

*Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2019
6:30 PM
Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA*

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

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent, Roderick MacNeal, Jr., Assistant Superintendent, Michael Mason, Chief Financial Officer, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, and Jason Levey, AEA President.

*Absent: Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education
Mr. Thielman entered the meeting 6:37 p.m.*

Open Meeting

Dr. Allison-Ampe opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed AEA President Jason Levey to our meeting.

Public Participation

None

Start time change for middle school and high school, Second Reading

Mr. Schlichtman suggested that a motion be made to continue the discussion for a second reading on start time changes for middle schools and high school.

Mr. Kardon moved to approve 8:30 a.m. start time for middle schools and high school starting in September 2019, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Dr. Bodie introduced Mr. Janger, AHS Principal, Mr. Brian Meringer, OMS Principal and Ms. DeFrancisco, Gibbs School Principal, Ms. Wendy Salvatore, AAA President and Ms. Julia Keys, AEA, Vice Chair to have them speak about the proposed start time change. The principals each spoke in support of the start time change. Dr. Bodie has been discussing start times with the Calendar Committee which is made up of union staff, with parents at forums, and reviewed staff and parent surveys comments. The majority of them agree that the information shows strong support for a later start time. They also agree that they need to look at the data more deeply and would support a plan for a thoughtful roll-out for parents and teachers--not for the current school year, but for 2020. The administration would need to look at the bus schedules, drop off time for elementary students, and would consider staggering start times for either the Gibbs School or Ottoson Middle School, to make it all work Ms. Salvatore was concerned that the start time change for the students does not change the start time for working parents. She is concerned that the 6th Grade students would still need supervision and parents would continue to drop off children early in the morning, which would require someone to oversee. Another concern is the AEA contract language now reads meetings cannot start after 2:45 p.m. Dr. Janger agrees students do need more sleep, supports the research for moving the start time to 8:30 a.m., but since Arlington has an 8:00 a.m. start time now, where other

schools in the Middlesex League start earlier at 7:30 a.m., the need to move to the 8:30 a.m. start time now is not as urgent. Ms. Salvatore and Ms. Keys, as well as the school principals, agreed that moving activities around for September 2019 would be disruptive for families on this short notice, and school plans that were developed in December for the start of school in September 2019 make it difficult for scheduling and for families to make extended after school arrangements for their own family day care. They would like to roll it out in a thoughtful way.

Dr. Bodie said she heard the concerns from her administration. Her recommendation would be to delay implementation of the later start time for middle schools and high schools to September of 2020.

Ms. Susse said she will vote against the current motion but wants to express her frustration with the administration that they have yet thought out the plan and details to roll this out. The reason she supported this motion before was because we had been discussing the issue for three years, with two surveys under two AAA presidents, and was assured that all was set. She agrees that we don't have a plan to get it done now and that we are not ready.

Mr. Kardon agrees with Ms. Susse. Mr. Kardon is frustrated that this discussion on start time is still going on, and that the administration has not yet voted to approve it. If his motion fails, and the committee votes to support Dr. Bodie's recommendation, he would then direct Dr. Bodie to come back to the full committee with a plan by June on the late start time for middle schools and high school for the following year, September 2020.

Mr. Schlichtman said he recognizes the hardship by the administration on moving the start times for next year; therefore, he offers an amendment to change the motion from September 2019 to September 2020 for an 8:30 a.m. start time. If the administration comes back in June and wants to change the middle schools start time to 8:15 a.m., we can amend the motion then.

Mr. Schlichtman would like to amend the prevailing motion, to delete 2019 and to insert 2020, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Mr. Hayner agrees with everyone and sees no difference in changing the year but wants the community to know tonight what the start time will be for APS in September of 2020.

Mr. Janger addressed his comments to the School Committee that he was not aware School Committee was ready to move forward with the start time change but said he is 100 percent prepared to move the start time. It was just that he was not clear on the timeline for roll out. Ms. Susse said she will support the substitute motion, she has been pushing this change and was assured all was fine; she said she understands the middle schools start time may be different and the committee should discuss the staggered start time this year and not wait.

The vote:

To amend the motion to move to approve 8:30 a.m. start time for middle schools and high school starting in September 2019, change the 2019 to 2020 to change start time

Vote: 6-1, Mr. Kardon voting No

Dr. Allison-Ampe read the new motion

Vote to move to approve 8:30 a.m. start time for middle schools and high school starting in September 2020.

After committee members discussed the above motion, Mr. Thielman amended the motion:

Mr. Thielman moved to amend to vote to approve 8:30 a.m., middle schools and high school start time in September 2020, and direct the Superintendent to deliver a detail plan for the opening plan for both middle schools and high school in 2020 by the last School Committee last meeting in June, 2019, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Mr. Schlichtman will support motion, and stated that Arlington Public Schools will be starting school in 2020 at 8:30 a.m. for high school. For the middle school he will support staggered times to make it work better for logistics. Mr. Hayner said now everyone knows we will change the start time. Mr. Morgan said this is crystal clear that the start time will be 8:30 a.m. in 2020, and noted she would have voted to approve the school start time to be moved to begin in September of 2019.

Ms. Susse asked the committee for clarification on what they were looking for from Dr. Bodie on the plan to be presented by her at the first meeting in June. Mr. Thielman said the plan on start times would be based on the examination of our bus schedules, a sense from the staff and have the schools start time for all three schools, AHS, OMS and Gibbs School.

Mr. Thielman moved to amend the motion to include, direct the Superintendent to deliver a detail plan for the opening plan for both middle schools and high school in September 2020 by the last School Committee meeting in June, 2019, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0 unanimous

Mr. Thielman moved to vote to approve 8:30 a.m., middle schools and high school start time in September 2020, and direct the Superintendent to deliver a detail plan for the opening plan for both middle schools and high school in 2020 by the last School Committee last meeting in June, 2019, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Gibbs School Update, K. DeFrancisco, Principal

Ms. DeFrancisco and Ms. Salvatore provided an update on recent events at the Gibbs School and the attendance from parents at the Gibbs School ribbon cutting. They also discussed the, art shows, which have been great. Parents and staff have started creating a partnerships. It has been very positive and students appear happy and proud. Mr. Hayner, only heard positive comments. Ms. Morgan said her daughter is happy and her experience is positive but suggested to survey students and parents for additional feedback. Mr. Schlichtman said that it's great to bring all kids together in one school and asked what Ms. DeFrancisco needed from the School Committee to move forward. Ms. DeFrancisco said she will wait and not ask for anything specific until being at the Gibbs for two years. Mr. Kardon asked about the project block, Special Education space at Gibbs, and plans on usage of certain classrooms, and Ms. DeFrancisco said offices will be moving and shifting rooms to facilitate better space for next year.

Vote to Approve Superintendent's FY 20 Budget

Mr. Hayner said he had concerns with the FY20 Budget regarding preventive maintenance line items. Dr. Bodie and Mr. Mason explained the allocations for the money between town and school. Mr. Kardon asked about two new programs in special education and suggested that the School Committee receive a plan by the end of the year. Mr. Kardon discussed the Long Range Planning and Chapter 70 money,

Mr. Thielman moved to approve the FY 20 Budget Proposed by Superintendent Bodie, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Vote: 6-0-1 Mr. Hayner abstained

Dr. Bodie invited everyone to attend her presentation on the FY 20 Budget to the Finance Committee meeting on March 20, 2019 at the Community Safety office.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie congratulated all the athletes, and announced the boys hockey team made it to Super 8 and are the Middlesex League champions.

The Art projects for Arlington Public Youth awards will be on March 21, 2019. The Art exhibit will be held on March 21-April 11 at AHS. The AHS musical will be held in April.

The Arlington High School Building Committee have been presenting to town committees and will attend School Committee on March 28, 2019. Tours for Town Meeting members will be held on March 25, and April 9th. We have submitted our AHSBC plan to MSBA and the process is continuing and will update the committee on the progress.

Dr. Bodie said Dr. MacNeal continue to meet with Mr. Good and the IT leaders and intend to bring forth a plan to the committee in May. The committee suggested a five year-plan. The committee inquired about which devices we recommend and concerns on how students care for them. The Technologic Department and administration continue to meet with teachers and discuss the feedback to bring a clear and thoughtful plan to them in May.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Approval of Warrant: Warrant Number 19171, Dated 2/28/2019 Total Warrant Amount \$288,192.30, Approval of Minutes: Regular School Committee minutes 2/28/2019, Approval of Trip: Approval of AHS Social Studies Vietnam Trip, February 2020, and pull School Committee minutes, seconded by Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Schlichtman moved the Approval of Minutes: Regular School Committee minutes 2/28/2019 as amended by Mr. Hayner to strike everything after the word motion, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Len Kardon, Chair will be scheduling a Five-Year Budget Public Forum on Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. Gibbs School.

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse, Chair, will set up a meeting to review the eight AHRC applicants.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jeff Thielman, Chair met on March 7th, to hear from an Arlington resident on life skills and they will reach out to Community Education.

Facilities: Bill Hayner, Chair will be setting up meeting with Michael Mason, CFO.

Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman, Chair will hold a meeting next Tuesday, to discuss three policies, KFD Surplus Space, DBJ Budget Transfer and IJNBD Empowered Digital Use Policy and review new policy manual.

Legal Services Review: Bill Hayner, Jeff Thielman, No report.

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

Gibbs Committee: Jane Morgan

Liaisons Reports

Announcements

Mr. Schlichtman attended the Hardy meeting and said they will meet on Thursday, March 21, 6 p.m. to discuss the playground. Dr. Susse and Mr. Schlichtman met on March 2 at Café Nero and enjoyed each other's conversation. On Sunday, March 17th the Trivia Bee, will be held at Town Hall and Dr. Bodie will be a judge. Mr. Kardon presented the Five-year Budget Plan to SEPAC this week, and sparked a good discussion.

Future Agenda Items

Executive Session

Mr. Hayner moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:59 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, and to discuss Principal's Contracts and to discuss the contract for Superintendent Kathleen Bodie and to exit to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Correspondence Received:

*Warrant # 19171, date February 28, 2019
School Committee Minutes, draft February 28, 2019
League of Women Voters Bulletin, March 2019
AHS Social Studies Vietnam February 2020 Trip approval
Superintendent's Proposed FY 20 Budget Book
Five-Year Plan budget Document updated
Contracts for Executive Session
Dr. Bodie Starting Time Discussion email*

Adjournment

Mr. Hayner moved to exit out of Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. and adjourn, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Voted: 7-0

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