

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2019
6:30 PM

Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476

Attendance: Len Kardon, Jane Morgan, Paul Schlichtman, Jeff Thielman, Jennifer Susse, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Bill Hayner

Kathleen Bodie, Michael Mason, Rob Spiegel, Alison Elmer (Rod MacNeal absent)

6:37 p.m. Open Meeting

6:38 p.m. Public Comment

Karin Barrett - Bishop Parent rep. Asking for modular classrooms at Bishop to alleviate overcrowding. Bishop has increasing enrollment and no space for classrooms. After school is a big reason why families want Bishop. Short term - strained by large classes. Arlington needs more classroom space. What about modular classrooms? Asking to further investigate modular classrooms. Would help alleviate other overcrowding. Bishop parents are ready to help. Hope the override will pass.

6:41 p.m. Arlington Education Foundation Update, Ann. Pirone, Julia Schilling

AEF - supports and advance public education in Arlington. Reading AEF statement.
Safe & Supportive Schools grant.
Development and Expansion Grants
Innovations in Education Grants , capped at \$3000
Scholar Grants

\$86,700 in grants this fiscal year.

51% are going to Development and Expansion Grant category.

Able to fund 4 grants in Development and Expansion Category

Reading

Data

Social Justice Learning

District Curriculum Equity Audit - review of curriculum for bias.

Media wall at Ottoson declined. Funded one at Gibbs, but not ready to fund another one now.

\$35,400 was allocated in innovations grant category. Received at least one application from each school. 32% - AHS; 11% Middle Schools; 57% elementary schools. Continue to see grants aimed at social emotional learning and cultural responsiveness.

Continuing scholars - \$6700

Brandy Whitney

Robin Varghese - STEM

Sonya Connelly -

Hannah Borden - leadership facilitator training

AEF redesigned brand. New logo, website.

Excited to support wonderful projects in schools. Recognize Julie Dunn. Thank you to Len Kardon.

Questions:

- Bill - thank you.
- Jennifer - website looks beautiful. Q - why are some funding applications more successful than others?
 - School rep from each school. Will focus on schools they don't get a lot of applications from them.
- Jennifer - why not all Safe & Supportive funds used?
 - Work had not expanded to building level yet.
- Paul - community involvement is so much fun. Trivia bee is great.
- Kathy - thank you to the AEF.
- Len - great group of individuals on the board. Organization operates on a very high level. Thank you.

6:56 p.m. Arlington Special Education Parents Advisory Committee Update, I. Hwang

- In this role for over 4 years. Participated in SEPAC for 6-7 yrs. Tenor and tone of conversations have changed over the last 5 years. Parents and families are in general much happier with services and happier with interaction with department.
- There are still families not happy with the district. Some have to do with budgeting issues. Concern is that budget increases are not sufficient with enrollment growth.
- Still looking for more information from Gibbs - not a lot of feedback yet.
- More concerns with families with kids at Ottoson and AHS.
 - Ask where the district is falling short. Some families do not know.
 - Comes back to how we support inclusive classrooms. Many children with IEPs get reasonable accommodations from special educators, but not necessarily from general educators. Some families say that general educators do not always honor the IEPs. Often, secondary teachers don't have special education training in school.
 - In general, Arlington families are happy with services. Tenor changes drastically at Ottoson and AHS.
- Questions:

- Jeff - when you talk about more funding, are there any specifics?
 - Home hospitalization tutoring. Not all students who receive this service have an IEP. Person delivering the service was underqualified. Should not be the case. APS should be able to fulfill broader areas of curriculum. Other towns are paying more.
 - 8th grader - taking advanced math class, and was taking academic support. Special Education Teacher could not help him with math. Difficult to hire people who can do everything required.
- Paul - hypothesis - elementary educator can get to know the child better. Stronger than when a child is moving between classrooms. Secondary teacher is not seeing the child as often and would not have as much knowledge of the IEP. Inclusion is more difficult in a secondary setting. Middle school - better with ELA and social studies, we need to pay attention to math and science.
 - Other complications at secondary level are how well the teachers are invited to know the students. Some teachers get to know students better.
 - Some teachers check in more than others. One teacher went above and beyond. General educator needs to be a part of supporting the subject for the student.
 - Have general educators more familiar with IEP. Know what the goals mean. Feeling that general educators are not on the same page as special educators.
- Bill - teachers need training and support for inclusion.
 - Requires administration to push this agenda. District structure - needs to be a top-down initiative.
- Jennifer - questions about structure at middle and high schools.
 - Alison - Liaisons. Very thoughtful in connections to department. Every student has an IEP meeting at least once per year. Liaison connects with general educators. Middle school level - tied to clusters and learning communities.
 - Inae - families' concerns are with the general educators.
- Kirsi - it would be useful for her to put her ideas on paper and School Committee will look at it.
- Paul - appreciative of the cooperative relationship.
 - More parent satisfaction.
 - Preschool is amazing.

7:22 p.m. Mathematics and Computer Science Update, M. Coleman and Emily Veader

- Presentation
- Emily Veader presenting elementary curriculum.
 - Huge difference in classrooms with teachers who took summer PD.
 - Hope to have predictable PD offerings
 - Unit planning days with teachers
 - Math intervention - focus on push in services at K, 1, 2. Work with small groups of students. More pull outs at grades 3, 4, 5
 - This helps create inclusive classrooms and helps students engage.
 - Want to support all tiers of instruction.

- Matt Coleman presenting secondary curriculum.
 - Gibbs/OMS
 - Computer Science.
- Questions:
 - Jennifer - Curriculum B - still in effect for Algebra II. Still serving a need.
 - Want to make math courses as welcoming as possible. Overwhelming majority of kids graduate with 4 years of math.
 - Jennifer - how do you explain Tier 1, 2 and 3?
 - Tier 1 - core instructions. What we do for all students.
 - Tier 2 - small group push in or pull out.
 - Tier 3 - more intense individual pull out. Taken care of by interventionists and special educators.
 - At middle school - Math support - Tier 2.
 - 7th & 8th grade - kids can receive 50% more time in math.
 - Scaffolding of supports kids receive.
 - Jane - parents are confused by how decisions are made about offering tier 2 support in math? What are inputs?
 - Matt - looks different at different levels.
 - Screening at elementary. Interventionists are there. Collect data. Suite of assessments.
 - 6th grade - filter MCAS, progress reports, diagnostic reports. Share with interventionists and coaches. Asks teachers. Makes list. Cross reference with what students need in other services. Reading may be more of a priority.
 - Jane - if kids receive math intervention reports, are parents notified?
 - Yes. Should be.
 - Jane - is there a notification mechanism going into 6th grade?
 - Matt. May not happen until the summer, based on the schedule. Need to determine the mechanisms.
 - Jane - geometry question. Revision of curriculum - are there going to be changes this year?
 - There was a different curriculum for each level of geometry. Now, aligning the curriculum.
 - Kirsi - comment - would be great to know problem you want to solve with the action item in the slides.
 - Matt - always about supporting all students. Deal with equity issues.
 - Paul - completed all investigations training?
 - Emily - mainly. There will be new teachers at the grade level next year. System to train new teachers. Valuable to get students together from different schools.
 - Paul - how are you blending the curriculum in K with Tools.
 - Stick with investigations math in K. Gone well with Tools. Lots of teachers were still using investigations with Tools.

Next year -

- Questions
 - Len - question about math interventionists.
 - Add in budget. was at Gibbs, not elementary. Hard to see all students based on the schedule.
 - Will be in a better position to use full time staff members.
 - Jane - have you been talking to Dr. MacNeal about scheduling with specialists?
 - Will help with schedule. If there is flexibility with elementary schedule. Lots of benefits with schedule.

