

**Arlington Public Schools**

**Arlington School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**

**6:30 p.m.**

**DRAFT**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Open Meeting**

The regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Mr. Hayner and he confirmed the attendance of the following School Committee Members: Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Dr. Homan, Superintendent, yes, Dr. MacNeal, Assistant Superintendent, yes, Mr. Spiegel, Human Resources Director, yes, Ms. Fernandes, AEA Representative, yes. Ms. Exton arrived shortly after the meeting began and the AHS Student Representatives were not in attendance.

**6:32 p.m.**

**Public Participation**

None.

**6:33 p.m.**

**Superintendent's Entry Plan Report**

Superintendent Homan shared her Entry Plan Findings Report. The goal of the Report is to uncover and share with the Committee what the Superintendent has learned; initial findings, themes that have emerged and what has come from the data analyzed over the past several months. The full report was distributed to the SC prior to the meeting. Dr. Homan discussed the methods process, the four overarching goal areas, key strengths and future directions on a number of those.

Student Achievements – these focus groups were the highlight of Dr. Homan's past few months and she discussed the feedback she received from the students, which included that they loved their teachers and appreciated the encouragement they received from them. They especially appreciate the opportunity to explore their own curiosities and interests. Opportunities for improvement included those for students with high needs, students on IEPs, people of color and the declining mathematic performance during the pandemic (although targets were exceeded in 2019 – last date of reporting).

The Superintendent reported that she is very encouraged by the report by staff that their wellbeing has improved as we return to in-person learning. Teachers (and families) also expressed a desire for some improvements for more consistent training and support. In regard to resources, infrastructure and the educational environment, families appreciate the safe and high quality of the Arlington Public Schools and a number of other program study opportunities. A major resource needed and continues to be improving salaries to be more competitive with neighboring communities/districts.

The operations, communications and stakeholder engagement strengths – came up in several interviews. The town/school collaborations are evident given operating overrides, focus groups. Families asked for feedback/acknowledgement AND partnership with follow up from administration.

After Dr. Homan's presentation an opportunity was given for a question and answer period. Dr. Homan and Dr. MacNeal answered accordingly.

**7:02 p.m.**

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Homan discussed the current COVID rates and cases and reports that school cases have gone down significantly. The APS revised Protocols were reviewed, including new testing programs. The changes were discussed and the focus is now on surveillance and response.

Other topics discussed by Dr. Homan included that Arlington Public Schools received a \$350K grant from DESE (which will be used mainly for social/emotional wellness), new polling locations for elections (which will now include a location at Gibbs and AHS for April, September and November elections) and a professional development partnership with Brandeis. Dr. Homan also reported that an AHS project forum was held with discussions on traffic and the upcoming move (lots of excitement about the new building). Dr. Homan finished her presentation with the enrollment report which included an increase in enrollment by 161 since October 2, 2020; an Increase of 40 since 12/11/21.

Dr. Homan then took questions from the SC members regarding enrollment and future COVID protocol communications.

**7:15 p.m.**

**EDCO Lease Settlement Discussion and Vote**

Mr. Hayner explained the document distributed earlier in the week. The negotiation had been completed and the Arlington assessment noted, which included a considerable reduction in what was expected. Mr. Hayner answered questions from various SC members accordingly prior to the final vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes. Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

**7:18 p.m.**

**Consent Agenda**

Warrant # 22161, January 25, 2022, \$566,161.11,  
Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 13, 2022

A motion to approve the warrant and regular school committee meeting minutes was made by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Dr. Ampe, abstain. Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

**7:20 p.m.**

**Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements**

Budget – K. Allen-Ampe, Chair – nothing to report for budget itself, but she was absent from our last SC Meeting. Her priority for 2023 is insuring Special Ed services meet the students' needs.

Community Relations – L. Exton, Chair – Another School Committee Chat coming up on January 29 @ 11 a.m. There was a week-day CHAT and the parents who attended appreciated that the kids weren't around during the meeting (rather than on a Saturday).

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – L. Kardon, Chair – CIAA Meeting was held on January 25. Mr. Kardon shared the content of that meeting and the next steps.

Facilities – J. Thielman, Chair – no report.

Policy & Procedures – P. Schlichtman, Chair – Mr. Schlichtman discussed a memo from D. Heim to the Select Board – government speech and maintaining control of our facilities. Our policy is aligned to our current way of thinking.

Arlington High School Building Committee, J. Thielman, Chair – Excellent forum held the other night. Tour of facility proved to be spectacular! On-time, on-budget. Next meeting February 1 @ 6 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Announcements – Polar Dunk raising money for Polio.

Future Agenda Items

**7:27 p.m.**

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner to move into Executive Session and seconded by Ms. Exton. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes. Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner to adjourn and it was seconded by Dr. Ampe. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes. Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

Respectfully Submitted

Elizabeth M. Diggins  
Arlington School Committee Administrative Assistant