

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020 6:30 PM

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

Present: Len Kardon, Chair, Paul Schlichtman, Secretary, Jennifer Susse, Jeff Thielman, Kirsi Allison Ampe and Bill Hayner.
Roderick MacNeal, Jr. Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education

Absent: Kathleen Bodie, Michael Mason, Jane Morgan and Karen Fitzgerald

Mr. Thielman arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Open Meeting

Mr. Kardon opened the meeting at 6:37 and sent condolences to Dr. Bodie for father's passing. The Artwork from the Dallin School was on display in the School Committee room.

Public Comment

Ms. Deb Savage, parent, brought handouts for the committee, represents Arlington Spec. Ed. Alliance and said they are busy writing a research report on the state of special education in Arlington. Full report will be available mid-February. She said she talked to almost 200 parents of Sp. Ed. Students. She said she created a framework for reviewing and understanding Sp.Ed. Some areas where Arlington is making progress. Some areas where there is concern that District is not addressing adequately.

AHS update on FY 21 Program of Studies

Mr. Bill McCarthy discussed the program of studies and new courses. After the committee heard the reasons why courses are discontinued due to lack of interest the committee moved approval of the FY 21 Program of Studies.

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Ms. Susse, it was **voted** to approve the Program of Studies for FY 21. (6-0)

History/Social Studies

Mr. Denny Conklin, Director of History/Social Studies, Ms. Crystal Power, now Social Studies Coach and Ms. Lucy Conroy - 8th grade teacher presented the departments presentation on the K-5 initiatives and spoke about the role of Social Studies Coach, the new Pilot for Grade 1 next year and looking at curriculum on Grade 2 and 4 next year. The curriculum on research skills and how students studied how a bill becomes a law was exciting for the 8th Grade students.

High School Curriculum - focus on Modern World History. 9th grade teachers have worked on new curriculum. Native people. Showing positive ways they have been part of the American story. More seniors taking History. Some students are doubling up. AP enrollment is up.

Questions:

Mr. Hayner - great that you are covering Modern World History

Dr. Allison-Ampe - Civics course sounds interesting. Are there opportunities to talk to other 8th grade teachers in other towns?

Ms. Conroy - in summer, there was a workshop teachers attended. Shared ideas. Spoke with experienced 8th grade teachers. Do ongoing PD.

Mr. Conklin - robust e-mail chain with History Department Heads

Susse - excited about this. Nice that state and local government is being discussed next. More accessible.

Mr. Thielman - World History in 8th grade - when does that happen?

Mr. Conklin - don't know where that is going right now. State put Civics in 8th grade, but never said where other content would go. Trying to find ways to fit in.

Mr. Thielman - big topics in Civics. How to frame the topics and give kids enough context?

Ms. Conroy - Driven by the students. They are generated their interests. Students initiate process. Teachers present structure. Get kids to engage. So many materials are accessible for 8th graders. A lot more out there kids can engage with.

Mr. Schlichtman - Elementary - collaboration with literacy coaches.

Ms. Power - Lucy Calkins - fully align with History & Social Studies standards. Supports a lot of the work. Some units are shifting more toward Social Studies. Looking at ways to teach social studies skills and also teach writing skills and reading skills.

Mr. Schlichtman - what do we need to know to support?

Mr. Conklin - argue for another Social Studies Coach to give teachers the support they need. Ensure equity by getting another Social Studies coach.

Mr. Schlichtman - want to have great, engaged citizens.

Mr. Kardon - what will civics action project look like?

Ms. Conroy - students will research an area of concern in community and do a project. Have projects be student-generated. Want them to design a project that is doable.

Mr. Conklin - H.S. has civics action course. Projects.

Dr. MacNeal - thanks Mr. Conklin, Ms. Power, Ms. Conroy, and all teachers. Commends Mr. Conklin's leadership.

Arlington Community Education Summer Fun Update

Ms. Jen Rothenberg and Andrea Loeb provided an update on Community Ed. Lots of programs in the building on Thursday nights. Donna Eidson - retired in 2016. Stayed on as a consultant until last spring. Donna grew the program over 10 years. Added Summer Fun and Kid Zone. New Staff members, 3 full time and 4 part time. Some issues are, space problems, have to turn families away. Summer fun - 1/3 of seats will sell out in 20 minutes. Budget concerns Central School/Senior Center. Concerns about High School rebuild. Exploring having some programs at Ottoson and Gibbs. Goal is to maintain the same level of programming. But, excited about new building.

Questions:

Dr. Susse - How many adults do you serve per year?

Ms. Rothenberg - 2100 distinct students in the Fall. 3 adult terms per year.

Dr. Susse - Youth programs - space needs. What are the challenges?

Ms. Rothenberg - Loeb - gym programs are limited. Swing spaces.

Dr. Allison-Ampe - Are there any classes in HS over the summer?

Ms. Rothenberg - driver's ed. SAT prep and college application boot camp. Moved other classes

Mr. Thielman- congrats

Mr. Kardon - congrats. Very robust programming. Reserve funds should help Community Ed get through the rebuild.

Collaborative Program Solving

Dr. Janger review of presentation. He said need teacher buy-in and teachers cannot be burned out. What are the problems to be solved? - When the challenging behaviors occur. Thinking Skills Reference Sheet, Need to start the conversation with the student. Work with the student to bring out their concerns. Practice doing this in a structured way with teachers. Mid-year evaluation. Strong move in teachers moving to the philosophy. Next year - smaller in-person trainings.

Questions:

Mr. Hayner - is there any thought about doing this with i? It is an approach that is taught for parents and parenting.

Dr. Janger - did a training on November 1 PD. Would love to roll out to parents

Dr. Susse - When does initiative end?

Dr. Janger - would like to build out. Mr. McKnight presented at training conference. Will have more people Tier 2 trained.

Dr. Susse - would love to see this go to Middle School

Mr. Thielman - how many have been trained.

Dr. Janger - entire staff Tier 1 trained by end of year

Dr. Allison - Ampe- what if child is not compliant?

Dr. Janger - focus on empathy. Sometimes have to go back many times. Takes a while to build relationships. CPS is not just Plan B. Could be plans A, B and C done at different times.

Mr. Schlichtman - cheers for the program. Need in the District for consistency. Message to District administration - makes sense to bring this down to middle and elementary to be consistent.

Dr. Janger - not quite in the process where we are ready to make this applicable to everyone.

Kardon - How much information have parents been given? It is very confusing for parents. Do more information sharing with parents.

Dr. Janger - went out in opening letter. Hope we see positive discipline data.

Dr. MacNeal - applaud Dr. Janger for devising a way to roll this out.

Update on LABBB Report

Ms. Alison Elmer, Special Education Director, present on items needed to substantially complete implementation of the LABBB inclusion report recommendations. Ms. Elmer reviewed slide show, review of timeline of LABBB process.

School Committee needs to get Excel File - We need to send them the Excel File.

Mr. Kardon - okay to go through slide show now.

Ms. Elmer - Elementary Assistant Principals - Need Administrative presence.

Will do another presentation on co-teaching. Recommendation focused on inconsistencies between levels Make consistent among levels.

PD - focus on unified approach between general and special ed.

We have online resources for manuals.

Questions:

Mr. Hayner - is IEP specific on who delivers service? Question about legal presentations.

Ms. Elmer - Service Delivery Grid will list service provider (by position). Indicated for each individual service. TA can deliver instruction, but cannot design instruction. Teacher is responsible for supervising

Legal Training - SCM attorneys did presentation. Workshop so administrators understand what is required.

Mr. Kardon - thank you for update. Comment would still be that we want to fund more to help you. It would be good to see in the narrative of what pots of money are going to support different practices.

Dr. Allison-Ampe - harder to draw fast line between general and special ed. We need to talk about whether we can support a hard and fast line, when more is falling into gray areas. Helpful to have in narratives about what coaches are doing.

Mr. Hayner - idea of inclusion and coteaching. Required by statute as well. Still a regulatory requirement.

Ms. Elmer - look at composition of classes. Requires general and special education teachers. Which budget does it come out of?

FY 21 Budgetary Discussion

Tabled

Monthly Financial Report

No Report, Mr. Mason was absent.

RFP Superintendent Search Consultant

On a **Motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner is was **voted** to approve RFP for Superintendent Search Consulting Services. (6-0)

Committee met and want to have community input. Consultants have to be aware of dates. Selection process. Want a diverse body of community members who participate in the process. Minimum evaluation criteria - want a consultant by March 26. Presentations between Feb. 24 and March 12. Very explicit in what community needs.

Mr. Hayner - great job.

Mr. Thielman - good work. Question - hoping to hire consultant by March? Community conversations in April, May and June. Want to post after Labor Day.

When will there be a meeting with the School Committee? Will the consultant meet with the School Committee - yes

Mr. Schlichtman- School Committee will approve everything. Consultant is working for the School Committee. Could be a separate meeting or part of a regular meeting. Not defined yet
Superintendent's Report

Dr. MacNeal said the Visual Art Department is part of Regional High School Exhibit at Lexington Community Arts & Crafts building, January 26, 2020 from 1:00-3:00.

Art Students - David Moore's digital photography course students were selected to exhibit at Regis College in January. Sponsored by Griffin Museum in Winchester.

Saturday, Jan. 25. Battle of the Bands - Regent Theater. Student bands and AHS Teacher Band. Proceeds benefit Save the Children.

Consent Agenda

On **motion** by Mr. Hayner to pull Approval of Trip, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe it was **voted**:

*Approval of Warrant: Warrant Number 20140, Dated 1/14/2020 Total *Amount \$487,645.10

*Approval of Trips: England and France History Tour

Unanimous Approval (6-0)

Questions about Trip -

Mr. Hayner - is there a new form. Is this a new trip, or is it a repeat trip? Susse - why APS facilitates communication, these are not APS trips. History teachers will be asked to mention trip to classes. Jennifer does not think that is appropriate. Want to find out if it is a repeat trip or a new trip.

Policy: None

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Kirsi Allison-Ampe (chair) met January 22. Discussed financial reporting and budget book. Dr. Allison-Ampe will communicate with M. Mason.

Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman (chair) No report.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jane Morgan (chair) No report.

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse (chair), need to talk with Superintendent

Facilities: Bill Hayner (chair), Dallin PTO on January 28 and Ottoson Gibbs on Feb 4.

Arlington High School Building Committee: Jeff Thielman, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Public Meeting on February 4. E-mail with more explanation of geothermal

Calendar Committee: Dr. Susse, meeting is scheduled

Election Modernization Committee: Dr. Susse, meetings schedule

Superintendent Search Process: Paul Schlichtman, just discussed

AEA Negotiations: Len Kardon and Paul Schlichtman (chair)

Liaisons Reports

Dr. Susse - went to a Wellness Committee meeting. Dallin Nurse is piloting way that Great Body Shop is being taught. Age appropriate discussions in Grade 4 on consent, gender identity, etc.

May be curriculum change.

Announcements

Dr. Allison-Ampe - Al Capella Benefit Concert to raise fund for Catherine Malatesta foundation.

Future Agenda Items

Executive Session

None

Correspondence Received

Warrant 20140 dated 1/14/2020

Program of Studies

Community Ed

CFO memo and monthly report

International France, England trip approval

Supt Search minutes and RFP

LABBB report and Special Ed

History/SS update

Collaborative Problem solving

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Dr. Susse, it was **voted** to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. (6-0)

Recorded by Mr. Spiegel

Submitted by Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee