

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2020
6:30 PM
Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476

Present: Mr. Len Kardon, Chair, Ms. Jane Morgan, vice chair, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Secretary, Ms. Susse, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Mr. Bill Hayner.

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent, Mr. Roderick MacNeal, Jr. Assistant Superintendent, Michael Mason, CFO, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, Jason Levy, AEA President, and Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Mr. Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director

Ms. Susse entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Open Meeting

Welcomed by Mr. Kardon. Len opened the meeting with the Peirce School Visual Art.

Public Comment

Ms. Lynne Klosterman spoke this evening to say she supports the AHS varsity ski team and to thank the school committee and administration for their support over the years to finally be adding the team to the list of their varsity sports teams.

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Ms. Morgan it was **voted** to add Alpine Skiing as an Arlington High Varsity sport. (7-0)

Appointment to Rainbow Commission

Ms. Susse recommends waiting to make this appointment.

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe it was **voted** to take the Superintendent's Report out of order. (7-0)

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie confirmed it was an interesting week due to The Coronavirus growing and changing, and in the past 24 hours. Dr. Bodie said that six districts met and talked about a two week closing of schools to minimize the impact of the number of people who are sick. The decision was made after very careful consideration that the schools will not be open going forward.

Math Update

Mr. Coleman presented the Math update which can be found in Novus on the district goal which is for all grades and these goals then turn into action steps for the current year for the elementary, middle and high school. He also pointed out last year that the increased learning time helped with coaching support at the elementary level, and Math intervention programs at the Thompson, Hardy, Stratton and Peirce and with creation of 7 and 8th grade Computer Science classes. The committee members were impressed with the progress with the vision and the movement forward with mathematics. When Mr. Kardon asked about the request in the budget to hire a .7 interventionist Mr. Coleman said it would be to support several staff members. Dr. MacNeal thanked Matt Coleman and said his passion for math is transferred to teachers and to the students.

Secondary Science Update

Ms. Hoyos, Science Director said she had inherited the district goals for science for student achievement and professional development. She said Grade 1-5 common goals was to create common assessments, and that teachers are piloting them and figure out what is working. We are not entering all data into Databank. Grade 6-8 implementing new curriculum and doing project based learning. Students will learn more on what is an interest to them. This increases research skills. The high school is trying to pilot project based learning at different levels but Science is content base and not skill base and MCAS is interfering with project based learning. The committee members and Dr. MacNeal complemented on the way things are going and her hard working hitting the ground running

MCAS Update

Dr. MacNeal presented the follow up from the MCAS report presented with Paula O'Sullivan on how they disseminate MCAS data and will focus on charts that coaches and teachers, and administration use the data on how students perform on MCAS. Mr. MacNeal presented the charts and charts showing how 3rd Graders performed in the district and in the state. It breaks it down how students are performing. He said this is what teachers and coaches use to see what students then will need. It can be broken down by the student, classroom and can show principals and others what students need.

Transportation Fees

Mr. Mason said Gibbs and Bishop schools are looking to increase fees by 22 percent to increase the single rate from \$270 to \$330 and the family rate from \$370 to \$450. We have a current shortfall for \$11,000 instead of \$4,000 short fall.

Dr. Allison-Ampe said the Budget subcommittee is making this recommendation. She informed the committee that Mr. Mason provided a proposal to make Bus fees cost free for the district but didn't feel it appropriate, and they felt it was a reasonable increase and to inform the families that these have not been increased in over ten years. Mr. Kardon said the School Committee will review the fees every two years, instead of every 10 years.

On a **motion** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner it was **voted** to approve updated Transportation Fees of a single child rate in FY 21 from \$270 to \$330 and a family rate from \$370 to \$450. (7-0)

Vote to Approve Superintendent's FY 21 Budget

Mr. Mason provided the proposed changes in the FY 21 Budget stating the net increase for FY 21 budget was \$5,057,861 He also made adjustments to enrollment on page 22.

On a **motion** by Ms. Susse, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was **voted** to adopt the Superintendent's FY21 proposed budget in the amount of \$82,997,634. (7-0)

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie provided the AHSBC update on Geothermal wells and said she is still not sure if they can do them at the high school. She informed the committee that they may need to do temporary change of parking and may need to enlarge the basketball area for parking. The AHS BC is scheduled to meet on March 24th and will have more information, if they will meet to make decisions.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Thielman made a **motion** to approve the **Consent Agenda**.

- Warrant Number 20219, 2020, Dated March 3, 2020, Total Warrant Amount \$1,351,212.41 and
- Approval of Minutes: School Committee Minutes on the Public Hearing on the FY 21 School Budget, and Regular Meeting dated February 27 2020

Seconded by Mr. Schlichtman. (7-0)

School Committee members were asked to give notice of their willingness to serve as officers for SY 2021-2022 SY

Mr. Hayner suggested to re-establish legal services review subcommittee. He said expenses are going up and noted it to be beneficial to review legal retainers and willing to serve if elected.

Policy: None

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Kirsi Allison-Ampe (chair), Len Kardon met to talk about athletic fees and will continue to discuss proposals. The subcommittee also met with two members of the Finance committee to review the budget request, and they were very supportive.

Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman (chair) no report

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jane Morgan (chair) meeting cancelled

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse (chair) no report

Facilities: Bill Hayner (chair) no report

Arlington High School Building Committee: Jef Thielman, Kirsi Allison-Ampe

Calendar Committee: Jennifer Susse, on hold

Election Modernization Committee: Jennifer Susse no report

Superintendent's Search Process: Paul Schlichtman, scheduled meeting but cancelled

Traffic Negotiations: Jane Morgan, Bill Hayner no report

AEA Negotiations: Len Kardon, Paul Schlichtman no report
Liaisons Reports –
Bill Hayner mock town meeting, will be rescheduled.

Announcements

Mr. Kardon thanked our departing member Jennifer Susse for her service.

Future Agenda Items
SOA Plan

Executive Session

None

Correspondence Received:

Warrant #20219 Dated March 3, 2020
School Committee Public Hearing and Regular Minutes of February 27, 2020
Keith March Mistler cover letter and resume
APS class Sizes, March 2, 2020
Karen Hartley Letter
K. Defrancis email March 11 2020
Kathleen Bodie's letter regarding closure of Stratton School, March 9, 2020.
League of Women Voters, March 2020
Email regarding Concerts cancelled
Coronavirus Update emails March 9, 2020
APS Science K-12 update presentation
APS Math and CS
Motion for Transportation Fees
Email update on Coronavirus
FY2021 Superintendent's Proposal March 11 2020
Budget Subcommittee minutes March 3, 2020
Email to School Committee March 12, 2020
Emails to support AHS Varsity Ski Team

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner, it was **voted** to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.
Voted: 7-0

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

