

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:

***Arlington School Committee
Standing Subcommittee: Community Relations
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
6:34 PM***

In person:

*Arlington Public Schools District Office
14 Mill Brook Drive
2nd Floor, School Committee Room
Arlington, MA 02476*

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86956181807>

Open Meeting (L. Gitelson)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Adjournment (L. Gitelson)

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Stated times and time amounts, listed in parenthesis, are the estimated amount of time for that particular agenda item. Actual times may be shorter or longer depending on the time needed to fully explore the topic.

Submitted by L. Gitelson

Massachusetts law requires all open session meetings of public bodies to be accessible to members of the public, including those with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact the Administrative Assistant to the Arlington School Committee Liz Diggins at ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us.



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Meeting Location - Hybrid

Summary:

In person:

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14 Mill Brook Drive
2nd Floor, School Committee Room
Arlington, MA 02476

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Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Open Meeting (L. Gitelson)



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Summary:

- DRAFT Meeting Minutes - Community Relations_Facilities Meeting June 8, 2025
- DRAFT CR Meeting Minutes September 19, 2024

ATTACHMENTS:

Type	File Name	Description
▢ Minutes	DRAFT_Meeting_Minutes_-_Community_Relations_Facilities_Meeting_June_8__2025.pdf	DRAFT Meeting Minutes - Community Relations_Facilities Meeting June 8, 2025
▢ Minutes	DRAFT_CR_Meeting_Minutes_September_19__2024.pdf	DRAFT CR Meeting Minutes September 19, 2024

Arlington School Committee

Community Relations/Facilities

June 8, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Attendees: Laura Gitelson, Liz Exton, Jeffrey Thielman, Jane Morgan, Paul Schlichtman, Dr. Liz Homan, Fran Gorski

Call to Order: 3:34 PM

1. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the prior Facilities Subcommittee meeting were approved by the Facilities Subcommittee

2. Tech and Space Plan

- Fran Gorski met with Dan Anderson and Matt Coleman to address budget and language-related questions.
- Further clarification is needed from Talia Fox and Patricia Shepard (IT-related questions)
- Emphasis on ensuring accuracy of data and figures.
- Dr. Homan would like to include a public comment period with Jay McNeil (facilities) and Talia Fox (sustainability) to ensure alignment and transparency.
- Final document should be forward-facing and reflective of district needs.
- Still waiting on updated enrollment projections.
- Plan to reconvene during the summer; the goal is to have something ready for the first or second School Committee meeting of the fall.

3. Naming Recommendations

- The Naming Committee submitted recommendations to the full SC. The full SC expressed interest in slowing down the process and referred the matter to Community Relations.
- Dr. Homan has provided subcommittee with her suggestions for how to go forward
- Signage budget has already been spent; no additional funds are set aside awaiting decisions.

Considerations for moving forwards:

- Align name with the function and impact of the space.
- Consider district-wide context and potential alternatives.
- Emphasis on honoring impact, representation, and alignment with the space
- Current policy recommends a 3-year wait before naming a space in honor of a deceased individual. Dr. Homan emphasized the importance of adhering to this timeline to allow time for mourning. One of the proposed names (Hanley) would violate the 3-year policy. Committee members agreed with adhering to the 3 year recommendation.

Specific Spaces Discussed:

- Wood Gym: The Naming Committee made a recommendation to name the Wood Gym for John Hanley (passed July 2024). This violates the 3 year rule, and it is possible that another space might be more appropriate for memorializing Mr. Hanley (possibly a field, since he was a football coach) Dr. Homan has suggested naming the Wood Gym for Barbara McDonough (the Naming Committee had recommended naming the Climbing Gym for Ms. McDonough)
- Other spaces: Some were not included on the original list but are now under discussion.
- METCO Room: Jean Maguire, while deeply connected to METCO, is not from Arlington. The room is mobile; perhaps a larger main space would be more appropriate for dedication to the METCO program as a whole

Motion made by Jeff Thielman, Seconded by Liz Exton to:

- Recommend that the full committee move forward with naming:
 - Wood Gym - McDonough
 - Black Box Theater - Rehrig
 - Principal's Conference Room - Charles Skidmore
- 3-0 vote to send these three names to the full committee to forward to the Town Memorials Committee.
- Include bios of the three honorees in the School Committee meeting packet for June 17.
- Acknowledge the Naming Committee's efforts and research

Jeff Thielman left at 3:58

Policy/Process Recommendations:

- Recommending that the full committee ask the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee to review policy FFA, in particular including the 3 year rule that is currently only in FFE
- Liz E. proposed establishing an ongoing, district-wide space naming committee.
- Liz H. raised the importance of differentiating between naming, dedication, and other forms of recognition to clarify what is appropriate for each space.

- Liz E. also emphasized aligning honorees with space function as a formal criterion.

4. Other Items

- Kathy Bodie: Plan for naming or dedication in her honor.

5. Future Agenda Items

- Buffer Zones: Dr. Homan shared that she gained insights this year. The upcoming enrollment report will guide further discussion.
- Appointments: Human Rights Commission appointments upcoming.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Liz Exton, Seconded by Laura Gitelson, 2-0 vote to adjourn

4:15 PM

Arlington School Committee
Standing Subcommittee: Community Relations
Thursday, September 19, 2024
5:00 PM
Via Zoom

Subcommittee Members: Liz Exton, Laura Gitelson, Jeff Thielman

Other School Committee Members: Len Kardon

Administration: Liz Homan, Superintendent

Liz Exton Opened Meeting at 5:05pm.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting Minutes - June 6, 2024

Motion to approve minutes by Laura Gitelson, 2nd by Jeff Thielman, Motion Passed 3-0.

Buffer Zone Update and Discussion

Dr. Homan recapped the previous conversation from June 6, 2024.

Buffer Zone Priorities: level size of schools, mitigate large classes at Thompson

Currently difficult to mitigate because of the Thompson zone and lack of buffer zones in that area. Currently small buffer zones for Thompson and Hardy.

Limits in adjusting Buffer Zones:

Siblings, neighborhood preferences, access to after school care

Goals with Buffer Zones:

Maintain neighborhood schools

minimize traffic and car use

Consider MBTA communities long term impact

Consider current limits due to geography - eg: Spy Pond, Mass Ave, Park Ave, Mystic St., Summer St.

Goals in making adjustments to current Buffer Zones:

shrink zone for students automatically assigned to Thompson,

increase sizes of buffer zones near Thompson & Hardy

Keep larger buffers to maintain flexibility

Adjustment to Buffer Zones would address:

Transportation issues

SLC programming

Multiple transitions for middle schoolers

New Enrollment Projections:

Dr. Homan looked into new enrollment projections. They are costly or she didn't get responses from some vendors.

Dr. Homan showed the subcommittee some adjusted Buffer Zone maps and shared how they would impact class sizes at Thompson, Hardy, Peirce, Brackett.

Jeff suggested we consider new enrollment projections, even if there is a high cost. Len would like more information on school level projections. Are grade cohorts leveling off? This is not something we should rush.

Jeff left at 6:05pm

School Committee Chats

Suggested to have chats with specific topics. A presentation by the administration and then facilitated discussion, in person. No action was taken in this item.

Motion to adjourn by Laura Gitelson, second by Liz Exton.

Motion approved by a 2-0 vote.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:17pm.



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Adjournment (L. Gitelson)



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Submitted by L. Gitelson