

## **Arlington Human Rights Commission Liaison(s) to Arlington Public Schools**

The Arlington Human Rights Commission (AHRC) works collaboratively with the Arlington Public Schools through its liaison(s). Through this partnership, we aim to foster communication between stakeholders in order to better understand each others' perspectives and seek to increase acceptance of all in our community. Since its inception, the AHRC has done some of the following to help support the Arlington school community:

- Provided seed money and support to LGBTQ students and parents/guardians.
- Acted as a sounding board for a principal when there was a human rights-related incident.
- Worked with the School Committee and Central administration to examine high school rates of suspension as they relate to students of color.

### Functions of AHRC

The AHRC plays an important role in the Town of Arlington and the AHRC School Liaison(s) will communicate that role to the school communities. The AHRC:

- Educates the community about issues related to human rights and the appreciation of diversity, and promotes mutual respect for all people;
- Enlists community-based groups in educational programs and works with town officials and other town bodies (e.g. Envision Arlington's Diversity Task Group, Rainbow Commission) to promote its stated goals related to human rights;
- Responds to complaints by residents who believe that their human rights have been violated in Arlington; and
- Initiates investigations when residents submit formal complaints regarding potentially unlawful discrimination, working with police as necessary.

### The AHRC School Liaison(s) may, after after consulting with district and school leadership:

- Communicate with the school communities about events related to human rights that are happening in Arlington and may be of interest to parents/guardians, educators, and others;
- Contribute to efforts that relate to human rights within the schools, including arranging for financial contributions or co-sponsoring events;
- Share best practices for responses to incidents, as well as programming related to human rights or diversity issues;
- At the request of the parent/guardian serve as a facilitator with the school administration in cases where, from the parent/guardian's perspective, a human rights-related incident has not been resolved; and
- Act as a sounding board for a principal if there is a human rights-related incident at a school.

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