the school goes hybrid. Fully independent days in a



hybrid will not be used productively by teenagers who would rather sleep in and who are much more likely to be left on their own to get through their school days than their elementary counterparts. My child, who compensates well enough for her ADHD that she does not qualify for an IEP or other accommodations, would struggle with that much open-ended time. I know because that's exactly what happened in the spring. Any of these changes in schedule, with the possible exception of the Departmental Shift, require teachers to completely rework what they maybe just finally are getting a handle on, so rather than seeing things improve through the spring, we would see teachers starting back at the beginning and struggling to reorganize their instructional time and techniques yet again. If we keep an overall pretty successful structure and allow teachers to build competence and confidence, we are likely to see more natural opportunities for social engagement and in person learning arise over the course of the spring without losing a full semester's worth of progress.

We are seeing a rapid increase in COVID cases right now. We know that teenagers are infected and affected at rates closer to that of adults. They are also out circulating in our community much more than younger children, so have greater odds of spreading the virus on a wider scale. We also know that vaccines are potentially closer than we might have thought a month or so ago and might allow for a more normal start to the next school year. When we look at restructuring the high school for the second semester, are minimal gains in social interaction worth significant reduction in academic progress, the risk of losing burned out teachers who feel like their tireless efforts only receive criticism and calls for more, and the risk of spreading infection further throughout our community? I and many others in Arlington think it is not.

We are in the middle of a pandemic. Health experts warn that the months to come will be the worst yet. Our high school building is old and too small for the number of students it is supposed to hold. Health guidelines make fitting enough students into classrooms impossible. These are all unfortunate and heartbreaking facts. But they are our reality right now. No matter how many ways we look at it, these facts will not change. We have a structure that is imperfect but working better than many hybrid high school programs. We have dedicated staff who are working endlessly to improve what they are doing.

Please don't take us back to square one while also increasing risk to our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Lauchlan

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**Karen Fitzgerald** <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 9:38 AM

To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Fitzgerald, Karen" <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Robert Spiegel <Rspiegel@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Alison Elmer <aelmer@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Please see the email below.

Karen

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Karen Fitzgerald**

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee

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869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor

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**Re: AHS semester 2 slides and survey**

1 message

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Cc: jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us, whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us, pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us, kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us, lextton@arlington.k12.ma.us, lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us, jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us, kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us, aps\_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us

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Again: please extend the 11/30 deadline. Please schedule a question-and-answer session so parents can make informed choices.

Geoff

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What is really missing from this process, however, is a chance for parents to ask questions directly to you and others at AHS that will help us all to understand, unambiguously, what each of the three offerings represent, from learning, health and social perspectives. I'm sure many of us have numerous questions about the safety of the building alone. It is unrealistic to expect any of us to read these slides and the survey and not have a chance to ask questions. Addressing us as a group gives us a chance to have our individual questions answered as well as a chance to learn from others' questions. We were given approximately 10 days to read the slides and to complete the survey. Why were there no online Q+A sessions scheduled during that 10-day period?

I strongly request that you extend the survey deadline and schedule these sessions as quickly as possible. I for one am reluctant to complete the survey with my current level of understanding of the second-semester offerings.

Thank you.  
Geoff Freed

--  
Matthew Janger, Ph.D. (he, him, his)  
Principal, Arlington High School  
(781) 316-3594  
For AHS Calendars and News  
For AHS Newscast

"together we can build a more welcoming and friendlier environment here at Arlington High School, a place where students can show their true colors without judgement"  
- Catherine Malatesta

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

## Letter Sent To APS Families RE: Positive COVID-19 Case

1 message

Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Nov 23, 2020 at 11:14 PM

To: Bill Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Jeff Thielman <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear APS Families,

I write to inform you that through the APS COVID-19 testing program for staff that one person at Brackett tested positive for COVID-19. There were also 346 negative test results. Close contacts, which were very few, have been notified that they will need to quarantine for 14 days following Department of Health guidelines.

We have been fortunate that there were no positive cases in the previous two rounds of in-district testing. Also, there has been zero evidence of COVID-19 transmission in our schools this fall.

There have been two other positive COVID-19 cases recently. A high school student, who is remote this semester, tested positive. Additionally, a staff member at Gibbs, who had very few close contacts in the school, tested positive, but not through our testing program. Both the staff member and close contacts were asked to quarantine for 14 days.

We continue our commitment as a district to the practices of mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing to ensure the safety and good health of all members of our school communities. We appreciate that our students have been very good in adhering to these safety practices. Thank you for your support of these efforts.

--

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us  
781-316-3501

*Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.*

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

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## Note regarding AHS 2nd semester survey and plans

1 message

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**Ann Skoczenski** <annsko@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 1:29 PM

To: Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us, lextan@arlington.k12.ma.us, whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us, lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us, Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us, jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Dr. Bodie and School Committee members,

As the COVID numbers rise across Massachusetts and the US, it was a relief to see Dr. Bodie's email about the low incidence of COVID in our schools. Clearly the hybrid model and the compliance with safety measures are working in Arlington, and bringing students back to school is not driving our community spread. This is why it is even more disappointing that our high school students may continue to be kept in the isolation of the all-remote model that is their only choice.

I am writing to you today to shed some light on the survey sent to AHS parents and students. First, in spite of hearing from many families (and knowing national statistics) on the effects of remote schooling on teens' mental health, the survey does nothing to ask families about Arlington students' mental health and social emotional supports. Nothing.

Instead, the survey presents a confusing mishmash of some hybrid 'options' that are just a step above the current reverse field trip model (if even a step, the model favored by Dr. Janger is basically the reverse field trip model on a semi-schedule), and then asks all families to make judgements on how these options would serve special ed and ELL students. The most telling line of Dr. Janger's email that he sent with the survey is this: "We found that it takes over an hour of conversation before folks can really follow the options and trade-offs, so I hope that respondents are able to understand the options and questions offered here." I fear that this is a set up so that, if the survey results are not what he wants to see, he can say that people just didn't understand the options.

None of the options will serve our students' needs, and Dr. Janger was clearly irritated at people asking him to be creative during the CIAA subcommittee meeting. Well, that is his job as a leader. In the spring, we could be making much better use of the safe space at AHS, as well as other space that exists near AHS (Town Hall, Robbins Library, outdoor spaces with tents). We could find out which teachers are willing to simulcast their classes (and fundraise to equip their classrooms).

We could do so much more for the students of AHS and it is frustrating that Dr. Janger is not truly leading us through this. Time is running out and we need Dr. Bodie and the School Committee to help fill in this leadership void at AHS.

Sincerely,  
Ann Skoczenski





Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

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## link to Newton SC presentation on potential hybrid models

2 messages

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**Kirsi Allison-Ampe** <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>  
To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 12:14 PM

Hi Karen, can you please forward the following to the other members of the School Committee? Thank you!

Hi everyone,

Newton's high schools have the same issue as does AHS - inadequate space to house all students in a 50/50 hybrid system. The presentation linked below gives the suggested models that they are considering. Forwarding for your information.

best,  
Kirsi

SC Meeting materials 20-21:  
<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/3725>

November 16th SC meeting materials:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19f4LWCpxixev44WGuuqekLc4Ao4Hlykf>

Presentation on hybrid models:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19f4LWCpxixev44WGuuqekLc4Ao4Hlykf>

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**Karen Fitzgerald** <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 12:55 PM

To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Robert Spiegel <Rspiegel@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Alison Elmer <aelmer@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Michael Mason <mmason@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Fitzgerald, Karen" <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Please see the email from Kirsi.

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--

*Karen Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Arlington School Committee*

*Superintendent of Schools*

*869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor*

*Arlington, MA 02476*

*781-316-3540*

*kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us*

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

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## Fwd: Public comment in tonight's school committee meeting

2 messages

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Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>  
To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 1:44 PM

Can you please forward to the committee? She asked me to have you do that. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Liz F <efischelis@gmail.com>  
Date: Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 11:37 AM  
Subject: Public comment in tonight's school committee meeting  
To: <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Jane,

I would have liked to make a comment at tonight's school committee meeting and know of others who also wanted to, but I heard public comments are not permitted at tonight's meeting, not until December 10th. Why not tonight?

This is the chance for parents to express concerns about the surveys sent out and the hybrid options proffered. I am concerned that Dec. 10 will be too late to have any meaningful effect. The way things seem to be going, even if community surveys demonstrate strong concerns about the negative effects of remote school and strong support for real hybrid learning options at AHS, there will no longer be enough time to create a real hybrid option. None of the hybrid models offered now provides "real" hybrid, which for me means AT LEAST one full day or two half days of in-person school (not running over for one period, which is the same as a reverse field trip, no?) with a meaningful group of other students (i.e., more than 6 ideally).

The cited constraint to doing real hybrid is lack of space. The community hasn't had any answers to why this is an insurmountable problem.

First, is it caused by insisting on 6 ft of distancing? This is a choice, not a rule, right? Could we fit a proper 2-cohort model if we had 5 ft of distancing? Are Ottoson and the other schools doing 6 ft of distancing? Are neighboring schools?

Second, why can't we arrange enough space? As far as we know, NO EFFORT has been made to explore other options. Can APS set up tents anywhere? Use space in Town Hall or the Library or elsewhere? Unused retail space? Arlington has unique advantages of the school being centrally located and within easy walking distance of other town properties that are probably being underutilized now due to the pandemic. If efforts have been made, it would be appropriate to let the community know why none of these creative options will work.

I think fixing or confirming the space constraints should come BEFORE asking the community to essentially choose among three less-than-ideal options.

I guess this is what I would say if possible. Time is of the essence. We can tell the "more hybrid" options require significant work on the part of the administration, so we need to get going faster, or even what would have been possible will no longer be possible.

Thanks!  
Liz

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\*\*\*\*\*

Jane P. Morgan  
Arlington School Committee  
jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us

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**Karen Fitzgerald** <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 1:56 PM

To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Michael Mason <mmason@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Alison Elmer <aelmer@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Fitzgerald, Karen" <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: Matthew Janger <MJanger@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Please see the email below.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

*Karen Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Arlington School Committee*

*Superintendent of Schools*

*869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor*

*Arlington, MA 02476*

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