

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2020
6:30 PM
Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476

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

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent, Roderick MacNeal, Jr. Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Mason, Chief Financial Officer, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, Julia Keyes, AEA Representative.

Mr. Thielman arrived 6:36 p.m.

Open Meeting

Mr. Kardon welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Vote FY 21 Town Budget allocation

After meeting with the Long Term Planning Committee, Mr. Mason would like to recommend the amount of \$76,030,531 for the FY 21 Town Budget allocation for the school budget.

On a **motion** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, **seconded** by Ms. Susse it was **voted** to accept FY 21 Town budget allocation for the school budget in the amount of \$76,030,531. Voted 6-1 Mr. Hayner-No

School Committee FY 21 Budget Priorities Discussion

Dr. Allison-Ampe left notes behind, reviewing budget requests and applaud AEA format but big picture resonating with her requests principals and AEA people related to special education. Our funding for sped is not adequate for the population for the student's achievement. Things such as first personnel outlined, not the chairs, but more personnel would change that and add training for BSPs sounds helpful and for BCBA additional positions. Regarding the AEA request Dr. Allison-Ampe would like more information and what are the numbers, caseloads, and times with ability to help people. All of those things were the highest on her list for priorities and concerned with regular education too but first mark was special education. Finally more info on curriculum materials that we request each year, and information on new subscriptions.

Ms. Susse agrees with Dr. Allison-Ampe priorities and included looking at the AEA and principals requests and would like to find money for projectors on the walls and for materials for the Great Body Shop, and for Spanish teachers and reading teachers.

Mr. Thielman, nothing to add, and looked at presentations thinking about more research where to move the needle. Make this the year, to invest more resources into special education. Rather than lots of things and keep us moving along, and this be the year to move the needle in one area, like special education.

Mr. Schlichtman felt really comfortable this year pragmatic requests for AEA and leadership team, enrollment growth, and maintain services for kids, and not kept pace with staffing at high school level. Mr. Schlichtman said more staffing will be required at the high school too with all the disruptive use on the building site. He agrees to find money for projectors on the wall and provide the technology for teachers. He would like to see the administrations priorities, more staffing for BCBA

Ms. Morgan is not excited funding more assistant principals next year. Ms. Morgan is not clear about the elementary librarian situation would like more conversations on this.

Mr. Hayner thanked the administration and budget subcommittee on the annual education budget. Mr. Kardon said his first priorities are enrollment growth and achievement gap and supports the reserve teachers, and supports small ads at the Gibbs, OMS and AHS using the formula increase and would like to see fun Math intervention at elementary and additional reading teachers. The other priority is special education improvements to achieve gaps, BSP, funding learning specialist. He said assistant principals is low on his list and not ready for full time assistant principals.

District Data Bank Presentation

Mr. MacNeal presented the K-5 Assessment Databank presentation and thank Susan Bisson for creating the slides and to have an online tool for assessments. Teachers are going through a formal assessment period now for K-5 and using the Databank for MCAS scores. The feedback they received from teachers was they wanted something quick, easy and to be able to access it. Those that have access to the data are reading coaches, principals and administration, math coaches and teachers.

The Databank view shows kindergarten student data and filter by ELL status, IEP status, 504 plan status, Gender and ethnicity. The key shows if the students are meeting the benchmark, not meeting, or partially meeting the benchmark. You can filter the data on how you want to see the data. The teachers can assess their class by how the district is doing and school is doing. The committee heard the presentation and were excited to hear about the Databank assessments but wanted to inquire on how safe the data is and where it will be stored. Members were concerned that parents are not receiving the assessment data on their own children and would like to know who is entering the data and how it can be compared each year. Dr. MacNeal said that parents can ask teachers about their child's assessments at parent meetings. Teachers enter the data by receiving a link to spreadsheet and input the data into master's spreadsheet and creates databank. The teacher can make real time adjustments and use the data to plan and help their students.

Superintendent's Report
AHS Building Project Update

Dr. Bodie said that the AHS Building Project committee is doing a lot of work on the value engineering and that the architects are doing a lot of work to keep with our timeline. Lots of transition issues on moving forward. The AHS Building Committee Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 7-8:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium with HMFH and Consigli's for parents of middle and high school students to hear timetables on transition and design of the new high school.

Dr. Alison-Ampe informed the committee that a blog was in progress to explain decisions made by the AHS Building Committee and about the geo thermal wells. Mr. Thielman said the building will be highly efficient and Mr. Schlichtman noted how complicated the topic is and impressed with the parents engagement with the project.

Dr. Bodie said Kindergarten registration will begin January 22, at 6:00 a.m. and initial buffer zone choices will be addressed so parents for afterschool programs will be on equal footing. Dr. Bodie thanked Ms. Susse for working on agreement with afterschool programs on the process for timing. The Kindergarten parent's information session will be held on May 8, at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Bodie informed the committee members that Mr. Mason is waiting for MSBA to respond since Arlington is an awarded town, if the University of Massachusetts can do demographic study, they don't want any conflict of interest.

Dr. Bodie said the interest for summer education exchange for student's scholarships is very strong and already 15 students have been award scholarships. The federal and local town census has begun.

Consent Agenda

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner, it was **voted** and approve the consent agenda:

- Approval of Warrant: Warrant Number 20128, 12/23/2019, total Amount \$1,364,853.22
- Approval of Minutes: Regular School Committee Minutes 12/19/2019 (7-0)

Policy: None

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

- Budget: Kirsi Allison-Ampe (chair) meet this am, and discussed current budget and looking at report mechanism and how frequent they are. Looked at other town budget books, looked at improving our format and data, and discussed future enrollment and audit report.
- Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman (chair) no report.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jane Morgan (chair) no report
- Community Relations: Jennifer Susse (chair) will meet soon. Redistricting, rainbow commission to appoint
- Facilities: Bill Hayner (chair) Dallin PTO on January 28th.
- Arlington High School Building Committee: Jeff Thielman, Kirsi Allison-Ampe

- Calendar Committee: Ms. Susse doodle to be sent out.
- Election Modernization Committee: Ms. Susse next week has a meeting
- Superintendent Search Process: Paul Schlichtman working on RFP consulting Jan 15 at 5:15 p.m.
- AEA Negotiations: Len Kardon and Paul Schlichtman (chair)
- Liaisons Reports
We received letter regarding idling at schools, Rachel Oliver is looking into it.
- Announcements
- Future Agenda Items

Executive Session

None

Correspondence Received:

Warrant Number 20128, dated 12/23/2019

School Committee Regular Minutes, December 19, 2019

Letter to McLean Hospital approval of relocation of Pathways Academy

Invitation to the 4th Annual A Catpella Festival

Databank presentation

Supt Search Process draft minutes

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner it was voted to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. (7-0)

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