

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:

***Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2022
6:30 PM
DRAFT Minutes for Approval***

Conducted Remotely via Zoom

6:30 p.m.

Open Meeting

The regular School Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Hayner at 6:30 p.m. and he confirmed the attendance of the following: Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Homan, yes, Dr. MacNeal, yes, Mr. Spiegel, yes, Mr. Mason, yes, Ms. Elmer, yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, no. The minutes from the Regular School Committee Meeting from December 16, 2021 were approved.

Additional panelists included: S. Keane ACMI, M. Janger, Principal AHS, B. McCarthy, Assistant Principal, L. Swan, J. Keyes, AEA Representative, A. Chelariu, AHS Student Representative.

6:32 p.m.

Public Participation

No public participation was requested.

6:33 p.m.

AHS Student Representative – A. Chelariu

Not yet present.

6:35 p.m.

APS COVID Protocol – E. Homan

Dr. Homan explained that the two early release days which started the 2022 year were to get a handle on any staff shortages and better understand case rates to get kids back in person for a full, effective Wednesday; it was successful. There were a lot of staff out due to illness themselves, a family member or as a close contact situation. Dr. Homan reviewed the Revised Protocol A – Test to Return Policy which had already been discussed at length with the Health Department and the Administrative Team. Dr. Homan discussed why the decision was made to use the Test-to-Return policy and presented the APS Test-to-Return Results.

School Committee Member Ms. Exton thanked Dr. Homan and the APS team for their incredible work and thoughtfulness and noted that it is much appreciated. Dr. Homan responded that it has been an immense team effort.

6:45 p.m.

Arlington High School Program of Study – Mr. McCarthy

Dr. Homan introduced Dr. Janger and Mr. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy discussed the Program of Studies and Update from the sheet/list of new courses. MCAS Policy has been adjusted to remove the State changes that were made last year. The COVID adjustment made last year to the Wellness Education Policy – was made to pass/fail – is now removed as well. Mr. McCarthy also provided a brief review of some of the new courses being offered at AHS for the upcoming academic year. Two Programs -- Power of Protest, AM Recreational Sports – are being removed for lack of participation. Questions from various SC Members were answered by Mr. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy gave a large thank you to the Nursing Departments for their amazing work and discussed the first tour of the new building and the excitement from the teachers. Dr. Janger thanked Mr. McCarthy and his assistant J. Broughton. Dr. Janger took a moment to also commend the Deans who he said have made an all-out effort as well.

A motion to approve the Program of Study was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Kardon. Roll call vote: Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

6:54 p.m.

AHS Student Representative – Amy Chelariu

Ms. Chelariu apologized for being late and announced that she did not have any updates at this time.

6:55 p.m.

School Committee Budget Priorities (L. Kardon)

Mr. Kardon thanked all those involved for their presentations (AEA, Admin). Tighter budgeting period upcoming and he hopes that we can work in an affordable/well-structured manner in these challenging times while also being flexible. Ms. Exton feels that staffing to enrollment is a priority. Mr. Schlichtman had three points: funding collective bargaining agreement, more competitive low paying jobs and staffing to enrollment. Ms. Morgan felt that bargaining a good contract for the staff is a priority and wants to continue to add to the table where we can and understand the way bargaining works; if you are unable to bring enough money to the table you can't be flexible. Paraprofessional pay, salary study shows we are way off. Incremental changes will be needed but we should still try and chip away at that.

7:03 p.m.

FY23 Budget Acceptance (M. Mason)

Mr. Mason presented the FY23 Town Appropriation for the Schools next year which included the FY2020, FY221, FY2022 and FY2023 Budget Totals. The FY2023 total is \$84,447,869 (5.42% change from last year's budget). There was discussion whether to approve or acknowledge the bottom line.

A motion was made by Mr. Kardon and seconded by Ms. Morgan to acknowledge the Town Budget Appropriation of \$84,447,869 for FY2023 presented by Mr. Mason.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:07: p.m.

School Committee Meeting Dates – 2022-2023

Mr. Schlichtman explained that we are voting on the dates for 19 Thursday School Committee Meetings and that by voting on these dates here and now allows more than sufficient notice to prevent conflicts and not have to pull School Committee Members away from other meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Thielman to accept the 2022-2023 School Committee Dates.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:20

Policy BEDL – Land Acknowledgement – Second Read

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Ms. Exton to approve the BEDL Land Acknowledgement Second Read.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:21

Policy KFD Amendment – Second Read

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Thielman to approve the KFD Amendment Second Read.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:22 p.m.

Approval of MOA for AEA-Unit A Educator Evaluation for the 202-2022 Work Year

To support the changes to the educator evaluation agreement for 2021-2022 work year only

A motion was made by Mr. Spiegel and seconded by Ms. Exton to approve the MOA for AEA Unit A Educator Evaluations for the 2021-2022 Work Year.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:24 p.m.

Superintendent's Report – E. Homan

Dr. Homan discussed the COVID cases at APS as of 1/13/22 and explained that the uptick at APS reflects the uptick in the Community. There are less cases this point of the week than last week. Staffing challenges continue – just about the same as last week. Virus spread is primarily in households. We may begin to see a decline in case rates in next several days/weeks as shown in research being conducted. Dr. Homan voiced her appreciation and very much values the partnerships of everyone and appreciates the community and the all hands on deck approach.

APS Protocol to continue until at least Feb 1. KN95 masks have been distributed to many staff and students; not enough for all. We are expecting more home tests and additional Binax for Test to Return but there have been delays in shipments (but they are expected). Dr. Homan is grateful for the coverage/assistance from staff and community.

The Equity Audit is being worked on and candidates are being interviewed and it has now been narrowed down to a few candidates. For the Strategic Planning, they are working on an RFP for a Facilitator. For Budget Planning, they are in the process and thanked Mr. Mason for his work on this budget planning process. Dr. Homan asked for a delay in her Formative Assessment Submission for one more meeting due to the various issues that have come up over the past several weeks.

Mr. Hayner commended Ms. Homan's work and had no problem in delaying the formative assessment to next week. Mr. Schlichtman appreciates the extraordinarily busy time and moved to approve the delay in the submission by the Superintendent and it was seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, absent, Mr. Hayner, yes.

Ms. Keyes, the AEA Representative took a moment to comment about how proud she is to work in Arlington and voiced her appreciation for all for keeping Arlington schools open. She is grateful to be part of a team to be in this together. She added that the staff appreciates how things have been going as well.

7:29

Reappointment to Transportation Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Thielman to reappoint Ms. L. Swan to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Ms. Swan was not present but Mr. Schlichtman spoke on her behalf as he has worked with her and has confidence in the appointment.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:31

Consent Agenda

Warrant #22137 – \$819,215.30, December 12, 2021

Warrant #22148 - \$720,316.87, January 11, 2022

SC Regular Meeting Minutes, December 16, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Exton and seconded by Mr. Thielman for approval of all items in the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:32 p.m.

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements (B. Hayner)

Budget – Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair – Mr. Kardon reported that there are no new reports – asked for budget priorities to be forwarded to him.

Community Relations - Liz Exton, Chair - Chat on Tuesday at 9 a.m. – Grades 6-12.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – Len Kardon, Chair – Meeting scheduled for January 25.

Facilities – Jeff Thielman, Chair – no report.

Policy and Procedures – Paul Schlichtman, Chair – no report.

Arlington High School Building Committee, Jeff Thielman, Chair – Project is moving forward, on time.

7:33 p.m.

Ms. Swan arrived and was informed that she had been appointed.

Liaison Reports

Announcements

Future Agenda Items

7:38

Adjournment

Mr. Hayner asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Thielman made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins

Administrative Assistant to the School Committee