

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 30, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Conducted by Remote Participation

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-suspending-certain-provision-of-open-meeting-law/download>

Present: Mr. Leonard Kardon, Chair, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Vice Chair, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Secretary, Dr. Jennifer Susse, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Mr. William Hayner, Mr. Jeff Thielman.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Roderick MacNeal, Jr. Assistant Superintendent, Michael Mason, CFO, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Alison Elmer, Director of Special Education, and Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Kardon asked each attendee to confirm attendance. Governor Baker's the meeting is being held remotely confirm that the meeting being recorded by Zoom video conference and ACMI; All members listed above were as present.

Mr. Kardon opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

School Choice Public Hearing

On a motion by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Ms. Susse it was voted unanimously to enter into the School Choice Public Hearing at 6:52 p.m,

Roll Call: Mr. Leonard Kardon Yes, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Yes, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes Ms. Jennifer Susse, Yes, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. William Hayner, Yes 7-0

No public comment or written comment for School Choice was received.

On a **motion** by Mr. Schlichtman, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner, it was **voted** to withdraw from School Choice the 2020-2021 school year, and to notify DESE with our vote with the statement that this is due to lack of space in the district.

Roll Call: Mr. Leonard Kardon Yes, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Yes, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes Ms. Jennifer Susse, Yes, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. William Hayner, Yes

Public Comment

Members of the public were asked to send written comment to kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us or can register to speak via the webinar by email by 5 pm on Thursday April 30.

The committee received two comments one from Adam Erlich and from Ms. Lynette Martin. Ms. Martin said she appreciates that the administration will hold scheduled parent forums, and wait until the remote learning program is rolled out. She also suggested that APS schedule teacher

parent conferences and provide some additional help to families who may be struggling with technology issues.

Rainbow Commission Appointment

The Rainbow Commission was established two years ago, and our previous appointment needed to step down. The Community Relations subcommittee made their recommendation of Mr. Keith M. Mistler, an educator in Burlington, who has lived in Arlington for four years.

On a **motion** by Ms. Susse, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was **voted** to Mr. Keith M. Mistler as the Rainbow Commission as the School Committee Appointee.

Roll Call: Mr. Leonard Kardon Yes, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Yes, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes, Ms. Jennifer Susse, Yes, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. William Hayner, Yes

School Closure Update

Dr. Bodie learned from Governor Baker this week the disappointing news to the district and to parents that schools will be closed for the remainder of this school year. Dr. Bodie sent out a letter last night to parents.

Community survey and other feedback

Dr. Bodie informed the committee that a survey was sent out to parents and staff. Dr. MacNeal provided the details of the survey said 3187 parents responded via google form and that they could submit a form for each child. The survey showed the majority of families had the proper number of devices to access the learning activities. Most indicated their child is getting enough activities provided by classroom teachers, and specials to for those on IEPs, 504, ELL etc. Dr. MacNeal will use the data from the surveys to develop the next phase of the districts remote learning and this phase will be more structured.

Dr. Bodie had been talking with principals and heard more students are turning in assignments and are participating in Google classrooms.

Committee members the survey that went to parents and staff. It was suggested to continue to build what we learned from and in google hangout meetings. The committee heard feedback from parent emails and that some parents would like to suggest that Arlington provide synchronized learning, more teacher feedback to parents and additional teacher office hours.

Remote Learning Plan – status update

Dr. Bodie sent out a letter to all parents and spoke on the DESE guidelines to strengthen our remote learning experience to move all students toward consistent engagement in remote learning, and encourage and support students not engaged and consider ways to support these students.

Arlington Public Schools first phase, was focused on teacher and student connections and engaging students in enrichment activities and engage in already taught skills. The key changes going forward is teaching not already taught essential concepts and skills. This is our plan for the next seven weeks. Curriculum leaders and teachers are creating and sharing key concepts for students to be prepared for Fall 2020. Asynchronous lessons shared through google classrooms may include videos of instruction,

includes weekly assignments, and includes teacher feedback on assignments. The synchronous connections, stronger emphasis on live video sessions at least once per week for each student, peer and teacher connections, motivation, inspiration. Teacher office hours 2 times a week and may include google hangoutmeets or emails or phone calls.

Dr. Janger, Mr. Meringer, and Ms. DeFrancisco secondary principals all sent out their implementation plans which were also guided by DESE remote learning plans and non- traditional grading information to all secondary parents.

After Dr. Bodie provided the overview, the committee members asked if parents could receive their students assignments ahead of time and if we could provide learning and google classrooms for parents, and if teacher conferences could happen. Dr. Bodie informed the members that parents can always email teachers, she will talk to the Director of Community Education to provide online course on Google hangouts. Dr. Bodie said she will provide parent virtual forums over the next couple of weeks.

.Alison Elmer spoke about the Special Education services being provided during the school closure. The goal is to provide more direct services to students in whole class small class and individual classroom formats. We are delivering in combination of support and resources and instruction in whole class and small individualized groups. It is a combination of provision of strategies, assignments, projects and packets student receive. Communication is critical. IEP meetings are happening and teachers are collecting student data and measuring IEP goals.

MCAS Update

Dr. Bodie stated that we don't have MCAS this year for those in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10. The issue with the state MCAS for our seniors to graduate was we were closed in March and students could not retake the test, but we had two students we have been monitoring and will be good with the New DESE guidelines.

Superintendent's Report

Arlington High School Building Committee

Dr. Bodie said 60 percent of the documents were submitted to MSBA. We are currently not over budget which is very positive. The fencing has been going up and the Select Board approved the tree removal out in front of the high school. The Parmenter School timeline is on time, the preschoolers can begin there in the fall

Dr. Bodie wanted to reminder everyone to complete the census.

Governor Baker announced that on Monday, September 14, 2020 will become a state holiday and Dr. Bodie said that Arlington will add this day to our 2020-2021 school calendar.

Dr. Bodie acknowledges the athletic coaches and winter teams. She also recognized Director of Social Studies Mr. Denny Conklin.

Consent Agenda

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe it was **voted** to approve the

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Warrant Number 20254, Dated 4/14/2020 in the Amount \$1,029,887.78
- Approval of Minutes: School Committee Regular meeting minutes of Remote meeting minutes: March 26, 2020.

Roll Call: Mr. Leonard Kardon Yes, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Yes, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes Ms. Jennifer Susse, Yes, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. William Hayner, Yes 7-0

Superintendent's Search Process Update

Mr. Schlichtman informed the committee members that the subcommittee received two to consider as a search for our next superintendent of schools. Mr. Mason suggested that the subcommittee meet and do an evaluation process as stated in the RFP on each company. It was recommended that the subcommittee move forward and review the bids and bring their recommendation to the full committee.

On a **motion** by Ms. Susse, **seconded** by Mr. Hayner, it was **voted** to move the 10 o'clock rule to 10:30.

Roll Call: Mr. Leonard Kardon Yes, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Yes, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes Ms. Jennifer Susse, Yes, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. William Hayner, Yes 7-0

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget: Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair said the Budget Revenue task force will meeting next Thursday, 8 am.

Community Relations: Jennifer Susse, Chair already discussed outreach to community with grade level meetings with public and urge to have two forums

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability: Jane Morgan,

Facilities: Bill Hayner, Chair no report.

Policies & Procedures: Paul Schlichtman, Chair no report

Arlington High School Building Committee: Jeff Thielman, (Chair), Kirsi Allison-Ampe

Calendar Committee: Jennifer Susse

Election Modernization Committee: Jennifer Susse no report

Traffic Negotiations: Jane Morgan, Bill Hayner no report

AEA Negotiations: Len Kardon, Paul Schlichtman no report

Liaisons Reports

Announcements

Future Agenda Items

Correspondence Received: Warrant # 20254, dated 4/14/2020

Town of Arlington Legal Dept Supplement-Remote Meeting Checklist and Guidance

Dr. Bodie's COVID-19 Updated emails

DESE Emails April 24, 2020

School Committee minutes, Remote School Committee Minutes March 26,

School Choice policy

Lynette M email 4 27 2020

Barbara G email

Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Ms. Susse it was voted to enter into Executive Session at 10:06 p.m.

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 open meeting, may have a detrimental effect. Conducting strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting, may have aa detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted

To Enter Executive session under M.G.L. c. 30A, sect. 21(a)(7) to comply with a general law, to wit, M.G.L. c. 268A, sect. 23(c)(2). I EDCO.

Roll Call: Mr. Leonard Kardon Yes, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Yes, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes Ms. Jennifer Susse, Yes, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. William Hayner, Yes 7-0

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Hayner it was voted to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Leonard Kardon Yes, Ms. Jane P. Morgan, Yes, Mr. Paul Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Yes Ms. Jennifer Susse, Yes, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. William Hayner, Yes 7-0

Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee 5132020ps