

Community Relations Subcommittee
Arlington School Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 5, 2026

3pm Hybrid Meeting

Attendance Subcommittee Members: Laura Gitelson, Liz Exton,
Administration: Elizabeth Homan, Superintendent, Wes Pierre, Deputy Superintendent

The meeting was called to order remotely under the Governor's authorization. The Chair noted that two community members were recording.

Listening Sessions Presentation

Presenter: Liz Homan, Superintendent

Purpose:

- Community connection
- Inform strategic plan + budget

Process:

- Small-group/individual sessions
- Qualitative themes identified from responses

Major Themes:

Strengths: teacher support, Menotomy Preschool, belonging, leadership

Major Community Concerns:

- SPED advocacy burden
- communication gaps (esp. middle school)
- Long commute times for METCO students

Staff: workload, morale, collaboration needs

Budget:

- Feedback used alongside data to inform decisions
- Concern about impact of reductions on programming and progress
- Biggest community concerns - Support services & Class size, followed by variety of classes

Next Steps:

Additional sessions planned

- Would be good to get more high school families
- More ML families
- Biggest issue is capacity for these sessions

After School Assignments for Buffer Zone waitlist families

We had a brief discussion about the process for after school assignments for families on the buffer zone waitlists. Logistical challenges include communication sharing between after school programs and enrollment. APS will continue to work on making this process work as well as possible.

Minutes for the 9/4, 9/17. & 12/4 meetings were approved by a vote of 2-0 (L.Exton & L. Gitelson).

Meeting adjourned