

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021
6:30 PM

Conducted by Remote Participation

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-suspending-certain-provision-of-open-meeting-law/download>

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 Roderick MacNeal, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Michael Mason, Chief Financial Officer, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, Matthew Janger Ed.D, AHS Principal, Bill McCarthy, Assistant AHS Principal, Julianne Keyes President of AEA and Jenna Fernandes, Representative, AEA

Absent: Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D and Alison Elmer

Public Comment

Community members Emily Holler, Brian Corcoran, and Julie Hall all parents of students in APS and encourages the School Committee to return in-person learning and rely on science and get our children back to school safely.

AHS update on FY 22 Program of Studies

Mr. McCarthy presented the updates to the current the current AHS Program of Studies for the 2021-2022 school year. The members of the committee would like to have a discussion with the administration, parents and students before moving forward to approving the course recommendations tonight. Therefore, after hearing that some courses were removed and some adjustments to offer heterogeneous courses and not honors or advanced courses, Mr. Kardon suggested that they meet before the next full School Committee meeting in a Curriculum, Instruction, Accountability, Assessment (CIAA) subcommittee to discuss this further.

Due to deadline in getting this out to the public and holding the subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, February 24th, the following motion was made:

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Mr. Kardon to accept the Program of Studies as a first read and authorize the district to publish it with notation that it needs final approval of the Arlington School Committee.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

School Reopening Plans

Mr. Thielman presented a motion to request a written report on options and plans to expand in-person instruction.

The following motion was made by Mr. Thielman.

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was moved that the School Committee requests the Superintendent to provide the following reports by no later than Thursday, March 11, 2021:

1. A written report on options and planning taking place to expand in-person instruction during the current (2020-21) school year for students at the district's lowest grade levels.
2. A written report on options and planning taking place to expand in-person instruction during the current (2020-21) school year for students at each level (K-5, Grade 6, Grades 7-8, and Grades 9- 12) once Arlington Public School staff who teach and work with students have the opportunity to complete a full Covid-19 vaccine regimen.

As the committee discussed the motion, Mr. Thielman would like the report on the first part of the motion to include students in Grade K, 1, 2, and 3. The committee members understand the desire to get students in school but they would need to discuss a plan and steps and to have specific guidelines on what they are expecting. All agree to have a plan sooner rather than later is best and important. Mr. Thielman would like to bring Kindergartners in now. Ms. Morgan is still waiting for a class size report on all students. The committee members suggested splitting the motion into two separate motions.

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was moved that the School Committee requests the Superintendent or her designees to provide the following reports by no later than Thursday, March 11, 2021:

1. A written report on options and planning taking place to expand in-person instruction during the current (2020-21) school year for students at the district's lowest grade levels.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Thielman, Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, No, Mr. Hayner, Yes, and Ms. Morgan, Yes. (Voted: 6-1)

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Hayner it was voted to request the Superintendent or her designee to provide the following by March 11, 2021:

2. A written report on options and planning taking place to expand in-person instruction during the current (2020-21) school year for students at each level (K-5, Grade 6, Grades 7-8, and Grades 9- 12) once Arlington Public School staff who teach and work with students have the opportunity to complete a full Covid-19 vaccine regimen.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

Ms. Morgan would like to see a class size report. Dr. Allison-Ampe and Ms. Exton agreed and suggested the report clarify by school, grade and classroom. Mr. Schlichtman would like to see all classes to give them a sense of the enrollment and all fully remote classes.

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Mr. Kardon, it was directed to have the superintendent provide on March 11, 2021 as part of the class size report, how many students are in hybrid and remote and broken down by class.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe to have the Superintendent or her designee provide the School Committee members to review the Curriculum Equity and SEL review audit report.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

Mr. Schlichtman said the School Committee members will meet remotely until the town opens things up and will follow the towns direction. Ms. Morgan spoke about the challenges to hold the meeting for some members in the School Committee room via Zoom and others at home due to the sound and echoes using the laptops.

Second reading on the 2021-2022 School Calendar

Dr. MacNeal presented the 2021-2022 School Calendar and is looking at recommendations to move the first day of school due to a conflict of observing the second day of Rosh Hashanah. The administrations is suggesting to move the November professional development day to Wednesday, September 8, which will move the last day of school with five snow days to become Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Ms. Exton, pursuant to School Committee Policy BEA, it was voted that the Arlington School Committee schedules 19 Regular Meetings for the 2021-22 school year, which shall begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

September 9, 2021
September 23, 2021
October 14, 2021
October 28, 2021
November 18, 2021
December 2, 2021
December 16, 2021
January 13, 2022
January 27, 2022
February 10, 2022
March 3, 2022
March 17, 2022
March 31, 2022
April 14, 2022
April 28, 2022
May 12, 2022
May 26, 2022
June 9, 2022
June 23, 2022

The approved School Committee calendar shall be distributed to all Principals and administrators with instructions that every effort shall be made to avoid scheduling evening events on School Committee meeting nights.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was voted to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar before us as recommended of the Policies and Procedures subcommittee.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was voted to approve the motion made during the February 9, 2021 meeting of the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee of the Arlington School Committee as voted:

The Policies and Procedures Subcommittee recommends that the Arlington School Committee adopt the following statement, and send it to Senator Cindy F. Friedman, Representative Sean Garballey, Representative David M. Rogers, Governor Charles D. Baker, Jr., Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley, and members of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education:

Over the past year, the Arlington Public Schools partnered with its teachers to develop expertise and resources for successful remote learning. The district has provided extensive professional development for our professional staff, and our teachers have devoted considerable hours of their time to master best practices for remote learning. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our educators, Arlington has demonstrable success in providing high-quality remote instruction for our students.

While there is no substitute for in-person teaching, we believe that successful remote instruction during snow closures can be preferable to extending the school year in June. Recognizing our teachers' and students' proficiency in remote instruction, the Arlington School Committee requests the amendment of state law or Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations to permit districts to choose to conduct a full credited day of remote instruction when the district would otherwise close schools due to inclement weather.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

Panorama Family Survey follow up

Dr. MacNeal, Ms. Sara Burd and Ms. Laura Rodriguez are all here tonight to follow up and clarify things they planned on implementing during the year and to address things that come up on the data from the family survey. The Panorama follow up presentation can be found [here](#).

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Mr. Hayner it was moved to suspend policy BED on Policy on presentation and extend it by five minutes.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

Superintendent's FY 22 Proposed budget

Dr. MacNeal, Assistant Superintendent presented the [Superintendent's FY 22 Proposed budget](#) for Dr. Bodie

FY2022 Overview of Arlington Public Schools Budget

Mr. Mason reported out on the FY 22 anticipated revenues and showed the FY 21 Budget and FY 22 Budget requests and change in funding. The [Budget Priorities and Highlights](#)

Vote approval of Town Appropriation number

On a **motion** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, seconded by Ms. Exton, it was voted to approve the Town Appropriation for FY22 in the amount of \$80,104,634.

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. (Voted: 7-0)

Chief Information Officer Recruitment Process

Mr. Mason addressed a letter from the Town Human Resources posting the Chief Information Officer position due to the retirement of Mr. David Good. Mr. Dan Sheehan is currently the interim CIO and the committee plans to have a selection completed by late April of 2021.

Consent Agenda

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was voted to approval of Warrant: Warrant # 21167 Dated 2/2/2021 in the Amount of \$644,841.18 and vote approval of Minutes: Regular Meetings January 28, 2021

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 will meet next week

Community Relations: Bill Hayner, Chair no report

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability, Len Kardon will hold a meeting Feb 24 at 3:00 and plan to meet with the AHRC in early March

Facilities, Jeff Thielman no report

Policy & Procedures, Paul Schlichtman last meeting on Tuesday and asked AHRC to make presentation on land acknowledgement statement

Arlington High School Building Committee: Jeff Thielman, (Chair), Kirsi Allison-Ampe next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, March 2 Allison-Ampe

Liaisons Reports

Announcements

Future Agenda Items

Motion for AHRC to attend to present

Feb 25 ask for SLC-C move to Hardy and land acknowledge on this

Mr. Schlichtman would like to present a temporary policy during COVID for members to turn on camera during public comment.

Correspondence Received:

Warrant # 21167, 2/2/2021

School Committee Minutes January 28, 2021

School Calendar 2021-2022 Draft 1 and Draft 2

AHS Program of Studies FY 22

FY2022 Budget Preview and Town Appropriation Number \$80,104,634.

Emails regarding start of school in 2021

Policies and Procedures September 9, 2020 minutes
Elizabeth Kostojohn email regarding First day on Rosh Hashanah. 2/3/21
Gail Leondar-Wright email regarding First day on Rosh Hashanah 2/3/21
Lillia Jacobs-Kriegel email regarding First day on Rosh Hashanah 2/4/21
Metee Aamodt 1/29/21 email on survey follow-up to SC
Jacob Grose email to SC on 1/28/21 on CDC policy guide to safely reopen schools.
Sharona Jacobs School opening on Rosh Hashanah 2/5/21
Emily Holler speak at School Committer 2/27/21 Statement Native Lands
Holly Rossi email regarding first day of school on Rosh Hashanah 2/7/21
Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba email first day of school
Karin Blum 2021 school calendar and Rosh Hashanah 2/8 2021 email
Liz Ferola Statement for School Committee to support Jewish colleagues, families and friends
Covid -19 Testing Guidance for School Committee February 2021 MASC
Calendar email pursuant to School Committee Policy BEA 19 Regular Meetings
Chief Information Officer Recruitment Process Letter 2/4/2021 Town HR
James A Peyser Secretary of Education 2/1/21 letter responded to SC/Chairs letter on vaccinations.
Dismissing All Schools notice 2 9 2021
Iain King school return email 21021
Arlington Public Schools 2021-2022 calendar draft 4 2092021
Julie Hall email to bring students back 292021
Jeff Thielman motion 2/9/21 provide written reports by 03112021
Motions adopted by P&P pertaining to school calendar
Motions pertaining to future agenda item AHRC request
School Committee meeting dates notice
Sarah Frenette parent feedback for in-school time 2/11/2021
Brian Corcoran to speak tonight

Executive Session

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded Ms. Exton, it was voted to enter into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting, may have a detrimental effect, to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting, may have a detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted for Arlington Education Association (AEA).
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)

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Kardon, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was voted to adjourn at 10:31 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