

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 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: Ms. Exton, Present, Mr. Kardon late Present, Mr. Schlichtman Present, Dr. Allison-Ampe Present, Mr. Thielman Present, Mr. Hayner and Ms. Morgan.

Confirmed attendance of Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D., Roderick MacNeal, Ed.D, Rob Spiegel, Michael Mason, Alison Elmer, Karen Fitzgerald. Principals present tonight are Matthew Janger, AEA Representative Sir Ferranti, Cindy Sheridan Curran and Dr. Susan Franchi

Public Comment

None

COVID testing program update

Dr. Bodie, Dr. Franchi and Cindy Sheridan-Curran provided an overview update on COVID testing program that has been in place since September with over 3625 test completed and only 18 positive results. Next week Arlington will begin a pilot pool testing for students and staff members at the Thompson School on a voluntary basis. The process of pool testing, quarantine and receiving test results was discussed. The committee members appreciate the steps and testing and efforts going into the testing program for Arlington.

Arlington High School update

Dr. Janger clarified AHS semester 2 plans, and said the detail shifts, and the in person academy for Semester 2 will look like Semester 1 and said most students will be remote. The detail shift students classes will come in for 6 in person classes per semester. This is roughly every other week. For the students who choose All remote will stay in class and opt out of the shifts. The departmental shift can keep current course selection and students and take 3-4 courses per week. The schedule was presented. Dr. Janger said safety was discussed and he said we will not hold in person instruction if there is reasonable concern about in school Covid transmission and he can shift to remote by cancelling the shift. Any and all students may choose remote. In person academy will start with student needs and by the team's recommendations. The timeline for students to decide and add/drop classes was presented and the plans will all begin on Monday, February 22, after school vacation.

Synchronous learning time report

Ms. Morgan said the CIAA held a meeting yesterday and the Synchronous learning time report was presented and discussed in detail. In early November DESE was trying to get a sense of instructional hours on synchronous remote teacher leading instruction, therefore we had provided them with the data. Since the district's dominant program is hybrid, we must have 35 hours of live instruction over two academic weeks. In early November elementary we had only 31 hours,

middle school had 37 hours and the high school will have over 35 hours. Therefore, we need to focus on the elementary only and we have already increased the instructional time. We have already planned to increase teacher specialist classes in remote days for A and B. Important to know, that district has to increase the number of hours by district average not by grade level. We only need to provide by an hour and increase it by 12 min every day and this means an hour a week. We have met this requirement.

Student Opportunity Act (SOA) for Approval

Mr. Mason said the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) was given to the School Committee later than planned and the deadline for submission of this SOA from DESE informed Arlington is was due this week. The plan was already drafted and discussed and the admissions were approved for FY 21 but Mr. Mason wanted to note the certification statement, which the SOA established to fix a formula. Mr. Kardon will not support the plan since he received it today and it had been amended without going through the process. Mr. Mason explained the process of receiving funds, the enrollment numbers and what we received in Chapter 70 money and identified how we used these funds. Ms. Elmer informed the committee that she had met with the SEPAC to discuss the plan in open session and could provide minutes from the meeting if needed.

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Mr. Thielman was moved to approve the included Student Opportunity Act plan for submission to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton abstained, Mr. Kardon No, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes, and Ms. Morgan Yes (Vote 5-1-1) motion passes

Vote FY 22 Town Budget Allocation

Mr. Mason informed the committee that we don't have a budget allocation number this evening. The Long Range Planning committee will meet after the Governor's budget is released on Tuesday, January 27, 2021. Then they will know what funding they may have.

School Committee FY 22 Budget Priorities Discussion

The committee members took a turn on thoughts on FY 22 budget priorities. Ms. Exton, Mr. Kardon, Mr. Thielman and Mr. Schlichtman all supported the request for assistant principals at the elementary schools. Ms. Exton would like to maintain what we currently have, small class sizes. Mr. Kardon also supports remedial needs for those students identified. Mr. Thielman agreed to support reserve teachers. Mr. Schlichtman and Mr. Hayner supports additional social workers due to students' social and emotional needs coming back into school. Mr. Schlichtman is also concerned with the unknown of the enrollment numbers for next year too and supports reserve teachers. Ms. Morgan supports the assistant principals but this is not the year to hire all of them at the same time since this FY 22 is not what we thought it would be. Ms. Morgan agrees to keep class sizes small, and give Dr. Bodie and Dr. Homan the flexibility to hire teachers and settle our union contracts this year. Dr. Allison-Ampe echoed what has been said, bring a plan to make our schools vibrant learning post pandemic in the fall and address any learning gaps over this time, agree with lower class sizes, and hire teacher aids, and support teachers, for mental health. We can do anything we can to help with learning gaps, tutors, extended day, summer programs and have it reflect in the budget and negotiations.

Prioritization of teacher vaccinations

Mr. Hayner presented a motion to the full committee to seek help from MASC, and our state representatives to lobby to prioritize our teachers vaccinations to a higher priority .

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was moved that the Arlington School Committee directs the chair to communicate to our elected officials, governor, state reps and elected representatives our desire for providing vaccinations for our school based staff as soon as possible and providing support to logistics for proving vaccinations.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton Yes, Mr. Kardon Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes, and Ms. Morgan abstained (Vote 6-0-1) motion passes

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie said she has a birds eye view of the AHS Building project from the 6th floor and said the steel staircases are going in currently.

Consent Agenda

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted to pull out the minutes and vote to approve the Warrant #21140 / Check Date 12-29-20.

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. Thielman it was voted to amend the December 17, 2020 minutes to include Mr. Hayner to the attendance list, and approve the December 10, 2020 Regular School Committee 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

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

- Budget, Kirsi Allison-Ampe meets before the Long Range Planning committee and will meet again to continue discussing the budget before the next meeting on February 5.
- Community Relations: Bill Hayner, Chair held School Committee chat
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability, Len Kardon, held a meeting as discussed; they went over the student learning time report and will meet after the next sc meeting to discuss the climate survey.
- Facilities, Jeff Thielman, no report
- Policy & Procedures, Paul Schlichtman look at restraint policy to comply with guidelines, and look at native imagery and land use. Will poll members for a meeting.
- Arlington High School Building Committee: Jeff Thielman, (Chair), Kirsi Allison-Ampe, next meeting on February 2.
- Liaisons Reports
- None

Announcements

Thank you to those who posted the AHS Building drone shots on Facebook.

· Future Agenda Items

Mr. Thielman inquired as to when the committee will be receiving the November survey results and for the committee to discuss them. It was suggested to do it soon since the data is getting old.

Correspondence Received:

Warrant 12/29/2020 21140

School Committee Minutes: December 10, and December 17, 2020

Town of Arlington Dept. Health and Human Services, Arlington Human Rights

Commission Statement on Superintendent Selection Process, December 21, 2020

APS Covid updates 1/7/2021

Mr. Hayner email regarding Peirce School BLM sign 1/8/2021

Julia Radochia email regarding Kindergarten program 1/8/2021

Teacher vaccinations emails January 11, 2020 C. Friedman, B Hayner

Formal request on COVID metrics email Jan 11, 2020 Miquel Munoz Cabre

Baker announces coronavirus pool testing to be made available to all Massachusetts public schools

Student Opportunity Act (SOA) report

AHS Semester 2 plan

Dr. Robin Varghese AHS teacher email

DESE pooled-testing January 8, 2021 document

Executive Session

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Mr. Kardon it was voted enter Executive Session at 9:39 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, and 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 the AEA exit only to adjourn.

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

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was voted to adjournment at 10:24 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 Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee