

Arlington School Committee
Remote Meeting of the School Committee
Thursday, March 26, 2020
6:30 p.m.
Conducted by First Zoom Remote Participation

Present: Mr. Leonard Kardon, Chair, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Vice Chair, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Secretary, Dr. Jennifer Susse, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Mr. William Hayner, Mr. Jeff Thielman.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Roderick MacNeal, Jr. Assistant Superintendent, Michael Mason, CFO, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, and Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Remote Meeting Details

Karen Fitzgerald is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Remote School Committee Meeting

Time: Mar 26, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/393578985>

Meeting ID: 393 578 985

Open Meeting

Mr. Kardon welcomed the full committee members and administration staff to the first remote meeting of the Arlington School Committee. Mr. Kardon read Town Counsel Doug Heim's and Governor Baker's advisories. He reported this meeting is being recorded by Zoom and ACMI. Mr. Kardon conducted a roll call and confirmed they were present for the meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Neil Saunders, parent of a Gibbs student, said he received materials on website and asked if teachers will be using Zoom, and if the plan was to maintain student's core class schedule.

Ms. Lynette Martyn, inquired about technology survey around Chromebooks and support for families and if everyone had access to all materials.

COVID-19 update

Dr. Bodie said a lot of conversations are going around in the media on students working remotely. Teachers are learning new tasks, as are students. Each are connecting remotely and some students are without access to technology at home. We need to work together to support all students and because of this, Dr. Bodie and her entire administration has been working together to promote and provide enrichment learning until we return on May 4.

Dr. Bodie is continuing to work with the technology department to make sure all students will have access to computers and internet connection. Dr. Bodie has been holding zoom meetings

with the AEA Union members, Curriculum Leaders, Administration, and Teachers to provide enrichment assignment for all students. All documents were copied and mailed out, as well on placed on our website for each grade.

Dr. Bodie has been working to provide updates on mental health links to our school website, provide FAQ, that have changed daily, if not be the hour, to our website and provided instructions to parents and students on how to log in to use Chromebooks. Lots of behind the scene details needed to happen to protect student's data, permissions to use certain apps, provide technical support and provide details how to use the devices and access clean Chromebooks for all students who don't have access to them. All details were reviewed to provide devices for those who are also quarantined.

The work of the administration will continue over the weekend and we will give parents additional time to fill out requests to receive devices. The administration will instruct parents of a time and place with social distancing in mind to pick up student devices safely.

Dr. Bodie will continue to provide updates to the families and to the community by email during this school closure.

The committee acknowledged that Arlington couldn't predict this happening but said parents have questions on what other districts were doing. Dr. Bodie and Dr. MacNeal assured the committee members that we want equity for all students and the Department of Education is not suggesting advancing the curriculum. DESE is encouraging less screen time for students, and that DESE will send out additional suggestions on guidelines next week.

The committee members were concerned with adapting to these difficult learning circumstances and how students will be able to possible make up school work.

Dr. Bodie agrees with their concerns and has no quick answer but has thought about it and will take direction from the Commissioner. Dr. Bodie will continue to work on a plan and plan accordingly if we are looking at a further closure.

Dr. Bodie has been working with Michael Mason, CFO on analysis on our budget and keeping all expenses in relations to changed brought on by the Coronavirus. They continue to look at accounts, fees and services and the impact on the money. We have to support programs and we continue to pay everyone including hourly people and long terms subs going forward.

After the committee expressed concerns for the social and emotional needs for staff, Mr. Spiegel said he had sent out information to staff on social and emotional wellness and employee assistance programs being offered.

The committee also expressed concern that parents are providing education to their children and would like to have more assignments and remote plans available to them over the next week.

Approval of AEA negotiations subcommittee members

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner it was voted to appoint Mr. Schlichtman and Mr. Kardon to the AEA Negotiations subcommittee on Remote Learning Plan.

Roll Call: Mr. Kardon, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Schlichtman, Dr. Susse, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Mr. Hayner, Mr. Thielman all voted Yes. (7-0)

Waiver of policy BDA

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Mr. Thielman it was **voted** to waive policy BDA since the committee will meet longer than the term of one year.

Roll Call: Mr. Kardon, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Schlichtman, Dr. Susse, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Mr. Hayner, Mr. Thielman all voted Yes. (7-0)

Superintendent's Report

AHS Building Committee update

Dr. Bodie said the AHSBC continues to meet virtually. The School Committee should be aware of the vote by the AHSBC to eliminate the geothermal wells from the plan, since they found containments behind the Stop and Shop. The superintendent reported that the AHSBC was disappointed that they had to make the decision, but the committee did not want to further pursue a geothermal option as it would delay the project and increase the costs. Work at the Parmenter School continues, as it is essential to have the Parmenter available by September.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Kardon withdrew approval of the School Choice hearing for May 14. On a **motion** by Mr. Kardon and **seconded** by Mr. Hayner, it was **voted** to approve Warrant Number 20232, Dated 3/17/2020 in the Amount \$691,639.92.

Roll Call: Mr. Kardon, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Schlichtman, Dr. Susse, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Mr. Hayner, Mr. Thielman all voted Yes. (7-0)

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, suggested to table the discussion of athletic fees.

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse, Chair, no report

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jane Morgan, Chair, no report

Facilities: Bill Hayner, Chair no report

Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman, Chair, no report

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

Calendar Committee: Jennifer Susse no report

Election Modernization Committee: Jennifer Susse no report

Traffic Negotiations: Jane Morgan, Bill Hayner

AEA Negotiations: Len Kardon, Paul Schlichtman, no report

Liaisons Reports

Announcements

Mr. Hayner said the two mock town meetings had been cancelled.

Dr. Bodie informed the community that the lunch program was moved to the Arlington Eats. Please call the hotline for families in need.

The Finance Committee will meet virtually Monday night.

The committee members agree to keep the April 9th meeting.

Correspondence Received:

Warrant dated 3/17/2020

Town of Arlington Legal Dept Supplement-Remote Meeting Checklist and Guidance

Dr. Bodie's COVID-19 Updated emails March 12-present

Policy BDA School Committee Organizational Meeting

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march12-2020/download>

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Ms. Susse it was **voted** to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Roll Call: Roll Call: Mr. Kardon, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Schlichtman, Dr. Susse, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Mr. Hayner, Mr. Thielman all voted Yes. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

School Committee

Administrative Assistant