

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Open Meeting

Ms. Morgan opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and read the governor's orders and confirmed the attendance of the following:

Liz Exton, Present, Len Kardon, Present, Paul Schlichtman, Present, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe Present, Jeff Thielman, Present, Bill Hayner. Present and Jane Morgan, Present.

Confirmed attendance of Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D., Superintendent, Roderick MacNeal, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Michael Mason, Chief Financial Officer, Alison Elmer, Special Education Director, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, Matthew Janger Ed.D, AHS Principal, Bill McCarthy, Assistant Principal, Julianne Keyes, President of Arlington Education Association

Public Comment

Sarah Amico, Arlington parent asking the administration to return students to in-person learning as soon as possible and asked how it may look when they do return.

Mr. Chris Holler Arlington parent asking to return to in-person learning and feeling hopeful and happy to be moving forward.

Christine Falcone, Arlington Stratton parent looking to having students return to 5 days a week.

Stephanie Trinkle, Arlington parent whose child is currently registered in private school because they are in-person but looking to return to in-person at the Arlington Public Schools.

Shauna Pellauer, Arlington parent and English teacher in Newton asking the administration and School Committee to support a MASC Resolution #1 to cancel MCAS for students this year.

Arlington Education Association

Ms. Morgan presented the AEA Unit A, MOA for September 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 which is in Novus and thanked Mr. Kardon and Mr. Hayner, Ms. Keyes, Dr. Bodie, Dr. MacNeal, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Spiegel for their work on negotiations with the union to get this done.

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Ms. Exton, it was voted to approve the AEA MOA for one year of FY 21-22 contract.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Hayner, Yes, and Ms. Morgan, Yes (7-0)

Arlington Rainbow Rights Commission update

Mr. Keith Mistler was appointed by the School Committee members last spring to be their liaison between the Arlington Rainbow Rights Commission, which is a volunteer group of resident individuals affirming policies, programs and resources. Members Molly Blauw Gillis,

parent, and student Em Philips are here this evening to share their stories on social transition and experiences. They are also seeking someone from the administration to be a liaison and provide more professional development for teachers to support students' needs in the LGBTQIA community.

The committee members and administration appreciated the members attending this evening and supports their request of approving an administer designee.

On a **motion** by Ms. Exton, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe it was voted to appoint Dr. MacNeal as APS administration Rainbow Rights Commission and LGBTQIA+ designee liaison.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Hayner, Yes, and Ms. Morgan, Yes (7-0)

AHS FY 22 Program of Studies

The School Committee members, Dr. Janger, and Mr. McCarthy, had met in the Curriculum, Instruction, Accountability and Assessment, (CIAA) subcommittee to review the Program of Studies for Arlington High School FY22. The curriculum leaders, parents and administration discussed the offerings and heard from both sides on offering the heterogeneous classes for next school year. A survey will also go out to students and parents. Additional information will be shared with the school committee members and administration on what the high school administration will propose for the fall. The AHS Program of Studies document can be [found here](#).

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Ms. Exton, it was moved to approve the AHS Program of Studies for 2021-2022 as presented tonight.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Hayner, Yes, and Ms. Morgan, Yes (7-0)

Suspension and discipline Report

Dr. Janger presented AHS data from last year on [Suspension and Discipline](#).

Athlete pooled testing requirement

Dr. Janger explained the mandatory pool testing for the Arlington High School athletes and coaches and described how the process will go for fall 2 sports teams. Not all schools in the league will do pool testing so we want to minimize any risky behavior. Dr. Bodie said we can make pool testing mandatory for teams but not students in general.

Pool testing update and COVID dashboard

Dr. Bodie and Ms. Morgan said Cindy Sheridan-Curran is the coordinator of the pool testing program. Since we have been doing pilot pool testing, the Governor said we could receive three weeks of free testing for staff and students. The Thompson school piloted the program first and Fox 25 News reported out on its success today.

Superintendent's Proposed Budget FY 2022

Dr. Bodie said the committee already looked at the proposed budget two weeks ago and all documents are public, and in two weeks we will hold the Public Hearing on the FY 22 Budget on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

SLC-C move to Hardy

Ms. Elmer informed the committee that due to space constraints and the enrollment increase to the SLC-C special education program at the Brackett School the plan is to move the students in Grades K-2 to the Hardy School next year and those in Grads 3-5 will remain at the Brackett School.

EDCO Update

Dr. Bodie provided the School Committee and community with details of the EDCO Board of Directors meeting and announced the board had voted on February 11 to terminate the EDCO program and to dissolve it as of June 30, 2022. Dr. Bodie said the School Committee districts must vote to affirm to terminate the process of the EDCO Collaborative by March 31, 2021. Most members are in agreement to vote the motion tonight because they have discussed to dissolve the EDCO program in previous executive sessions, but the committee then agreed to discuss the terms of the termination process with legal counsel at our next meeting in public on March 11, 2021.

Full Return to School Planning

Dr. Bodie announced that Commissioner Reilly of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sent out an announcement for full in-person return to school this year. The district is planning on full return in the fall but said we have been planning for kindergarteners to return in the next few weeks, as well as the return this year for students in grades 1 and 2 after our teachers receive vaccination, with the hope for the return for students in grades 3, 4 and 5. The commissioner has made the proposal for students to return in full in-person the first week of April 2021. The middle schools and high schools are not the focus of DESE right now per the commissioner.

Ms. Keyes, spoke on behalf of the AEA Teachers Union and said this has been the hardest year for teachers, students and parents. She said the teachers have had a lot to deal with and said she is really worried about our teachers and their safety. Ms. Keyes stressed many teachers, parents and students are not comfortable with returning to in-person with only 3 feet away from each other in the classroom.

Dr. Bodie said she will present a plan at our next Regular School Committee meeting, on March 11, 2021 for in-person learning per DESE's announcement. Dr. Bodie said she has no other choice at this time.

Mr. Kardon said he would like to propose the following motion, and said his motion was made before the commissioner made an announcement. The committee members would like to see a plan on having kindergarten students return, and how will they handle lunch, and other issues being raised. The committee will receive a bigger picture of a plan now that the Commissioner also is recommending a plan.

On a **motion** by Mr. Kardon, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman, it was voted as part of the report on options and planning taking place to expand in-person instruction during the current (2020-21) school year, which is to be provided to the School Committee by March 11, 2021, the Superintendent is directed to include an option with plans to implement in full in-person learning at grades K-8, with desks no less than 3 feet apart, including maintaining the option for full remote learning for families who want it.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes, and Ms. Morgan Yes (7-0)

Mr. Thielman supports for a specific plan to come before them and it sounds like Dr. Bodie has already been meeting and doing the planning. He will wait to hear the plan and knows since we have already done pool testing for teachers, staff and students and contact tracing and that this will not stop when we return full in-person he will support the motion. Some families will not be comfortable but we should wait and hear and then debate it after that. Ms. Exton asked if the plan depends on teachers receiving a vaccine or as it is written. Mr. Kardon said that administration can put whatever restrictions they want in the plan and then the School Committee can address what they want after hearing the plan. The committee shares the concerns of Ms. Keyes and others about not having our own health department provide teachers vaccinations and are frustrated and concerned that the Commissioners feels this is acceptable and that it goes against what parents want. The committee wants to be clear they support bringing students back in-person and that they are listening with teachers to feel safe and supported. The committee suggested bringing town counsel and our counsel to our next meeting and to be proactive for getting vaccines for our teachers.

Monthly Financial Report

The monthly report will be presented at the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie said the AHS Building project work continues and wonderful to see its progress. The Owners Project Managers hired a moving company and the Interiors subcommittee started looking at interior colors. The Communications subcommittee is working with our contractor to have a taping of events and there is no indication we would be off schedule. The high school held a ceremony for senior students to sign a building beam that will be put up. The AHS Building committee will meet next Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Discussion about camera for public comment

Mr. Schlichtman is asking anyone speaking during public comment to include their name and address as stated in the policy and in this Zoom forum to having their camera on. He moved Arlington School Committee Policy BEDH requires speakers participating in public comment to identify themselves by name and address. During meetings conducted remotely, consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, speakers shall also engage their video camera while participating in the meeting.

After Mr. Kardon, Dr. Allison-Ampe and Ms. Exton said they will not be supporting the motion Mr. Thielman said he believes this is a first read and said he would support the change but suggested not to make it be required or mandated to have a camera on. Mr. Schlichtman

withdrew his motion. Ms. Morgan read the current public comment section that is on our agenda now due to the Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020 as follows:

Members of the public are asked to send written comments to: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us by 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021. All comments and questions received by the School Committee by the date and time indicated will become part of the packet and public record and will be shared with the full School Committee and administration before the meeting via email. No written comments will be read at the meeting.

For members of the public who wish to address the Committee on the Zoom call, there will be 30 minutes of public comment. Depending on how many people sign up, time allotments may be reduced but will not exceed three minutes each. If the number of people who sign up exceeds what can be reasonably done in 30 minutes, the number of speakers will be capped and will be invited to speak based on the timestamp of their email to Ms. Fitzgerald.

If you would like to sign up to speak please email kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

Dr. Allison-Ampe would like to amend the motion not to say it is required or mandate to have a camera on but to include, if possible. This was recommended, "The School Committee respectfully requests participants of the public to utilize their camera, if possible, before speaking and to adhere to the Public Comment Policy BEDH that requires participants to give us their name and address."

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Hayner and amended by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was voted to include, if possible in the second paragraph, The School Committee respectfully requests participants of the public to utilize their camera, if possible, before speaking and to adhere to the Public Comment Policy BEDH that requires participants to give us their name and address. Roll Call: Ms. Exton, No, Mr. Kardon, Abstained, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Hayner, Yes, and Ms. Morgan, Yes (5-1-1)

Consent Agenda

On a **motion** by Ms. Exton, seconded by Mr. Hayner, amended by Mr. Kardon to pull the minutes of Regular School Committee minutes, February 11, 2021 off the agenda, it was voted to approve Approval of Warrant: Warrant # Dated 2/16/2021, Total Amount \$488,565.73
Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Hayner, Yes, and Ms. Morgan, Yes (7-0)

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget, Kirsi Allison-Ampe discussed items for Long Range Planning and next meeting on March 9 the subcommittee may need to discuss EDCO.

Community Relations: Bill Hayner, next SC chat will be held on Feb 27 for parents of 6-12 Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability, Len Kardon meet yesterday spoke on heterogeneous and planning a meeting with AHRC

Facilities, Jeff Thielman no report

Policy & Procedures, Paul Schlichtman no report

Arlington High School Building Committee: Jeff Thielman, (Chair), Kirsi Allison-Ampe

Liaisons Reports

Ms. Exton is the OMS liaison and attended a meeting and they discussed safe routes to due to a safety concern about an intersection near the school.

Announcements

Future Agenda Items

Public Hearing on FY 22 Budget

Monthly Financial Report

EDCO

Health dept. meeting

Legal counsel attend next meeting

Land use acknowledge on AHRC to hear from them before town meeting want to align with them.

Executive Session

None

Correspondence Received:

Warrant 21179 2/16/2021

School Committee Regular minutes 2/11/2021

Program of Studies AHS updated 2 25 2021

AHS Discipline Report

EDCO Letter to K. Bodie and J. Morgan Feb 10, 2021

Emily Holler thank you email 2/16/2021

James Brunger to open in person learning 2/15/2021

Melissa Naylor to open in person for kindergarten asap 2/18/21

Ian Record National Congress of American Indians re: AHS mascot 2/19/21

Covid school dashboards document

Town Manager 12 COVID School district dashboards

Lori Schwartz and Colleen Olphert email on Program of Studies

Jeanne Bouhey, Feb 23, 2021 email How to reopen schools

MASC G. Koocher email regarding in-person learning 2/23/2021

DESE Commissioner email regarding return to school 2/23/2021

Motion P. Schlichtman engage video camera

Matt & Laura Tikonof Support return to in-person 2/23/2021

M. O'Connor email regarding in-person

Lori Kennedy email express opposition to eliminate honors class.

Mette Aamodt email regarding full return 2 24 2021

Jess Fallon email full in-person learning 2 24 2021

Evan hecker email regarding COVID restrictions 2 24 2021

Erin Harris Singer Feb 23, 2021 regarding in person learning

Rachel Ostrow support return to school for K-2 2/23/2021 email

Beth and Chris Saunders Heterogeneous Courses concerns 2/23/2021

Kelly and Michael Mountain email support in person days 2/24/21

Talia Askenazi and Eila Solomon and 8th Grade OMS students petition to take honors classes for English, science, and history.

Peter Whiting email regarding concern on not offering advanced classes for OMS students attending AHS next year. 2/24/2021

Rachel Dunham email to support in-person class 2/24/2021

Eileen de Rosas email regard Heterogeneous classes for 9th Graders 2/24

Alisa Pascale email question for SC on reopen of schools 2/24/2021

Brett and Michelle Lambert support in person full time spring and fall k-8.

Zac and Devra Dutton email AHS Heterogeneous Proposal

email Len Kardon proposed motion

email Sarah Amico email to speak tonight

Stephanie Trinkle email to speak tonight

Betsy Kelder email regarding support in person and full remote option.

Joy Danison support for heterogeneous courses

Lucy Hutyra email support opening schools full time

Sofia Chiull Lay request for interview with SC members for OMS newspaper

Karen Petho in person learning time email 2/22/2021

Julie Slack Hall email regarding mental health issue on our children-covid

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was voted to adjourn at 9:48 p.m.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes,

Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Hayner, Yes, and Ms. Morgan, Yes (7-0)

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee