

Approved by the Arlington School Committee, April 26, 2018

***Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting***

Thursday, April 12, 2018

6:30 PM

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476*

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

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent, Roderick MacNeal, Jr., Assistant Superintendent, John Danizio, Chief Financial Officer, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, and Mia Patel Masini, Freshman Class Vice President.

Absent: Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education

Open Meeting

Kirsi Allison-Ampe opened the meeting and stated the goals as chair of the committee and welcomed new member Jane Morgan and student representative Maya Patel Masini to the meeting.

Public Participation

Alham Saadat, Mustafa Cokol, Ray Lafontaine, Maxie Schmidt Jessica Evan Brady, Gurharsha Kuthethur, James Macher and Chris, and Ashutosh Uupta all expressed their concerns of advocating for additional after school care in town and for our help in finding a solution to the after school waitlist difficulties. Dr. Bodie said she has reached out to A Place to Grow who have agreed to increase their after school program by 26 students and Kathy is continuing to find solutions with other programs.

Gibbs 6th Grade School Update

Kristen DeFrancisco presented details from previous Gibbs Parent Forums held for the Gibbs 6th Grade parents. The Gibbs 6th Grade vision, as well as the mission statement and school schedules was discussed. The Community Education is sponsoring a fundraiser to support the purchase of library books by hosting Bradley Whitford and local author David Whitford, at AHS auditorium for \$10 and all proceeds will go to the Gibbs Library. The committee members were thrilled about the fundraiser and look forward to the event. The Gibbs 6th Grade concerns mentioned by the committee members were with a few scheduling issues of computer science classes, electives, special education pull out, other concerns were the traffic patterns around the school for parents and the school busses.

Colonial Day Update, R. MacNeal

Mr. MacNeal and Mr. Conklin read a letter sent out to the community stating that the district decided not to have students dress up in Colonial Day attire this year and said the decision was made after meeting with Principals, 3rd Grade Teachers, Carlos Holt and some parents. Below is the letter sent:

To address the concerns brought up last year regarding Colonial Day, we recently held a meeting with third grade teachers and a separate parent forum. The purpose for each discussion was to examine how Colonial Day activities fit into the social studies curriculum and how it aligns with our goal of becoming culturally competent as a district. A large part of both meetings included a discussion about the expectation of students dressing in colonial attire to accentuate their experience. The sharing of perspectives was very informative and helped to provide valuable insight regarding students dressing up and the overall objective for having the Colonial Day event. After considering multiple perspectives, it has been decided that we will no longer include an expectation of students dressing up in period costumes for Colonial Day. The practice of having students dress up is problematic to our vision of creating an environment in which all students feel honored and welcomed. In addition, dressing up as colonists emphasizes a single perspective that was not shared by all of the cultures that were present during this time in history, which includes Native American culture. This summer, our third grade teachers will be working to update curriculum to ensure that their instruction of the colonial time period is comprehensive and representative of all cultures. Their work will also revisit other aspects of Colonial Day, which may include selecting a different name and revising the activities that we currently have planned. Our overall goal is to ensure all cultures are considered as we teach our students about important historical events and facts.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Colonial Day topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Roderick MacNeal, Jr. Assistant Superintendent

Mr. MacNeal said the 3rd Grade Teachers will work on this unit over the summer and to address the entire curriculum to see if any other areas are missing context. A few members of the committee appreciated hearing about the decision not to dress up, while other members wanted additional information on who attended the meeting, if all school parents were invited, wanted additional input on the decision not to dress up and wanted to know what this year would look like for the children.

Development of Research Skills in APS

Mr. MacNeal, Jr. and Denny Conklin defined the APS History and Social Studies Department research by saying students today research as Googling a question and finding results. All history teachers require that students conduct research from online sources, books, magazines, charts, maps, and primary sources. In addition, the students are taught how to organize and use the information gained from these sources and how to recognize credible sources from the vast amount of information that results from Internet research.

Report on AHS Building Committee concept selections to be submitted to MSBA

Dr. Bodie spoke on the AHS Building Committees vote on four options for moving forward and our preferred options will need to be decided and sent to MSBA in July, and over the next month and half more work will be done looking at different perspectives, the concept won't change, but we have many opportunities for the community to give the committee feedback, especially at the June 4th Forum.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie announced that the Kindergarten enrollment has hit the 500 student mark today, and historical data showed last year at this time we had 442 students enrolled and now we are at 500 and

working on the buffer zone assignments. Kathy said the last day of school will be Monday, June 25, 2018, and the Art exhibit is being held in the cafeteria, and budget books go to the printers tomorrow. Kathy would like to thank the Community Education Department for hosting a successful event to support the Gibbs Library as mentioned above. The Hardy School project will begin and letters will be going out to all abutters next week.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Approval of Warrant: March 29, 2018, Warrant #18195 in the amount of \$662,334.49, Approval of Minutes: School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes March 29, 2018, and Approval of Trips: None, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 6-0-1, Ms. Morgan abstained

Policy: None

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports & Announcements

Additional Liaison and Subcommittee task assignments

Ms. Susse moved to create a School Committee member liaison to the Human Rights Commission, seconded by Bill Hayner.

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Schlichtman abstained

Dr. Ampe suggested if anyone was interested to serve as the Liaison to the Human Rights Commission to send her email. Other talking points Year-long agenda, request from Finance Committee for 5 year plan, this is a task assignment by budget and curriculum committee for the Multi-year plan for schools, and after-school care. The MASC Policy review was discussed on when we might vote the whole manual.

- Budget, Mr. Kardon attended the Thompson PTO meeting said they are looking for a reserved teacher and will come back to us.
- Community Relations no report
- CIAA no report
- Facilities, no report
- Policies & Procedures no report
- School Enrollment Task Force delete next meeting
- Legal Services Review delete next meeting if possible
- Arlington High School Building Committee J. Thielman, K. Allison-Amp doing great
- Gibbs Committee, nothing
- Liaisons Reports
- Announcements

Mr. Hayner said Operation Success will hold a fundraiser on Friday, at the Sons of Italy.

Ms. Susse mentioned symbols of hate are out in our community, and would like to hold a discussion.

- Future Agenda Items, Mr. Hayner suggested the District Goals to be prepared.

Executive Session

Mr. Schlichtman moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 pm to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with

union and/or nonunion in which if held in an a open meeting may have a detrimental effect. To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and declares to exit to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Correspondence Received:

Warrant dated March 29, 2018

Regular Draft School Committee minutes, March 29, 2018

Enrollment Update April 2018

Subcommittee Assignments 2018-2019

Adjournment

Mr. Schlichtman moved to adjournment at 9:50 pm, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee