

*Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2019
6:30 PM
Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Kirsi Allison-Ampe Chair, Len Kardon Vice Chair, Jennifer Susse, Secretary, Paul Schlichtman Jeff Thielman Jane Morgan, and Bill Hayner

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent, Roderick MacNeal, Jr., Assistant Superintendent, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Michael Mason, Chief Financial Officer, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, and Julia Keys, AEA Representative, Caelan Doherty, AHS Student Council Representative

Present: David Good, Dan Sheehan, Dennis Lowery, IT Dept.

*Ms. Susse exited the meeting at 7:27 p.m. and returned at 7:53 p.m.
Mr. Hayner exited the meeting 7:28 p.m.*

Open Meeting

Dr. Allison-Ampe opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Hayner moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 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, and to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, seconded by Ms. Susse.

Roll Call: 7-0 unanimous

Mr. Thielman moved to exit out of Executive Session at 7:08 p.m., seconded by Ms. Susse.

Roll Call: 7-0 unanimous

Great American Smoke out

Ms. Newall and many contest winner students attended this evening to present the Ottoson Middle School Grade 6 Anti-Tobacco Contest School Calendars for 2019 to the full committee members.

Public Participation

None

Discussion of Value Engineering for new AHS

The School Committee sent the following letter to Mr. Thielman, Chair of the AHSBC a letter of support for Menotomy Preschool:

Office of the School Committee

January 7, 2019

Jeff Thielman
Arlington High School Building Committee Chair
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Mr. Thielman and Members of the Board,

The Arlington School Committee is committed to a fiscally responsible, educationally sound high school building project. To that end, we want to make the following statements to the High School Building Committee, as they evaluate the costs of key aspects of the building. Please note this memo is written with the assumption that the total project estimate (including items already omitted) is below the initial estimate cited in the Preferred Schematic Report (PSR).

First, as School Committee we wish to reaffirm that the Educational Program presented to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and the architects is thoughtful and sound. A tremendous amount of work went into creating the Educational Program, including many hours of thought, strategy, planning, and discussion, with participation from administrators, teachers, students and community members. Education has changed significantly in the past 100 years, even in the past ten years. The Educational Program as conceived addresses these changes and creates a building that enables the components that make up 21st century learning.

Second, we urge the Building Committee to avoid making reductions to items that would be difficult to reverse in the future. For example, the current auditorium seats 900 people, and it is filled to capacity for many events during the school year. A reduction in the size and seating of the auditorium will have an immediate and detrimental impact on the school community, and expanding the auditorium in the future would be extraordinarily difficult and expensive. Likewise, maintaining sizes and outfitting of gym spaces as proposed in the Educational Program is very important. Reductions in the main gym size will decrease its functionality. If reduced significantly, the ability to hold two classes simultaneously will be lost, a concern given rising enrollment numbers. The school will also have no spaces large enough to hold all-school assemblies.

An Equal Opportunity School System with a High Commitment to Diversity
Simply put, "getting it right the first time" may come with a higher initial price tag, but is less costly to future taxpayers who would need to pay to correct any mistakes we make today.
Third, the school committee views the inclusion of the Menotomy Preschool as having programmatic value. The preschool serves an essential role for our youngest students with

special needs, and also enables high school students to have hands-on experience in Early Childhood Development and work toward 'Office for Early Education and Care' certification. We suggest a careful cost-benefit analysis of any changes regarding either the Preschool or the District Administrative offices. The difference in costs between maintaining non-high school functions on site with the comparative expense of obtaining, renovating, and maintaining these functions elsewhere needs to be thoroughly documented.

Finally, it is important that decisions take into consideration enrollment growth. The high school design enrollment is 1755. With current projections it is expected that the high school will achieve this enrollment in 2025 or 2026, and that enrollment will continue to increase beyond this. Although we understand that the new school will be able to comfortably house significantly more than its design enrollment, given the growth of the district over the past 5 years we feel it is prudent to make any decisions with additional enrollment growth in mind.

In conclusion, we want to reiterate that this letter is written with the assumption that the new total project estimate (including items already omitted) is below the initial estimate cited in the PSR. In the weeks to come the School Committee will be consulting with the Superintendent and the high school principal to discuss situations requiring potential reductions in educational spaces in the new facility and will communicate any future recommendations at a later date. We are grateful for the thoughtful work done by the Building Committee, and remain committed to engaging in thoughtful dialogue and supporting the efforts to build a new facility that meets the needs of our community going into the future.

On behalf of the Arlington School Committee,

*Kirsi Allison-Ampe, MD.
Arlington School Committee, Chair*

The committee members discussed the plans for Preschool classrooms at the Parmenter and it was determined that they could fit temporarily but cannot fit permanently. Members did not understand how it couldn't fit even if we moved out ACC. The plans for the Menotomy Preschool to go into Parmenter was presented. The classroom sizes, number of students with TA's, teachers, rest room sizes, and square footage were discussed. Mr. Thielman did say that to put Menotomy Preschool at Parmenter it will be more expensive than keeping it at the high school.

Mr. Thielman provided an update from the AHSBC and informed the School Committee members that the municipal offices of the Comptroller, IT and Facilities will be moved to new DPW offices. The phase site of the district offices were explained and the AHS Building committee voted on Tuesday to keep Menotomy Preschool and District Offices in the AHS plan

*Ms. Susse exited the meeting at 7:27 p.m.
Mr. Hayner exited the meeting 7:28 p.m.*

Mr. Schlichtman wants to get it straight what the vote was and if the construction starts 2020, what happens to central administration and preschool. Dr. Bodie said the District offices will remain and construction will start in the front but cannot enter through the front door. The entrance for the high school will be in the back and the preschool will be gone by then. Nothing changes for 18 months during phase 1. The High school main offices moves to the preschool entrance and some of LABBB moves to the Ottoson Middle School. After 18 months, phase 2, Science and Math wing will have bridges. Dr. Bodie presented phase 3 and 4 and said this has been a very thoughtful design plan.

Jennifer returned 7:53 p.m.

Dr. Ampe spoke on the letter written to AHS Building Committee and said she suggested a joint meeting on Wednesday, January 30th with the AHS Building Committee and the School Committee to discuss the Value on Engineering on cuts that either may or may not be made. The new estimates of the project will come out on January 29, 2019. After a discussion the following motion was made to have the School Committee only attend the meeting:

***Mr. Schlichtman moved to schedule a Special School Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Voted: 6-0 Mr. Hayner exited***

Mr. Thielman wanted to explain one thing that the Arlington High School Building Committee wants everyone unified and come out with a plan and a recommendation to bring forth to Town Meeting members.

The committee members discussed space issues and recommend the least impact on programming at the high school. They size of the gym, stage are things they are looking at on the VE list.

Dr. Bodie, Dr. MacNeal and Ms. Elmer continue to review the VE list rather than cutting space from classrooms. The AHS Building committee would like the input of the School Committee members if the estimate comes up higher than the \$308 million, but noted it would be an intense conversation and that we come up with priorities list of things to bring forward a recommendation from the School Committee if the number is below \$308 million to cut \$10 million from the estimate.

Dr. Bodie said a public forum will be held on January 14, 2019 at Town Hall, which will be a very informational event on the AHS Building project on where we.. Last night there was an AHS Building tour where 50 people attended which ended with a Q&A until 9:15 and that additional tours will be held in the spring.

2019-2020 School Calendar Discussion

The School Calendar for 2019-2020 was presented, Dr. Bodie presented the start dates, vacation dates and it's similar to this school year calendar. Conference schedules, secondary school release days, and start times will be brought forward, since Dr. Bodie and Ms. Susse, Chair of

the Community Relations subcommittee are going through a process with the AEA and having teachers discuss changing secondary start time to 8:30 a.m. This may have an effect with our preschool start time, therefore we will need to look at this. Mr. Schlichtman recommends the 8:30 a.m. start time, Ms. Susse is concerned with camp start dates when Labor Day is late and Mr. Kardon is concerned about going to school into the 4th week of June and wants community involvement to discuss the calendar and start date.

Mr. Schlichtman moved to adopt the School Calendar for 2019-2020 as presented, seconded by Ms. Susse.

Voted: 6-0

School Committee Discussion on Priorities for FY20 Budget
Vote Budget Number to deliver to Town Manager

Mr. Kardon provided a spreadsheet and asked the committee to approve the long range planning appropriation number. Mr. Thielman said we have to vote to acknowledge the town appropriation number of \$70,375,639 which means we are telling the town to build the budget on this number.

Mr. Thielman moved to acknowledge Town Appropriation for SY 2020 \$70,375,639, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 5-0-1, Mr. Kardon abstained, Mr. Hayner exited

Mr. Mason went over the budget overview:

The FY20 appropriation breakdown which includes Chapter 70 State Aid and what the state and town have to contribute and as Len said, the number can change. The town contribution is \$70,375.639. The Total school appropriation is \$76,695,743 will be the total FY 20 budget which includes the revolving funds and grant funds.

The Superintendent's Budget proposal presentation will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2019, the FY 20 Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 and the final vote on the school budget will be on Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Dr. Bodie said the FY20 column exceeds \$1.2 and the challenge is to see what the priorities would be to get to this number and it's a good chance we will get additional Chapter 70 money. We don't know. The budget subcommittee will meet tomorrow and then administration will meet, and will review what we will get at \$1.2 then additional \$500,000., and then another additional \$500,000.

Ms. Susse suggested creating a short program for middle school and high schoolers and maybe a grant would be available. It was also suggested that that we hire assistant principals at all the elementary schools, but we cannot get them all at once, since we have more than 500 students in each school. Mr. Kardon said he was going through the list of request for FY 2020 and the highest request is meeting the enrollment growth at high school, middle school and elementary and when we add it up with nurse, half time chair you get to \$1.2 million. It looks like its heavy requests at the elementary level and Mr. Schlichtman worries about the high school.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie mentioned the student internship program at Arlington High School and said we had 59 students involved this year and looking for 75 students next year. Kathy had a discussion with Jon Marshall from Arlington Recreation on the Hardy Playground on Chandler Street side and said the money will come from CPA for the plan and then will go to Capital for funding. Jim Feeney is working on this.

Student Rep exited 8:47 p.m.

The Arlington High School Building forum will be held on Monday, January 14, 2019. The athletic program is moving forward, hockey, track and swimming and all our teams are doing well. Fifty high school students are part of regional Art exhibit at Lexington, and on Sunday Jan 27, 2-4 p.m. a reception will be held at Carlson Gallery.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hayner moved Approval of Warrant: Warrant #19125 Dated, 12/29/2018 Total Amount of Warrant: \$384,138.42, and Approval of Minutes: Regular School Committee December 13, & 20, 2018 and Approval of Trip: None, seconded by Ms. Susse.

Voted: 6-0

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Len Kardon, Chair will hold a subcommittee meeting tomorrow and go over FY 2020 requests and long range plan, and address some issues. The joint Budget and CIAA subcommittee will go over 5 year plan on January 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse, Chair, no report

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jeff Thielman, Chair will have Mr. McCarthy or Dr. Janger come to joint Budget and CIAA meeting on Jan 17 and present the AHS Program of Studies that night before full school committee meeting.

Facilities: Bill Hayner, Chair no report

Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman, Chair, spoke on the MASC Manual, will let us know when we are live, and said some changes need to be made. Jane asked how parents are notified of policy changes, and Paul said changes are made through the Superintendent to school principals then communicated to parents.

Legal Services Review: Bill Hayner, Len Kardon no report

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

Gibbs Committee: Jane Morgan

Liaisons Reports

Ms. Susse attended the Wellness Committee meeting and discussed grant money and said CPR courses are available to everyone.

Announcements

Future Agenda Items

Executive Session

Mr. Thielman moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:00 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, to discuss Superintendent Bodie's Contract, and exit and not return to open session, seconded by Ms. Susse.

Roll Call: 6-0 unanimous, Mr. Hayner exited the meeting

Correspondence Received:

Warrant# 19125, \$ 631,825.24 Dated 12/13/2018

School Committee draft minutes 12/13/2018

School Committee draft minutes 12/20/2018

Email regarding YouTube 1/4/2019

Legal Spreadsheet

2019-2020 School Calendar V0 1 10 2019

ASC commitment letter to AHS Bldg. committee 1/2019.

Invitation to a CATpella Festival

Season's Greetings, the Koutoujian Family

Email regarding invite to Student exhibit artwork

ACMI Annual Report 2018

Parmenter AHS Project spreadsheet 1 8 2019

Parmenter Diagrams 1 8 2019

AHSBC Presentation 1 8 2019 for School Committee

Adjournment

Mr. Schlichtman motioned to adjournment at 9:30 p.m. seconded by Ms. Morgan.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 6-0, Mr. Hayner exited the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee