

MINUTES

Community Relations Meeting
School Committee Room
8/26/19

In Attendance:

Administration: Kathy Bodie

School Committee: Jennifer Susse, Bill Hayner, Jane Morgan, Jeff Thielman

Community: Ashutosh Gupta, Jessica Von Goeler (and daughter), Samayah Farid (and daughter)

Meeting Started at 5:40

Ms. Morgan pointed out that the meeting dates for the previous minutes are wrong. Ms. Susse agreed to correct them. With those emendations, Ms. Morgan moved to approve 5/13 minutes (really 6/11); Mr. Thielman seconded. Unanimous. Mr. Thielman moved to approve 6/3 minutes (really 5/13). Ms. Morgan seconded. Unanimous.

Update on AHRC Documents

Ms. Susse discussed the almost two-year process that two documents (Response to Incidents and AHRC School Liaisons) have gone through and gave information on the Superintendent meeting this summer with representatives from the AHRC, the police, and APS school administrators.

Mr. Hayner raised the question about whether the AHRC documents should be School Committee documents, given that the "Response to Incidents" document especially directs the Superintendent. We agreed to present the question to the full School Committee.

Ms. Morgan suggested that Crisis Response Team be defined. There was also some discussion on the appropriateness of including school DIGs in the document.

Ms. Susse agreed to bring the small changes to the AHRC.

Motion by Mr. Thielman to recommend approval by the full School Committee, seconded by Ms. Morgan. Unanimous.

On the School Liaison document there was agreement that this did not need to be a School Committee document as it describes a relationship between AHRC and School Administrators. Mr. Thielman suggested language that would make it clear that AHRC representatives were advisors and Ms. Susse agreed to bring that language to AHRC as well.

Plan for Afterschool Programs

The committee heard concerns from several members of the community about difficulties getting space in afterschool programs. Ms. Susse presented the results of a Superintendent meeting with several afterschool programs this summer where they agreed to establish a common calendar and to adopt common application procedures and wait list protocols.

Ms. Morgan expressed concerns about the early date for buffer zone decisions, which feeds into an earlier date for after-school decisions. She noted that we need to strike a balance between families' desires for clarity and the district's need to get accurate numbers when making classroom assignments. Ideally, we should give the Superintendent as much wiggle room as possible, within reason.

Dr. Bodie shared Ms. Morgan's concern but felt that it was worth keeping the earlier dates this year.

Parent concerns include:

- Concern about Arlington Rec's decision to cancel the bus to Stratton.
- Concern that as number of students in a building increases that there isn't a corresponding increase in after-school slots.
- Concern that it is difficult to get students into afterschool programs if you move in with a child older than kindergarten (and the suggestion that students should be selected randomly without preference to current families).
- Concern that communication is still poor from program directors about wait lists, and other matters.

AHRC

The committee decided to recommend Chris Dimeo to the full committee for the open AHRC slot. Ms. Susse agreed to reach out to him to make sure he was still interested.

Outreach for Superintendent Search

There was a quick discussion on the outreach that was done in the past and on the timing of the coming search.

Buffer Zone Expansion

We talked about the process. The administration is currently working on some potential suggested changes to the Buffer Zones to be discussed this spring. Dr. Bodie said that any potential buffer zone changes wouldn't go into effect until the 2021/22 school year.

6:55 – Mr. Thielman exited for another appointment.

7:00 Motion to adjourn by Ms. Morgan. Seconded by Ms. Susse. Unanimous