

Approved by the Arlington School Committee March 29, 2018

***Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 2018
6:30 PM***

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room, 6th Floor
869 Mass Avenue
Arlington, MA*

*Present: Jeff Thielman, Chair, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Bill Hayner, Secretary,
Paul Schlichtman, Cindy Starks, Len Kardon, and Jennifer Susse*

*Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent of the Schools, Roderick MacNeal, Assistant
Superintendent of the Schools, John Danizio, Chief Financial Officer, Rob Spiegel, Human
Resource Director, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, Liz Higgins, AEA Representative*

Open Meeting

Dallin Artwork was read by Mr. Thielman.

Public Participation

None

Monthly Financial Reports

*Mr. John Danizio spoke on the change in the general funds accounts, the grants have no
changes, but the all in combined reports is a change from the last reporting and continues to
look at spending patterns. A few line items were discussed by the committee members and John.*

Vote change of APS Legal Representation for Labor and Employment

***Mr. Hayner moved to vote change of Arlington Public Schools Legal Representation for Labor
and Employment to Valerio Dominello & Hillman, LLC, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.***

Voted: 7-0

***Mr. Hayner motioned to direct Mr. Thielman, Chair to sign the letter of Legal Representation
of Valerio Dominello & Hillman, LLC, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.***

Voted: 7-0

***Mr. Hayner motioned to authorize Mr. Thielman, Chair to sign the letter to maintain the same
fees of \$295, and \$95 for Valerio Dominello & Hillman, LLC, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.***

Voted: 7-0

AHS Draft Educational Plan for MSBA, Second Read

*Dr. Janger, AHS Principal said he appreciated the School Committee's comments on the
Education Plan and will continue to review the plan. Dr. Janger gave an overview of the
Educational Plan and the space plans in and outdoor space. The library, science, art and lab*

spaces would need to accommodate larger groups of students. The jogging track versus a running track, fitness space and gymnasium configurations were also discussed. The number of auditorium seats, stage size and black box space for the performing arts were also cited. Mr. Kardon wanted to know if the plan was changed or edited did The School Committee members need to revote on the Educational Plan, but Mr. Thielman said if the MSBA requires the committee to vote changes, he will let them know. Mr. Thielman also pointed out that the pool and field house which many community members want would be a separate project and not be included in the AHS Build. The committee members wanted to make sure the administration and the AHS Building Committee anticipate preschool and special education growth into the space plans. After the discussion the following motion was made:

Mr. Hayner motioned to approve the AHS Draft Educational Plan for MSBA and its framework, seconded by Ms. Susse.

Voted: 7-0

Discipline Report

Dr. Janger provided the Discipline Report and spoke on the trends here in Arlington, total of suspensions over the years, and the racial disparities. It was noted we are working with Massachusetts General Hospital to collaborate problem solving training for administrators, and having the increase in deans at the high school next year means they can do the work and our discipline referrals will drop. It was recommended that the Discipline Report be a regular report to School Committee members in September or in October.

Superintendent's FY 19 Budget Priorities, K. Bodie

Dr. Bodie spoke on the budget priorities.

The summary priority lists of asks \$242,000

- 1.0 FTE Preschool classroom teacher
- 1.0 FTE Preschool classroom TA
- 2.0 Reserve Teacher positions for K-12
- 1 Large class size TA at the Elementary level
- .5 Math Coach at the Elementary level
- And increase Summer Professional Development Budget.

The summary of additional priority lists of \$308,000

- 2.0 FTE Assistant Principals
- .5 Nurse
- .5 Counselor OMS increase
- 1.0 Math Interventionist at the elementary
- Increase Curriculum Supplies and Materials

This above would be the broad view of the additional items which would total \$500,000. The committee members discussed the additional nurse position and would like to hear back from Ms. DeFrancisco on her experience on having an assistant principle this year at Hardy.

Question on FY 19 Superintendent's Budget

Ms. Susse inquired on Math Coaches FTE's compared with Literacy Coaches FTE's. She suggested we have Teaching Assistants in all Grade 1-2 classrooms with 25 students and above. If not now, this is a goal we should work toward she stated. Dr. Allison Ampe suggested to Dr. Bodie that families should have an option to move to a different school for a smaller class.

FY 19 Superintendents' Budget for School Committee Approval

Ms. Starks moved to approve the FY 19 Superintendent's Budget of \$71,785,331 seconded by Dr. Susse.

Voted: 6-1 Mr. Hayner voting No

Goal 3.4 OMS reconfiguration plan

Dr. Eileen Woods provided a reconfiguration plan for the Ottoson Middle School for 2018-2019 school year. Dr. Woods stated in her report the team has met 14 afternoons from October 18-present. The goal of the committee is to look at the facility, floor plan, documents, advisory, culture, climate, schedule, programs and how more space and fewer students will impact all aspects of the school. One asset we have is our timeline – we have this year to plan, next year we can get started with students who have been in Ottoson for 6th Grade so we can continue to plan next year (2018-2019) to learn and plan for how to welcome/transition the first 7th Graders who will come from Gibbs. Our leadership team functions as a whole group on certain discussion topics and also works in small committee groups (Three Committees: Scheduling Review/Recommendations, Floor Plan/Room Assignments/Move, Climate/Aesthetics-Lobby, Hallway focus, furniture) Faculty is decided for the 2018-2019 academic year and the new principal, Brian Meringer will be in the loop of all the planning.

Charge School Committee to sign letter to President Trump

Mr. Schlichtman is asking the Arlington School Committee members to endorse and support the Dover School Committee Chair and Project Parkland where we want to ban assault weapons, all modifications to convert weapons to semi or fully automatic status and introduce a background check for gun ownership on sending a letter to President Trump.

Mr. Schlichtman moved to authorize the Dover School Committee, and Project Parkland, to add the Arlington School Committee to the list of senders for their letter to President Trump, and to notify Adrian Hill, Chair of the Dover School Committee of this vote, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0 unanimous

Mr. Schlichtman and Dr. Bodie were charged with writing a letter to send to our representatives in the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Congress of the United States, the Governor of Massachusetts, and the President of the United States to take action to regulate firearms.

Mr. Schlichtman moved that the School Committee approve the letter as seconded by Ms. Susse with the following amendment to include Lift the Dickey Amendment that prevents federal dollars from being used to study gun statistics.

Voted: 6-0-1 Ms. Susse abstained.

The following is the final letter approved by the committee.

On April 17, 1775, the British army marched through what is now Arlington, on a mission to seize the muskets and gunpowder stored by the local militia in Concord. On their way back through our town, the British army encountered the bloodiest fighting of the first day of the American Revolution.

The Arlington School Committee views the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution as deriving from our new nation's desire to prevent a federal army from repeating the action of the British troops in 1775, making specific reference to "a well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State."

The Arlington School Committee acknowledges that the Second Amendment does not provide an unlimited right for civilians to own military-style weapons or high capacity magazines.

The Arlington School Committee is concerned that, beginning with the Sandy Hook shooting, and ending with the Parkland shooting, the New York Times reports there were at least 239 school shootings nationwide, in which 438 people were shot, including 138 fatalities. A significant number of these deaths were caused by gunmen using assault rifles with high capacity magazines.

In the interests of maintaining safe and secure schools, the Arlington School Committee urges our state and federal lawmakers to take sufficient action to regulate firearms, in order to limit the ability of individuals to bring overwhelming firepower to our schools. Such actions should include, but should not be limited to:

- *Prohibiting civilian ownership of military-style weaponry, including assault weapons.*
- *Prohibiting civilian ownership of large capacity ammunition magazines and silencers.*
- *Requiring successful background checks for any and all firearm transfers.*
- *Maintaining strict regulations for the concealed carry of weapons, and defeating federal legislation that would permit reciprocity across state lines for concealed carry permits.*
- *Increasing the minimum age to purchase firearms to 21.*
- *Enacting Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, establishing gun violence restraining orders to allow courts to remove guns from the home of people determined to be a threat to themselves or others.*
- *Lift the Dickey Amendment that prevents federal dollars from being used to study gun statistics.*

On March 15, 2018, the Arlington School Committee voted to send this letter to our representatives in the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Congress of the United States, the Governor of Massachusetts, and the President of the United States.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Jeff Thielman, Chair
Arlington School Committee*

*Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools*

*Cc: Kirsil Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair of the Arlington School Committee
William Hayner, Secretary of the Arlington School Committee
Paul Schlichtman, Member of the Arlington School Committee
Cindy Starks, Member of the Arlington school Committee
Jennifer Susse, Member of the Arlington School Committee
Len Kardon, Member of the Arlington School Committee*

Superintendent's Report

Update on School Buildings

Mr. Janger said the AHS walkout on Thursday, March 15th was held one day later than scheduled due to the snow storm where 300-400 students took civic actions on firearms. Dr. Bodie was very proud of our students who organized a well done walk out. Dr. Bodie appreciated the work of the DPW and custodians on the snow removal from the storm. This brought up the topic of alternative learning project for snow days, the start and end date of school and the schedule for MCAS.

Hardy School

The Hardy will begin construction on time this month.

Gibbs School

The Gibbs is on schedule and starting to look great.

AHS Building Committee

The AHS is moving along.

Dr. Woods wanted Dr. Bodie to share that she was notified that 7th & 8th grade students from the Ottoson will attend the National Quiz Tournament in Chicago this spring.

Consent Agenda

**Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Consent Agenda Approval of Warrant: March 1, 2018, Warrant #18175 in the amount of \$862,390.50, Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2018 and March 1, 2018 School Committee, Regular Meeting Minutes and March 1, 2018 FY 19 Public Hearing on Budget, Approval of Trips: None, seconded by Ms. Susse
Voted: 7-0**

Policy: None

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports & Announcements

Budget, Kirsi Allison-Ampe (Chair) Budget to meet with Finance Committee to present the FY19 Budget on Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 pm.

Community Relations, Cindy Starks (Chair) Nothing to report

District Accountability, Curriculum/Instruction & Assessment, (CIAA) Paul Schlichtman, (Chair) Nothing to report

Facilities, Jennifer Susse (Chair) Nothing to report

Policies & Procedures, Len Kardon (Chair) Nothing to report

School Enrollment Task Force, Bill Hayner, Cindy Starks, Jeff Thielman Nothing to report

Legal Services Review, Bill Hayner, Len Kardon Nothing to report

Arlington High School Building Committee Jeff Thielman and Kirsi Allison-Ampe Nothing to report

Gibbs Committee, Cindy Starks Nothing to report

Liaisons Reports

Mr. Hayner and Mr. Thielman attended the last School Committee Chat and the main discussion was on increasing after school care and program for children. Mr. Hayner said EDCO held a discussion on School Committee having a FACEBOOK page. PTBC meeting cancelled due to snow.

Dr. Ampe asked if the afterschool programs come under the School Committee prevue. She was concerned if this is something school or school committee should do? Mr. Kardon said we don't have policy on how schools are used and don't have a policy if the schools should run two programs. He said this is definitely a policy discussion and his recommendation is to hold a special subcommittee meeting with program directors and parents, administration too and take all of data and work to look into this issue.

Announcements

AHS will present Wonderful Town on March 23, 24, 25.

Future Agenda Items

Ms. Susse would like to see new plans on the History program at middle school, Mr. Kardon would like to see or hear about a plan on funding the Gibbs Library and have it as a presentation at our next meeting.

Executive Session

None

Correspondence Received:

AHS Draft Educational Plan for MSBA

AHS Draft Space Study

Monthly Financial Report

Warrant dated 3/1/2018

Draft School Committee minutes 3/1/2018 and 3/1/2018 Public Hearing Minutes

League of Women Voters March 2018 Bulletin

Change of Representation Valerio Dominello & Hillman, LLC

Discipline Report

March 1, 2018 Enrollment

Patriots' Day Parade notice

Letters from School Committees to President Trump on ban weapons

Letters to our representatives of Massachusetts, Governor, US, and US President

List of summary priority lists March 2018

OMS Reconfiguration chart

Adjournment

Mr. Hayner moved to exit and adjourn at 9:10 pm, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee