

## **Arlington School Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 18, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

### **Approved:**

The regular Arlington School Committee meeting was held on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via remote participation over Zoom. Mr. Hayner, the Chairman and Dr. Allison-Ampe, Secretary were in attendance in addition to School Committee Members: Ms. Exton-Vice Chair, Mr. Kardon, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Thielman as well as Dr. E. Homan-Superintendent, Mr. R. Spiegel-Director of Human Resources, Ms. A. Elmer-Director of Special Education, Mr. M. Mason-Chief Financial Officer, S. Ferranti, AEA Representative, and AHS Student Representative, M. Carmody, E. Diggins, Administrative Assistant. Minutes from the October 28, 2021 School Committee Meeting were approved.

### **6:30 p.m. Open Meeting**

Mr. Hayner opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the following attendees present: Ms. Exton, Mr. Schlichtman, Dr. Ampe, Mr. Thielman, Mr. Kardon, Ms. Morgan, Dr. Homan, Mr. Mason, Mr. Spiegel, Ms. Elmer, M. Carmody, Student Rep, Sif Ferranti, AEA Rep, Sean Keane, ACMI, D. Ardito, K. Peretz, P. Tsatsoulis, E. Spinney, M. Hanna, T. Dingman and S. Karustis.

### **6:35 p.m. Public Comment**

Two Stratton parents spoke, one about the Stratton SLC and the space constraints of the building and the playground disrepair and the other about the Stratton space needs.

**6:41 P.M – The Hardy School Improvement Plan** was presented by K. Peretz and P. Tsatsoulis. The Hardy goals focused on equity and inclusion along with providing a safe environment for all the students. Principal Peretz opened with an introduction to the Hardy School, followed by the “wins” for the school which included school culture work, a commitment to school values and vision, building projects and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work being done. Hardy challenges are reflected in the minimal movement in the MCAS scores with high needs in the area of ELA & Math. Ms. Tsatsoulis described the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in place at the Hardy School which assesses student needs and appropriate interventions (which includes parent involvement). Principal Peretz continued with discussion on the 2021-22 Hardy School Priorities and the Key Initiatives and Action Steps for Literacy and School Culture. Ms. Tsatsoulis presented the Initiatives and Action Steps in more detail. The presentation ended with a Q&A for the SC Members. Various School Committee Members asked for additional clarification on the Hardy SIP and the request for a less “generic” Plan for next year. One member mentioned the parental concerns that have been voiced about the amount of testing and the strain/stress/time constraints on the teachers with these increased demands on the teachers.

**7:17 P.M. Stratton School Improvement Plan**, was presented by M. Hanna and E. Spinney. The presentation started with a School Check in, Things that glow, Things that grow, Focus Areas for 2021-2022, Key Initiatives and Resources, followed by a Q&A for the School Committee. Stratton has a steady student achievement and adult learning. They have maintained student achievement per MCAS data, they have had an effective implementation of a Responsible Classroom and Social Thinking throughout

the School and their Instructional Coach collaboration continues. Focus areas/priorities include math instruction, working with the physical plant limitations of the School. Resources requested included compensation for substitute teachers and long- and short-term plans for physical plant improvements. During the Q&A Mr. Thielman was surprised to see the issues with the facilities and the Subcommittee will meet on Monday to discuss. Mr. Schlichtman was disappointed with the Plan because it covered topics outside the aim of an SIP and asked for the Plan to be revised and be brought back to the Committee. Additional SC Members voiced their concerns about the space issues presented as well as the request for more space. One member asked about the substitute teacher salary increase request and Mr. Hanna explained his reasoning for the request. Mr. Hannah and Ms. Spinney left the meeting to attend their PTO meeting.

**7:46 P.M. Dallin Improvement Plan**, T. Dingman, Principal, gave an overview of the Dallin School, his partnership with the PTO, School Council and DEIG. School Culture is a priority with students, faculty and families. Principal Dingman commented about how we have persevered through a Pandemic! He reported that there is a strong commitment to improving literacy at Dallin. The MCAS scores in ELA improving for all students and Mathematics growth and achievement shows as an area of improvement.

Principal Dingman discussed the School Priorities for the 2021-2022 academic year including promoting literacy equity in grades K through 3 (with more explicit instruction), Mathematics improvement in grades 3, 4 & 5 (to reflect on and design mathematics classrooms), equity and school culture and a safe and supportive return to full-time, in-person instruction (by continuing to engage in discussions using the Panorama Survey Results and equip teachers with awareness and structure of how to engage in this work). Principal Dingman discussed the Key Initiatives and Actions Steps in the areas of Literacy, Mathematics and Equity and Culture. Mr. Dingman doesn't feel SIP's give an entire picture of things.

Mr. Schlichtman feels this is an outstanding SIP. Ms. Exton appreciates Mr. Dingman mentioning the Librarians in his presentation and asked if there are enough coaches to go around for the ACE blocks. Mr. Dingman explained how the process works with coaches.

Mr. Schlichtman made a motion and it was seconded to receive the Hardy and Dallin Plans. Mr. Schlichtman requested that the Stratton Plan be revised and resubmitted. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

Mr. Thielman moved and it was seconded to accept the Stratton Plan with modifications to be made by the Principal with Superintendent to review and approve revisions and present in Consent Agenda in the regular School Committee Meeting. Roll Call vote: Mr. Schlichtman, no, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes (6-1-0).

### **8:10 P.M. Approval of Job Descriptions**

After thanking and dismissing the Principals from the meeting, Dr. Homan discussed the job descriptions to be discussed by Mr. Spiegel. Mr. Spiegel then discussed each position individually and each position was voted by the School Committee as noted below:

#### **Approval of Assistant Athletic Director Job Description (R. Spiegel)**

Mr. Hayner made a motion and it was seconded to accept the Assistant Athletic Director Job Description. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Exton, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes. Unanimous.

#### **Approval of Senior Custodial Ground Position Job Description (R. Spiegel)**

Mr. Hayner made a motion and it was seconded to accept the Senior Custodial Ground Position Job Description. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes. Unanimous.

#### **Approval of Mental Health Assessment and Outreach Specialist Job Description (R. Spiegel)**

Mr. Hayner made a motion and it was seconded to accept the Approval of Mental Health Assessment and Outreach Specialist Job Description. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes. Unanimous.

#### **Approval of Certified Nursing Assistant Job Description (R. Spiegel)**

Mr. Hayner made a motion and it was accepted to accept the Approval of the Certified Nursing Assistant Job Description. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes. Unanimous.

#### **8:31 P.M. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Homan discussed the overview of COVID case rates and where we are relative to the Pandemic. Cases are going up, mirrored all over the Country. Dr. Homan thanked the Health and Human Services and APS for the vaccination clinics. Dr. Homan discussed the Thompson School ventilation, COVID Cases and Dismissal on 11/15/21. Community upticks mean school upticks. Dr. Homan spoke to the precautions to be taken during the Holiday Season. She would like to relax restrictions but only when we can have an 80% vaccination rate in addition to lower cases and positivity rates in the Town.

Dr. Homan discussed that the Panorama survey will be sent to all staff, students and families in December and results shared with families when the data is available. She congratulated the various Fall Athletic Teams on a record-breaking season, discussed the upcoming Districtwide Equity Audit, (the fantastic) Ottoson Fall Play and ended with Enrollments. Ms. Exton echoed Dr. Homan's appreciation for the Health & Human Services and APS vaccination efforts and would like Dr. Homan to share all of her travel recommendations with the community. Mr. Schlichtman has heard that the District has been very responsive to ventilation and heat and appreciates the rapid response given. Dr. Homan thanked the Town facilities team for their great job.

#### **8:41 P.M. Consent Agenda**

Warrant 22101, \$630,253.39,

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Ms. Morgan made a motion to approve and it was seconded to accept the warrant and minutes.

Roll Call vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

**8:40 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements**

Budget – Meeting on November 30 @ 1:45 p.m. via Zoom

Community Relations – nothing to report.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – Brief meeting was held.

Facilities – Meeting at 4 p.m. Monday, 11/22/21 to discuss Stratton

Policy and Procedures – Meeting on Monday, November 29 at 10 a.m. via Zoom

AHS Building Committee – Meeting on Tuesday, December, 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kardon asked about getting a briefing from Dr. Janger about the moving/transaction date. Dr. Homan suggested we add this to the Dec. 2 regular School Committee Meeting.

Liaison Reports – N/A

Announcements – Mr. Hayner reported the Rotary Club of Arlington awarded the Paul Harris Award to Peter Lundstrum, Alternative Ed Program at AHS.

Future Agenda Items – None

**Adjournment**

8:46 PM Mr. Hayner made a motion and it was seconded to adjourn and move into Executive Session and not to return to the regular meeting. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

The Regular School Committee Meeting ended and went into Executive Session

Respectfully submitted by,  
Elizabeth M. Diggins  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee