

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Special Meeting
Friday, November 20, 2020
6:30 PM

Superintendent Finalist Public Interview of Dr. Elizabeth Homan

Conducted by Remote Participation

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

Open Meeting

Ms. Morgan opened the meeting and read the governors orders.

Ms. Morgan confirmed the attendance of the School Committee members:

Liz Exton Present, Len Kardon Present, Kirsi Allison-Ampe Present, Jeff Thielman Present, Paul Schlichtman Present, Bill Hayner Present, and Jane Morgan Present

Superintendent Interview: Dr. Elizabeth Homan

Ms. Morgan informed the community due to the retirement of Dr. Kathleen Bodie on June 30, 2021, the Superintendent Search Screening Committee was established with 15 members and have selected two final candidates for the Superintendent position. This week each candidate met with many stakeholders such as students, teachers, curriculum leaders, central office staff, town manager, superintendent, and community members and parents. After each zoom meeting, each participant was able to complete a survey and submit their comments to the school committee chair.

Dr. Elizabeth Homan is now in her third year as Assistant Superintendent of the Waltham Public Schools having been the Administrator for EdTech Integration for three years prior to 2018. An Illinois native, she began her career as a middle and high school English Language Arts teacher and High School Speech Team Coach in Indiana before moving to the University of Michigan for a Ph.D. in English and Education. Her first post in Massachusetts was as a digital learning specialist in the Boston Public Schools. She was recruited to Waltham by former superintendent Drew Echelson and now oversees curriculum and instruction for the school district. She has focused on designing and leading professional learning, data informed leadership, anti-racist strategies, and collaboration with parents and teachers. She designed the equity, racial and cultural bias, and culturally responsive curriculum for the district. Among her primary achievements was the work to align curriculum and establish professional development to narrow the achievement gap through collaboration and improve outcomes for all students. She was actively involved in leading the district efforts to address COVID and to incorporate student wellness and academic progress during this challenging time. She currently resides in Newton.

The committee members engaged in interviewing questions pertaining to collective bargaining, special education, program of studies, reopening plans due to COVID-19, building projects, city governance for next two and half hours.

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.
Roll Call: Liz Exton Yes, Len Kardon Yes, Kirsi Allison-Ampe Yes, Jeff Thielman Yes,
Paul Schlichtman Yes, Bill Hayner Yes, and Jane Morgan Yes (7-0)

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee