

*Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2019
6:30 PM*

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA*

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, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, Michael Mason, Chief Financial Officer, and Jason Levey, AEA President

Mr. Thielman arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Absent: Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Open Meeting

Dr. Allison-Ampe opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m. and explained the Artwork from Brackett Elementary.

Public Participation

Dr. Allison-Ampe asks people to wait until the presentation on the discipline data.

AHS Students Public Policy Start Time

Joe Sancinito - teacher. Students participated in Intro to Public Policy class. Students actively do research to solve a real world program. Discussion of school start time with Kolya Shields and Ben Austen.

- *Discussion of sleep deprivation and health issues for students.*

Review of presentation (Presentation was loaded into Novus)

Questions:

- *Jeff Thielman - Question about bed times and wake times. What if kids just go to bed later?*
 - *Teen sleep schedules are irregular.*
 - *Not healthy to sleep in on weekends and get up so early on school days.*
 - *Lots of reasons kids are going to bed later - after-school activities, homework, jobs, etc.*
- *Bill Hayner - Has this affected you in your approach to looking at sleep deprivation?*
 - *Ben: Yes. Learned skills about research and how to solve problems.*
 - *Kolya - more sleep would help. On mental health day, kids felt better about getting up later.*
- *Bill - this can't stand alone.*

- *Paul - looking at impact on Middlesex League. What is going on with other schools in the league?*
 - *Kolya - conversations in Middlesex League.*
 - *Ben - trying to have every school in League start between 8:00 and 8:30.*

- *Paul - compatibility with athletic schedule is big issue in making this move.*

Jennifer - hit on the points and the research. Thinks shifting the time would be the most important thing we could do in the district. We recently did a survey. Had a lot of support. Meeting scheduled on Monday, February 4 where public is invited to attend.

- *Share concerns. Graph on decreasing sleep. Why do you think that is?*
 - *Ben - stress levels. On-line grading. Social Media. Stress levels increase, and sleep decreases.*
- *Ben - has this been discussed at the Middle School Level?*
 - *Kathy - yes. Both teachers and parents are in support. We would have to shift AHS, Ottoson and Gibbs at the same time. We are in communication with the union about this.*

AHS Student Study Abroad Update

Mary Villano and AHS student John Steinke spoke on the Global Navigator Scholarship CIEE - program AHS participated in. Filled out application.

\$25,000 in scholarship money for students in Grades 9, 10 and 11.

Commendations for AHS:

- *Strong commitment to global education*
- *Travel*
- *World languages*
- *Multiple opportunities to travel abroad*
- *Exchange programs*
- *Seal of Biliteracy*

Three categories of travel opportunities:

- *Language and culture*
- *Service and leadership*
- *Global discovery. Focus on specific fields.*

7 from AHS traveled this past summer.

6 students were awarded scholarships for summer 2019

Great opportunity for kids.

John Steinke - Traveled to Shanghai, China. Language immersion. Attended classes and went on field trips. Stayed with host family there. Feels like program enriched and improved his language. CIEE provided something for him as a Chinese Language students. He was in China for 4 weeks.

Had to complete modules monthly from January to May. Had to learn about China in advance and learn to deal with cultural and language differences.

Paul - What caught your attention there?

- *Level of transportation. Very efficient, clean.*

- *Recommended program to others.*

Kathy - thank Ms. Villano for the application process. Lots of opportunities for travel, but level of scholarship is limited. This was a huge opportunity. Want to create more scholarship opportunities.

Suspensions and School Discipline Update

Dr. Janger and Mr. Meringer presented the 2017-2018 Discipline Data.

Matthew - will talk about discipline data. It is a complicated topic.

Look at numbers. If you scroll down the presentation to the trends.

AHS looks at out of school suspensions:

- *Behaviors*
- *Approach of out of school suspension is not effective in changing behavior of students.*
- *Negative discipline has racial disparities. AHS is looking at how this impacts different.*
- *Last year - piloted collaborative problem solving.*
 - *28 suspensions before big incident at the end of the year.*
 - *Reduced suspensions based on conflict*
 - *Suspensions over drugs were not reduced. Expect suspensions based on drugs to go up this year.*
- *Want to reduce discipline issues*
- *Want to reduce out of school suspensions.*
- *Analyze interventions.*
- *Conclusion:*
 - *If you break out numbers, collaborative problem solving is successful*
 - *Need to reduce drug use*
 - *Even though overall suspensions went down, proportion of African American students is still high.*
 - *Last year, 5 suspensions were from Germaine Lawrence.*
 - *AHS suspended about 10% of African-American students last year.*
- *At this point in current school year - 11 suspensions. Almost all are for drugs.*
- *Last year trained Admin Team, Guidance, and Social work on Collaborative Problem Solving. More staff being trained this year. They will be coached as well. Idea is to focus on building skills of students and staff.*
- *Next year - goal to train the entire staff. Will use as much PD time as possible. Want every teacher trained in the techniques.*
- *We know there is implicit bias. Certain conflicts will affect certain populations.*
- *Want to have better numbers next year and reduce disparities.*
- *It is not that easy to get at this data. Needs support for looking at the granular level of the data.*
- *Out of school suspensions - just part of it. Want to see outcomes for all students go up.*
- *Also want to work on disparities on higher level courses for minority students.*

Brian:

- *Tried to look up why students at Ottoson were suspended.*

- *Last year - 21 students. One key contributor was GL. 6 of 21 were associated with GL.*
- *Without GL, on target for same amount of suspensions.*
- *Reason for suspensions: substantial disruption of school.*
- *Want kids to learn from mistakes.*
- *5 African-American students suspended at Ottoson, but 3 were associated with GL.*
- *Administrators need to look at selves and implicit bias. We would like to lessen numbers.*
- *Some suspensions this year were based on social media posts - happen outside and spilled into school. Threats to other students.*
- *Want to catch kids so they do not fall behind.*

- *Bill - question about whether there were drug suspensions at Middle School.*
 - *No - tobacco or vaping. Increase in vaping. No other drugs found at Ottoson this year.*
- *Bill - question about drugs. What else are we doing to help kids?*
 - *Working with Arlington Youth Health & Safety Commission*
 - *Public information campaigns*
 - *Meeting with students.*
 - *Vaping is the issue - difficult to catch. Vaping of nicotine and THC at the high school. It is really an issue. Provide therapy, counseling. When they catch students, use it for a diversion program.*
 - *Marijuana - still an expellable offense. They suspend, but hold an expulsion hearing for every student found in possession. The law specifies that there is a fine to parents. Drug education program that students are required to complete. Number of other steps. Drug risk evaluation.*
- *Jane - Suspension numbers from Dallin seemed high. Hard to talk about without getting into specifics. Why? Four separate students for four suspensions.*
 - *Kathy - it is unusual to have suspensions at elementary.*
- *Jennifer - Would like updated report on in-school suspensions and length of suspensions. Should also update break-down. Heartened about how*
- *Matthew is talking about suspensions. Recognize that removing student from school can be devastating.*
- *Jennifer - numbers seem wrong*
- *Jane - percentage of overall population of Arlington Students.*
- *Jeff - don't think we have a suspension problem. We don't seem to suspend a lot of students.*
 - *Brian - trying to be thoughtful about suspending kids when we do that. Try to work with parents and student. Often offer counseling and referrals to outside agencies.*
 - *Matthew - In a school of almost 1400 students - 42 kids were suspended. However, goal is to have 100% of kids successfully navigate school.*

Public Participation

- *Rajeev Soneji - parent of Gibbs student. Presentation was wake up call. Applaud the work being done by District regarding racial disparities. Parents have formed Diversity*

and Inclusion committees. Want to help alleviate issues. DIG groups at different schools. Be proactive as well as reactive.

