

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Arlington School Committee**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**October 14, 2021**

**Approved:**

**DRAFT**

**Conducted by Remote Participation**

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

6:30 p.m. Mr. Hayner called the meeting to order and confirmed the attendance of the following School Committee Members: Ms. Exton, Mr. Schlichtman, Dr. Ampe, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Thielman, Mr. Kardon, Ms. Carmody, AHS School Committee Rep. Also in attendance: E. Homan, Superintendent, R. MacNeal Assistant Superintendent, R. Spiegel, Director of Human Resources, Principal M. McAneny, Assistant Principal E. Liner, Thompson School Teacher S. Jette, Principal K. Donato, Assistant Principal C. Chevalier, AEA Rep. J. Fernandes, Special Education Director A. Elmer. (19 Attendees, 19 Panelists)

6:35 p.m. Dr. Homan introduced the AHS School Committee Student Representative, Junior Megan Carmody to the School Committee members. Ms. Carmody updated the Committee with some upcoming activities at AHS.

Dr. Homan also took a moment to introduce Sarah Marie Jette who is a Teacher at Thompson School and a semi-finalist for the Teacher of the Year award as published in the Boston Globe. Ms. Jette spoke to the Committee and gave a brief update on her background. Jenna Fernandes, AEA, congratulated Sarah Marie Jette on her accomplishment.

6:40 Hiring Update – Mr. Spiegel offered his staffing update including several new administrators, new AEA Unit A Educators. Mr. Spiegel outlined the most common reasons for resignations and the hiring numbers for the current year and new hire facts (Academic Degree levels, etc.). Paraprofessional hiring continues. A number of new employees in various departments including Admin Assistants, afterschool programs, food service, building custodians, traffic, desktop support, Payroll, Central Office staff, etc. Mostly in-person, new-hire orientations were conducted.

Mr. Spiegel's diversity presentation contained the student as well as employee data as of October 1, 2021. Working on ways to encourage people to identify their ethnicity so that the data reflects more accurately. Next steps will include continuing efforts to recruit and retain more staff of color and update protocols. Hoping to receive a State Grant. A question and answer took place with various questions and answers with Committee Members and Mr. Spiegel.

6:57 p.m. State Outcomes and Accountability Report – Dr. MacNeal

FY21 Outcomes Reports – The report consisted of MCAS data from last spring. Dr. MacNeal discussed various aspects of the MCAS process, including what's new, ELA and Math change in achievement levels 2019-2021, District ELA Achievement and SGP Observations, District Math Achievement and SGP Observations, District Science, Technology/Engineering Results and Observations, District STE Achievement and SGP Observations, and planned next steps (e.g., triangulate MCAS results with other data sources, disaggregate data during certain ACE block meetings, conduct an item analysis, etc.). Ms. Morgan, Dr. Ampe, Mr. Schlichtman School Committee Members, had some questions on the Report for Dr. MacNeal and the questions were discussed accordingly. (Ms. Morgan was disappointed that the first bullet point (remote/not remote) not be used as a focal point and these results are statewide, not just APS. Dr. Ampe voiced her confusion on the graphs asking if the percentiles are absolute and if we have enough resources this year to help move the needle (way up) on the MCAS results that we are seeing now. Mr. Schlichtman finds creating this report very challenging, Mr. Thielman asked what top three bullet points would Dr. Homan present to the parents about

these results. Mr. Kardon see some urgency now that we have the data and asked for clarification of what we are doing NOW?). Dr. MacNeal feels we need to hone in and help our students based on the data, school improvement plans, etc.

#### 7:38 p.m. School Improvement Plans

Bishop School – Improvement Plan (M. McAneny and E. Liner) Mr. McAneny introduced his full-time Assistant Principal and an agenda to his presentation. Mr. McAneny reviewed the Bishop School culture and core values. The District Perspective in regard to the last grade APS Elementary Students had a full-year in the Classroom (current). The Bishop Spring MCAS 2021 standings were presented and Bishop School data showed their students scoring higher in the District and the State. School Priorities include four objectives: Student Achievement, Literacy – Data Analysis, Equity and School Culture, Management and Operations. Ms. Liner, Assistant Principal, presented the Bishop School Community Matrix. Mr. McAneny reviewed the current resources available for sustainability and effectiveness and the must haves/needs to support Bishop’s School Improvement Goals. Ms. Exton thanked Mr. McAneny for the presentation and asked some questions about a Data Coach position, the ACE block, resource requirements to collect and record data. Ms. Morgan commented that this ACE block is a big investment and feels that Dr. MacNeal’s suggested plan for this Program was critically important. She is looking forward to hearing more and is happy to see the literacy development skills are being discussed due to a challenging school year for K1-2 and we won’t know for a couple of years. She is glad we are doing these assessments. Mr. Schlichtman would like to see measurable outcomes and thinks a follow up before the end of the year which shows what progress was made, where corrections were made in the process.

8:15 p.m. K. Donato, principal at Thompson School, and her Assistant Principal C. Chevalier were present for this presentation. Ms. Donato gave an introduction to Thompson School and the Thompson Data Snapshot of Spring MCAS 2021. Thompson scored closely to the District level and higher than the State. Ms. Donato believes that it’s much more than the MCAS scores that are meaningful. She reviewed Thompson Priorities – Math for Black and Hispanic had significantly

declined and their focus is what can be done to change results. Ms. Donato discussed a two-question survey to students regarding race-related topics and news events related to race. “2021-22 School Priorities” include 3 Objectives: Math Discourse, School Climate and Culture, Equity and School Culture. Key initiatives and Actions Steps were presented. Current Resources available for sustainability and effectiveness and Must Haves/Needs to support Thompson’s School Improvement Goals were discussed. A Q&A was held with various questions from School Committee Members. Mr. Schlichtman commented that the report gave him a good sense of who Ms. Donato is and where Thompson School is. Len Kardon congratulated Thompson being on the list of great schools in Boston. Dr. Ampe asked if there were other resources that could be used and why is the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Student Discourse being considered vs. additional methods. Ms. Morgan thanked Ms. Donato and discussed the concerns about PBIS needs help in understanding whether this is a pivot or a progression.

8:45 Buffer Zone Report – Dr. Homan reviewed a report provided to School Committee members regarding buffer zone assignments in the APS for 2021-22 school year. The Buffer Zone Choice Assignments by School and Grade Level were shared. Over 90% of families are getting their first choice. A discussion followed where School Committee Members commented on the report distributed to the School Committee prior to the meeting.

8:57 p.m. Superintendent’s Report

State of the Schools – with Covid 19 update – only 3 cases this week and this is trending down. Town Data shows a slight uptick. We will follow the Town mandate for masks before we make masks optional and we will collaborate with Arlington Department of Health and Human Services, Board of Health as well as APS Nursing Department. Dr. Homan discussed the vaccination status of students and staff of APS. Eligibility and rates across the system are being considered as well when considering drop of mask mandate. No present updates and we will continue to be fully masked.

Dr. Homan discussed some good news items for the AHS varsity teams, the fall play Metamorphoses, the introduction of Kris Comeforo, Superintendent Intern. Ms. Exton asked about playground updates – Dr. Homan commented that Mr. Mason has been visiting the playgrounds, determining which are school playgrounds, where repairs are needed and Department of Public Works is involved. The Town, School and Rec Department are in collaboration.

9:09 – Revised Handbooks Second Read – R. MacNeal

Dr. Ampe's edit has been incorporated into the Gibbs handbook. Mr. Schlichtman moved to approval, seconded by Mr. Thielman. Roll call vote, Dr. Ampe, Mr. Kardon, Mr. Schlichtman, Ms. Exton, Mr. Thielman, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Hayner – Unanimous vote.

9:10 – Policy EBC Supplemental and Amendment – Second Read (R. Schlichtman) Moves to vote to approve the amendment, seconded by Ms. Exton. No further discussion. Roll Call: Morgan, Thielman, Exton, Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Kardon, Ampe, Hayner – Unanimous Vote.

9:11 Consent Agenda

Warrant 22064, dated 9/28/21, 757,798.06

Warrant 22078, dated 10/12/21, 4076

Mr. Schlichtman moved to accept, seconded by Dr. Ampe, Roll call vote, Dr. Ampe, Mr. Kardon, Mr. Schlichtman, Ms. Exton, Mr. Thielman, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Hayner. Unanimous approval.

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Meeting in the next week with Superintendent.

Community Relations, Liz Exton, A school committee chat is being held on 10/16. The Community Relations Subcommittee will meet Monday at 6 p.m. to discuss afterschool programs.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability, Len Kardon – A meeting will be held during the last week of October.

Facilities, Jeff Thielman – No report.

Policy & Procedures, P. Schlichtman – Mr. Schlichtman thanked the Committee Members for the EBC Policy vote.

Arlington High School Building Committee, Jeff Thielman, Kirsi Allison-Ampe – They Committee met last week and the project is moving forward and is on schedule.

Liaison Reports – Mr. Kardon briefly spoke on AEF Event on Tuesday at 5 p.m. to welcome Dr. Homan to Arlington

Announcements - none

Future Agenda Items - none

9:15 p. Mr. Hayner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman (OR Thielman). Roll Call Vote: Ms. Morgan, Mr. Thielman, Ms. Exton, Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Kardon, Dr. Ampe, Mr. Hayner.