

DRAFT
Arlington School Committee
School Committee Special Meeting
Wednesday, January 30, 2019
5:30 PM
Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476

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

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent, Matthew Janger, Ed.D, Principal of Arlington High School, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, School Committee

Absent: Jennifer Susse, Secretary

Ms. Morgan exited the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and returned 7:03 p.m.

Dr. Allison-Ampe welcomed everyone to the meeting,

Public Participation

None

School Committee discussion on Value Engineering for new AHS

The Arlington High School Building Committee, (AHSBC) asked the School Committee to rank items in case they need to cut some items out of the Value Engineering (VE) list between \$2-4 million and see if the School Committee has questions.

Dr. Allison-Ampe said three sheets of paper presented tonight, the AHS Schematic Design; Items for separate pricing, Skanska/HMFH VE list draft and a new Skanska/HMFH VE list draft with notes made by Dr. Bodie and confirmed by Dr. Janger. All items are included in the estimate costs. The cost estimate for AHS total came in under the \$308 million to be \$299 million and includes moving Comptroller, Facilities, and IT out of the school building project.

Dr. Allison-Ampe informed the committee that Dr. Bodie and Dr. Janger will speak tonight on the Value Engineering lists provided tonight. Mr. Kardon inquired to Dr. Bodie about reducing the preschool classrooms sizes. Dr. Bodie explained line item 11 on the Skanska sheet was to reduce space of preschool classroom, then explained that the design of the building is such, and reducing other spaces in the AHSBC project that she would like to recommend cannot be done due to space plans of the floors underneath the classrooms.

Dr. Bodie and Dr. Janger discussed reducing space in the amphitheater, Chorus room, Drama classroom, and the Black Box Theater, other VE lists items discussed were the bike racks, use of granite for the stairs and, cooper and brick usage throughout the building. Both fully support the upfront cost to install turf on the fields rather than the upkeep of grass for the football and

baseball fields at the high school. It was also the sense of the committee to make esthetic changes rather than reduce classrooms square footage.

Mr. Thielman said that the AHSBC has the ultimate decision but said it is important for the School Committee's input. The AHSBC made a motion yesterday to request HMFH and the OPM to come back to their next meeting, Thursday night, with items they would suggest to get the total of the project to \$290 million, reducing it by \$9 million.

The discussion continued about reducing the numbers but it was noted that the estimate came under the \$308 million and we should celebrate that. The high school should have sustainable materials and not use lesser materials which down the road will cause us to have more repairs and end up costing more money in the long run.

Mr. Thielman wanted to summarize that we need to think about the judgment of the project 10 years from now, it's a long term decision.

The committee continued to discuss reductions of classroom sizes, athletic space, moving Payroll out of the building project, and price of the project. Dr. Bodie and Dr. Janger provided their recommendations as follows:

Reduce Black Box Theater reduce 500 sq. ft.

Reduce Labbb space by 800 to 1000 sq. ft.

Reduce Preschool and district offices and make the building smaller.

Dr. Janger said they will fight to keep auditorium and library space but it was also suggested to include the Choir space too.

The committee members want to keep as much of the classroom sizes as possible and programming in place and it was suggested to take out the traffic light and place a stop sign instead, you cannot put in larger classrooms later on and the town could add the traffic light down the road.

Dr. Bodie said that the Payroll Department is essential to keep with the district offices, since they work intensely with Human Resources, Chief Financial Officers with the hiring, leaves, and personnel of these three departments.

Mr. Kardon suggested leaving Payroll off the table compared to reducing all of PE, and not have a School Committee room and have the committee use the Discourse Lab for School Committee meetings. Mr. Hayner supports moving Payroll out of the project.

Dr. Allison-Ampe reviewed the recommendations made so far by Dr. Bodie and Dr. Janger:

Reduce preschool space

Reduce choir's space

Reduce Black Box Theater

Reduce LABBB

Reduce all PE space

Mr. Thielman asked the School Committee to accept Dr. Bodie's recommendations. After discussing additional recommendations to remove the School Committee room and removing the Payroll Department out of the project, and to reduce PE space as well as adding in PE space, the motions made were withdrawn. The charge of the AHSBC is to have School Committee make recommendations where reductions can be made without reducing programmatic space and keeping educational program space.

Mr. Thielman moved to adopt Superintendent Bodie's rank order to present to the AHSBC tomorrow night, seconded by Mr. Kardon to remove to reduce all PE space from the list
Roll Call: Mr. Hayner abstained, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman No, Mr. Kardon yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes,
Voted: 3-1-1
Passes

Mr. Hayner moved to eliminate the Payroll Department from the construction of the AHS Building project, seconded by Mr. Kardon.

Mr. Thielman said that the AHSBC has discussed moving Payroll out of the building, but he supports the Superintendent and school staff recommendation to keep Payroll in the building as does Dr. Allison-Ampe.

Roll Call: Mr. Hayner Yes, Mr. Thielman No, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Kardon, abstained, and Dr. Allison-Ampe No.
Motion fails

Mr. Schlichtman moved to make cuts to the site amenities item 4 custom bikeway ramp access and item 6 the traffic light at Mill Street, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Mr. Schlichtman said these cuts should come before the previous recommendation and not the ranking order that is in the project.

Roll Call: Mr. Hayner Yes, Mr. Thielman No, Mr. Schlichtman yes, Mr. Kardon No, Dr. Allison-Ampe No.

Voted: 3-2 Motion fails.

Mr. Kardon moved that the School Committee supports the turf fields for AHS, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: Mr. Hayner Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Kardon Yes, Dr. Alison-Ampe Yes.

The committee members discussed the cost of restoring, reusing or refabricating historic wood panels, proscenium, and columns and listen to Dr. Janger's recommendation to use them throughout the building but they seem to be in agreement not to take a vote on this since they like

the historical use and preservation of all of it but due to the cost agree that they want all the historical reuse to be cost effective.

The committee members then discussed whether to send their recommendation on the target number estimate of \$299 million or making a recommendation to make cuts to the VE list and give a target number estimate of \$290 million but supports the AHSBC recommendation to have the OPM and HMFH look at the VE items, materials and not educational programs.

Ms. Morgan returned to the meeting around 7:04 pm. Mr. Kardon wanted to know if anyone wants to make a motion on the prevailing side to reconsider a previous motion to remove Payroll out of the AHSBC project.

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to reconsider the motion made by Mr. Hayner to eliminate the Payroll Department from the construction of the AHS Building project, seconded by Mr. Kardon.

Voted: Mr. Hayner Yes, Ms. Morgan Yes, Mr. Schlichtman No, Mr. Thielman No, and Mr. Kardon abstained and Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes. 3-2-1

Dr. Bodie explained the Payroll functions and the efficiency of keeping the department at the school. Mr. Thielman and Dr. Allison-Ampe both will support Dr. Bodie and the school leadership's decision to keep the essential Payroll office at the school.

Ms. Morgan, Mr. Hayner and Mr. Schlichtman expressed concern of the cost to keep Payroll Department in the project at the high school, and would rather move the Payroll Department than reduce the Drama, Chorus or any educational classrooms. Mr. Kardon said he abstained during the previous vote on the motion but would support this motion now for the same reasons as stated.

Mr. Thielman move to advise the Arlington High School Building Committee that the School Committee recommends to move the Payroll out of the AHSBC project, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: Mr. Hayner Yes, Ms. Morgan Yes, Mr. Thielman No, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Kardon Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe No

Voted: 5-2 Passes

Mr. Thielman summarized what the Chair will communicate to the AHSBC that the first priority of the School Committee if cuts needed to made is to move Payroll out of bldg. and if further cuts:

Decrease preschool class size

Reduce choir's room

Reduce Black Box Theater

Reduce Labbb space

No action on the historical use but the School Committee prefers that cuts do not go to programming.

Correspondence Received:
AHS VE list 1 29 2019 AHSBC
Items for separate pricing 1 29 2019 AHSBC
AHS VE listed updated by Dr. Bodie
Adjournment

Mr. Hayner motioned to adjournment at 7:30 pm, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.
Voted: 6-0

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