- *Lynnette Martyn - Commend the district on taking a close look at this. Impressed with the presentation. Happy with programs that are working. Focus on disparity - 7X for black children vs. white children. Don't want burden placed on parent. Disparity may be because there are cultural issues. Some parents are not in town during the school day. Make sure social workers get training across schools. Look at development of kids over time. Look at problems from a young age. Are we looking at communities having success and less racial disparity. Implications for hiring, Staff of color. Advocate for creating subcommittee for diversity and inclusion issues.*
- *Kristina Fonanez - Brackett parent - Heartened to see updates. Excited to hear about programs at AHS. Data indicates we are doing worse than national trend. Suggest collecting as much data as possible. May be disparities in other forms of discipline. Want to understand the extent of the issue. Implicit bias training - should be ongoing. Question - Are Black students disproportionately impacted by drug policy? Echo having subcommittee specifically for Diversity and Inclusion.*
- *Mia Kiistala- pass*
- *Sarah Evans - 5th grader at Hardy. Conversation should shift from overall number of suspensions to make up of suspensions. Why the racial disparity. Numbers are not encouraging. Challenge with data - may be better not to present raw data but with some storytelling component. Context would help.*
- *Mara Vatz - Thompson - concern whether suspension will affect different groups of students long term.*
- *Lisa Reynolds - Son at AHS, daughter at Ottoson. Want to change cell phone use policy. Big distraction and interfering with education. Ties into bullying. Don't think they have any place in the classroom. Also - consider giving the kids keyboard instruction. ISS - look at which kids have IEPs and lagging skills. ISS - borders on cruel when kid in in room all by themselves for entire day.*

Program of Studies for AHS

Mr. Bill McCarthy made updates to the AHS Program of Studies after subcommittee meeting. He reviewed the Program of Studies. AP Physics 3 Should be AP Physics C (Mechanical)

Questions:

Kirsi: can we say that courses may be offered every other year?

Bill - that is in the larger program of studies.

Bill has updated document since subcommittee meeting. What is in Novus is not the updated version. Bill will resubmit so it will be printed correctly.

Mr. Kardon motioned to accept program of studies, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0 Unanimous in favor

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Michael Mason reviewed the financial report.

Overall we are projecting no shortfall. About 3.6 million of expected encumbrances. Grants and revolving - as projected.

Questions:

- *Bill - longevity question. Should never be in the negative.*
 - *Mike - no real deficits in the accounts.*
- *Len - some of revolving funds were running over, and some are significantly under. For assumptions in budget, we should look at year to date and see if we need to adjust for next year.*

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie discussed the weather and options to keep kids home or delay arrival.

- *Kindergarten Registration*
 - *Parents want information electronically.*
 - *Registration opened. So far, it is going well. Over 150 registrations so far. About 1/3 are in buffer zones. Internal predictions are over 500. We will confirm to parents the times they will come in to schools to meet teachers. May 22. On May 28, students will come in with parents. Information will go out again in spring. And more information about screening in June.*
- *AHS Building Project Update*
 - *Hardy - move has taken place. Classes set up. Soundproofing in music room is working well. Very happy about new rooms.*
 - *AHS - Options slide. Vote was taken*
 - *Discussion of Parmenter for Preschool and District offices*
- *Parmenter Cost Analysis - Slide. Loss of income from ACC. Loss of programming. That is important in Arlington. Has been there for 30 years. Would be a major shift.*
 - *To include Preschool in high school - cost of swing space would be about 2.3 million for upgrades at Parmenter. More expensive to have preschool at _*
 - *Soft costs will still exist. Can't compare numbers with soft costs to numbers without soft costs.*
 - *Questions -*
 - *Bill and Jane - will Parmenter return to SC or stay with Select Board*
 - *It will stay with Select Board*
 - *Jeff - lease is between Town and ACC*
 - *Building committee decided that it is more expensive to have preschool built at high school because of swing space at Parmenter. Will still need to upgrade Parmenter. Building needs upgrading anyway.*
 - *Would have a swing space cost anyway.*
 - *If permanent to Parmenter, no opportunity for shared cost. If we stay at the high school, possibility for shared cost.*
 - *Committee made decision to have preschool be part of the high school project. Committee knew costs and it was not deciding factor.*
 - *Kirsi - reasons:*
 - *Preservation of ACC*
 - *To have preschool we need*

- *Build capacity at HS. Give students opportunity to work with preschoolers.*
- *MSBA reimbursement.*
- *Will keep preschool and district offices at AHS.*
- *Paul - what were decisions?*
 - *Preschool go to Parmenter temporarily during construction.*
 - *Preschool will come back to high school and move into space at conclusion.*
 - *District offices will remain in the high school.*
 - *Bill - is there any reimbursement on swing space - Kathy - no. It is part of HS project cost.*
- *Bill - will admin wing be isolated.*
 - *Kathy - yes. Separate entrance.*
- *Kathy - cost estimates back on the 29th. Numbers will be reconciled. Committee is meeting on 30th to get report and talk about value engineering. Can't go above 308 million dollars, May have to do reductions. Building committee meets on the 31st, 5th, 12th - submit to MSBA on Feb. 20. All meetings are open.*
- *Summer fun registration*
- *MLK Celebration Ms. Barbara Boltz was honored for outstanding achievement. Acknowledge and congratulate.*

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hayner moved approval of Consent Agenda all items listed with an asterisk are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence: Approval of Warrant: Warrant # 19131, dated for 1/10/2019 in the amount of \$792,425.06

- ***Approval of Minutes: None***
- ***Approval of Trip: Nagaokakyo, Japan trip for this July 2019.***
- ***Approval of Trip: AHS Performing Arts New York City, May17-20 2019, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.***

Voted: 7-0 unanimous

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Len Kardon, Chair

- ***Joint meeting of Budget and CIAA to go over long range plan and discuss presentation to PTOs***
- ***Governor released budget and benefits to Arlington were discussed. We contribute the maximum amount. Combined with enrollment growth and changes to formula - we benefit nicely. Another subcommittee meeting soon to figure out how much will roll into budget.***

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse, Chair

- ***Meeting on Jan. 18. Discussed outreach regarding changes in start time at AHS and Middle Schools. Want open discussion. Other issues - not a clear consensus. Want to start a committee to look at all possibilities on calendar changes so we do not end late in***

June in years when Labor Day is late. Formal message will go out to parents. Teachers, Administrators, Parents, School Committee. Looking to make the committee manageable.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jeff Thielman, Chair discussed AHS Handbook

Facilities: Bill Hayner, Chair Nothing

Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman, Chair

- *E-mail to discuss cell phone policy in subcommittee*
- *Home School Policy as attached to program of studies. Where does our policy stand? Students may attend with Superintendent approval. IHBG - Home Schooling. Add to next agenda for policies. Send a note to Karen if anything else comes up.*
- *Surplus space policy. Covers after school usage. We need to get a report. Next meeting, bring up for discussion.*

Legal Services Review: Bill Hayner, Jeff Thielman

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

Gibbs Committee: Jane Morgan

- *Will have a meeting.*

Liaisons Reports

- *Bill - EDCO SC Round Table. Discussion of Professional Development and PDPs.*
- *Jennifer - Friday - ATCATPELLA Concert. Saturday - Battle of the Bands*

Announcements

- *Bill - Polar Plunge*
- *Feb 14. Mock town meeting - Grade 3.*

Correspondence Received:

Warrant dated 1 10 2019

Approval of NYC trip

Approval of Japan Trip

Program of Studies 2019-2020

Public Policy Start Time

Suspension and School Discipline Update

Executive Session

Mr. Thielman motioned to enter Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjournment

Mr. Schlichtman motioned to Adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: Unanimous approval.

Recorded by Mr. Spiegel

Submitted by Karen Fitzgerald

School Committee Administrative Assistant