

Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2021
6:30 PM

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 at 6:30 p.m. and read the governor's orders and confirmed the attendance of the following: Liz Exton, Present, Len Kardon Present, Paul Schlichtman Present, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe Present, Jeff Thielman Present, Bill Hayner Present and Jane Morgan Present.

Confirmed attendance of Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D., Roderick MacNeal, Ed.D, Rob Spiegel, Michael Mason, Alison Elmer, Karen Fitzgerald. Principals present tonight are Matthew Janger Ed.D. Sir Ferranti, AEA Representative, Cindy Sheridan-Curran and Dr. Susan Franchi.

Public Comment

Mette Aamodt, spoke on her concern that the School Committ is hearing the results from the November 2020 parent fall survey two months later. She feels the presentation put a better light on the results that it is and said all questions are not included in the report. Ms. Aamodt would like a plan for full in-person for this school year.

Mr. Grose, parent of 1st grader is in favor for in-person learning when the vaccine is available with the proper social distance. He said the school committee members could contact him to discuss the plans being considered.

FY 21-22 School year calendar

Dr. Bodie presented 2021-2022 APS School Calendar for a first read tonight and said the calendar remains the same as previous school vacation weeks. Ms. Morgan recommends that the committee members vote to start school after Labor Day so families can plan ahead. She wants to vote the first day of school which will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. The committee members spoke in regards that the first day of school is held on Wednesday, September 8th, which would be the second day of Rosh Hasahana After they discussed this, it was asked if the students could be remote and have it as a regular remote school day. Dr. Bodie said the Commissioner was limiting remote days this year and no remote days next year unless there is a DESE policy next year. The members said it is to our benefit to close on certain holidays and since many of the staff observe just one day on Rosh Hashanah, in years past we only observe the first day.

The School Committee meeting schedule was discussed, and it was suggested to change the dates of some of those meetings. Dr. Bodie discussed Kindergarten screening and said it has yet to be decided if that would happen this June or September, 2021. The committee wanted the start date of school to be clear for families tonight. The committee then discussed moving the first day of school to Thursday, September 9, but are also concerned with day care for many families with having so many days off the first week of school. The members made a suggestion

to setup a committee to do the research on how many students and staff will not attend on Wednesday, September 8th and bring forth a recommendation to the communitie in two weeks. One members said since the research had been done in the past and it was recommended to give one day to Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Good Friday.

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Kardon, it was voted to open schools on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 and planning on full in-person learning for all learners. Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon No, Dr. Allison-Ampe No, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner No and Ms. Morgan yes. Voted 4-3 motion passes

District Goals 2020-2021 Presentation

Dr. Bodie provided the Arlington Public Schools District Goals Overview for 2020-2021. The district goals presentation can be found here. [District Goals 2020-2021](#)

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was moved to approve the District Goals Dr. Bodie presented tonight.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes and Ms. Morgan Yes. Voted: 7-0

Revisions to budget calendar

Dr. Allison-Ampe presented the FY 20-21 Budget Calendar for FY 22 and said the Budget presentation will be moved to February 25, 2021 and that the subcommittee was comfortable with the changes.

On a **motion** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman, it was voted to approve the FY 20-21 Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2022 as amended.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes and Ms. Morgan Yes. Voted: 7-0

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Mason presented on the reported out on the following budget reports. [Monthly Financial Reports](#)

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Morgan announced that during the Annual Women's Educational Leadership Conference held recently via Zoom Dr. Chesson had nominated and presented Kathy Bodie with a well deserved award in honor of Bobbie Delarso. The committee members congratulated Kathy on her accomplishments and concurred on being a well deserving receipiant. Dr. Bodie appreciated everyones comments.

Kathy mentioned the AHS building noise and progress of the project is going well. Student and staff pool testing results were completed today for over 330 test with no positive. The school pool testing was discussed and we will reamin committed for our staff and hope the vaccination will be available in late February or March. Dr. Bodie provided a synchronous learning time update and parents have been notified.

Panorama Family Survey analysis

Dr. MacNeal, Ms. Burd, and Ms. Rodriguez said they were happy with the results of the data and the slides deck on the school climate survey. The key findings and objectives can be found here: [Panorama survey results for School Committee](#)

After reviewing the data tonight many of the committee members were concerned that the survey was given back in November and frustrated in seeing the results so late in January.

Consent Agenda

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe it was voted to approve the Consent Agenda and approval of Warrant #21155 Check Date 1/19/2021 in the Amount of \$1,135,135.51 and

approval of Minutes: Regular Meetings January 14, 2021.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes and Ms. Morgan Yes. Voted: 7-0

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

- Budget, Kirsi Allison-Ampe said they met this week and discussed the budget calendar
- Community Relations, Bill Hayner, met on Saturday with Jeff and families with special needs.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Accountability, Len Kardon no report.
- Facilities, Jeff Thielman, no report.
- Policies & Procedures, Paul Schlichtman workint to schedule another meeting.
- Arlington High School Building Committee, Jeff Thielman, Kirsi Allison-Ampe will meet on Tuesday, February 2, at 6:00 p.m.
- Liaisons Reports
- Announcements
- Liasions Reports
- Future agenda

Correspondence Received:

Warrant 1/19/2020, 21155

School Committee Minutes: January 14, 2021

Panorama survey presentation

School Calendar for 2021-2022 first read and vote for first day

Budget calendar 2020-2021 updated 1/28/2021

Budget subcommittee minutes 12/30/2020 1/6/2021

District Goals 2020-2021

Monthly Financial Report

League of Women Voters of Arlington January 2021 newsletter Letters to State level to move forward with vaccinations for Teachers.

Covid10- Cases week of January 11

Hybrid Program Additional Specialist Class 1/22/2021

Asynchronous email from Lucy Pachter

EDCO notice for joint meeting February 1, 2021
Email regarding first day of school Ilana Blatt Eisengart
Anna Magracheva email to speak about planning for the fall semester Mette Aamodt email to speak

Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Kardon, seconded by Mr. Hayner, it was voted to enter into Executive Session at 9:51 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, and 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, with the Arlington Education Association, AEA Union and Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc, (EDCO) and to exit only to adjourn.

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Schlitchman, it was voted to adjournment at 10:33 p.m.

Roll Call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Kardon Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Schlichtman Yes, Mr. Hayner Yes and Ms. Morgan Yes. Voted: 7-0

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee