

Arlington School Committee  
School Committee/Superintendent/Workshop/Retreat  
Saturday, July 24, 2021  
10:00 AM  
Arlington High School  
School committee  
6th Floor, 869 Mass Avenue  
Arlington, MA

Open Meeting

Dr. Elizabeth Homan welcomed everyone here today. The meeting was opened at 10:10 a.m. and the governor's orders were read and attendance of the following were confirmed: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Thielman, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Ms. Morgan, Yes, and Mr. Hayner, Yes. (7-0) and Dr. Homan. Attending was Mr. Tony Bent, Facilitator and Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

The goal today is to underscore and emphasize the big concept to become a more effective team.

The agenda items were reviewed and the committee was excited to gather in person for the first time since Covid started.

The first agenda item discussed was the relationships between the committee members and the superintendent. Members expressed previous successes and concerns and Tony wanted Liz Homan to hear this so they could work together to make her successful in doing her job. Tony wanted to know why each member chooses to do this type of work.

This led the discussion to the Roles and Responsibilities of the committee members and the Superintendent. Tony went over a couple of scenarios where the school committee members should not have any authority on and to let the curriculum leaders make the decisions. The members also discussed when parents approach them about certain decisions and the best way to handle the responses to the community. Tony said the roles of each school committee member is important and that they are all about a service and working together can be powerful.

The 7 signs of effective School Board Members was reviewed and can be found [here](#). The members broke up into three groups and discussed the article.

The committee went around the room and volunteered a statement on how they can be a better board member. The consensus of the committee was to hear what our new superintendent has to say and support her and recognize the changes of our new leadership. The [Leadership Hourglass](#) documents were read aloud.

Then committee members and Dr. Homan discussed future retreat topics. The members would like to see proposed calendar adjustments on presentations and discuss evaluations and professional development. Dr. Homan would like to highlight each school and how they are

doing. The School Improvement Plans will be presented in October and she will present her Fall Entry plan update in January. Liz recommends to review curriculum areas and programs in workshops and see how they may need to be changed. Our next retreat will be held on Tuesday, August 10 and to include the calendar review and plan for the year.

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Jeff Thielman, seconded by Jane Morgan, it was voted to adjourn at 1:11 p.m. Roll call: Ms. Exton, Yes, Mr. Schlichtman, Yes, Mr. Thielman, Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Yes, Mr. Kardon, Yes, Ms. Morgan, Yes, and Mr. Hayner, Yes. (7-0)

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