8:06 p.m. Special Education Update/Plan for new special education programs at Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School, A. Elmer

Presentation

Special Education Coordinators - Lynne Bennett, Christina Ryan, Stephanie Greiner, Kristin Burke, Chris Carlson

Presentation slides

Questions/comments:

- Len - helpful to have a deeper dive with Dr. Orkin. More presentation from her.
- Bill - thank you for the work you have done. Miles forward. Population - Question about services only students
 - Alison - includes preschool and those who attend local schools close by. Come for services only.
 - We are down in out of district numbers.
 - Goal is to expand programs in district, which will reduce out of district.
- Jennifer - question about Compass program. Space at AHS
 - Identified space currently. We can't do everything we want to next year.
 - Special Educators are flexible.
 - New high school - want to have a classroom and set up as an apartment. Work with FACS department.
- Jennifer - will we serve students up to age 22?
 - We don't currently.
- Jennifer - question about Title I.
 - One area where we are below the state average.
- Bill - question about portfolios. Are they accepted?
 - Alison - yes. There is a declining number of portfolios. We have been below 1%. Often receive commendations for our portfolios.
- Kirsi - question about professional learning opportunities. Which do paraprofessionals get to attend?
 - Alison - some during early release. Others - depends on program staff.
- Len - comment on OMS and AHS programs. Would like more detail on program - what are kids doing? Life skills programs. How is it being implemented. Thank you. Very comprehensive,

8:55 p.m. Discuss District Goals for 2019-2020

- Kathy - SC does not need to approve all action plans. Just the overarching goals.
- Earlier this week in subcommittee meeting, Len and Jane had additional goals.

- Jane had a revision to 1.1.
- Jane also found Objective 4.3 to be wordy. Maintenance plan of AHS during rebuild.

- Jennifer - lots of things grammatical errors.

- Kathy - we are reorganizing by elementary and secondary. Put actions into a chart where we can track progress. At this point in the process, we want to know the focus for next year. We are not changing tremendously what we are doing, as these are multi-year efforts.
- Want all students to be reading at benchmark by the end of 3rd grade. Some of the actions are part of that process. Permeating the district. Right now, just looking at the objectives, SC can either vote them tonight or by the next school committee room.
- Len - would like to see a goal added about the LABBB report. Implementation plan = certain percentage fully implemented and a certain percentage partially implemented.
 - Kathy - SC will see what from the report were worked on this year, and what actions are linked to the recommendations. Will break down report by what we will be doing next year and in the out years. There is a plan. We will provide a plan to the SC.
 - Len - still thinks there should be a goal about implementing the recommendations of LABBB inclusion report.
- Bill - should there be a time on the report?
 - Len - for all goals, we should get updates.
 - Len proposed this as a new Goal 3.3. Updated document with changes next week.
- Jeff - no new subcommittee meeting is needed.
- Kathy will work on correcting mistakes.
- Jennifer - supports Len's goal. If we have a plan, it should be in the goals.
- Jennifer - Goal 1 objectives seem vague compared to the others. We should have written down what we want to focus on in curriculum. Jennifer wants more specificity
 - Kathy - we want all departments to work in a cycle of continuous improvement.
- Len - can highlight some common threads.
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9:11 p.m. First Read of 2019-2020 School Calendar Updates

- Additional holidays and observances
- Bill - question about SC meetings. November - only one meeting scheduled. Do we want to schedule another meeting?
 - Len. - probably okay with the number of meetings.
- Jennifer - how many school committee meetings do you have to have?
 - Paul - schedule 20.

- Jennifer - do we need to schedule more meetings?
- Paul - questions about April and May meetings.
- Jeff - chair and Superintendent schedule more meetings or refer to policies meetings.
- Kirsi - can the calendar committee look at the format and whether there is a more effective way to convey information?
 - Jennifer - most other calendars are not better.

9:19 p.m. Monthly Financial Report, M. Mason

Updated report for April, dated April 30.

General fund report. Total projected unencumbered balance - \$290,000. Driven by special education tuition. Propose to move that to the stabilization fund.

Out of district numbers are down.

Comparing expenses to last year - custodial salaries are higher.

Winter is over. Most invoices are back. Snow removal invoices were higher than last year. Discussion of bringing more services in house.

Motor vehicle costs are lower than they have been at this time. With the replacement of more vehicles, hopefully will continue.

Contract transportation is down.

Elevator repair is lower, but does not reflect recent repairs.

Encumbrances are approx = 17 million. Includes salaries and non-salary expenditures. More invoices coming in.

Grants and revolving funds are being expended as planned.

Circuit breaker - showing revenue higher because they posted the last FY 18 revenue in FY 19. Revenue that we collect in FY 18 is what we spend in FY 19.

Questions:

- Bill - are you looking into tuition?
 - Mike - enrollment is down for out of district. Services in APS and some students aged out.
 - Alison - last year, we were cautious in budgeting. Some projections did not come through for out of district.
- Jennifer - is there any money in reserve fund now?
 - No.

9:26 p.m. Superintendent's Report, K. Bodie

- Wonderful HS Graduation. Months of work went into it. Wonderful event. A little bigger class than last year. All students in same color gown. Culmination of years here in APS.
- Staff recognition day. Honor those people with different milestones and anniversaries, professional status and retirements.
 - Ellen Mendes
 - Barbara Flaherty

- Don Miller - 30 years
- Also 25 year employees - 4
- Retirements. Colleagues spoke.
- Teachers with professional status - 33
- Athletics. Spring - great successes with teams. Girls and Boys tennis made tournament. Also softball. Mr. Vieira is leaving. He is going to provide more data on track awards.
- Kindergarten enrollment. About 511. One challenge is where too big for three sections but not quite big enough for four. We had 30-40 registrations between June and September last year. Our internal prediction is 536 students. Space challenges. More growth on the west side of town this year. Brackett will have 5 first grade classrooms, but 4 Kindergarten classes. Lots of pressures on buildings. Looking at how you can accommodate additional classrooms.
 - Modular classrooms are expensive. We may need to look at in the future.
 - Need to look at buffer zones.
 - If we need a fourth classroom at Bishop, we have a plan.
 - Some classrooms can be divided. Put up a wall. We would adjust class sized based on that. Best alternative.
 - Jennifer - community relations subcommittee would like to start looking at buffer zones. Start process this summer.
 - Len - would you do a K/1 at Brackett?
 - Possibly. Need to have alternative plans.

9:39 p.m. 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 # 19234, Dated May 23, 2019, Total Warrant Amount \$ 593,747.09.

Approval of Minutes: School Committee Regular Minutes, May 23, 2019

Approval of Trips: OMS Adventures in Belize Trip April 2020.

Approval of Trip: AHS Trip to San Juan moved to October 8-14, 2019

- Motion by Jeff
- Second by Bill
- Jennifer wants to pull the San Juan trip
- Approved unanimously without San Juan.
- Jennifer - question about dates of trip. We will bring back.

9:25 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair

- Doodle

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse, Chair

- Discussion on after school programs. Will continue to have. Long waiting lists. Communication issues.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jane Morgan, Chair

- Met to talk about District goals.
- Also talked about cell phone use policy

- Facilities: Bill Hayner, Chair

Nothing

- Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman, Chair

Nothing

- Legal Services Review: Bill Hayner, Jeff Thielman

Nothing

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

Will meet June 14

- Liaisons Reports

Announcements

Bill - Ottoson Memorial Day program - excellent. Commendations to the Middle School.

Kirsi - thank you to people who organized the last blast. Phenomenal for the students.

Future Agenda Items

Jennifer - would love to see report from Elementary Schools on which don't have art rooms, where things are moving, etc.

Kathy - all have art rooms and music rooms now.

Len - Hiring update next week.

9:45 p.m. Executive Session

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 Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent's contract.

Motion by Bill, Second by Jane.

Discussion of paraprofessional contract.

10:00 p.m. Adjournment

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Stated times and time amounts, listed in parenthesis, are the estimated amount of time for that particular agenda item. Actual times may be shorter or longer depending on the time needed to fully explore the topic.

Submitted by Len Kardon, Chair

Correspondence Received:

Warrant Dated May 23, 2019

Draft minutes May 23, 2019

Trip Approval, Belize, April 2020 Application, J. Buckley

AHS Junior Book Awards Invitation to Mr. Kardon

Staff Recognition Awards, May 30, 2019 notice

2019-2020 School Calendar updated

June Enrollment Figures