

**Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 3, 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: Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Homan, yes, Mr. Spiegel, yes, Dr. MacNeal, yes, Mr. Mason, yes, Ms. Elmer, yes, AEA Representative, Ms. Ferranti, yes, AHS Student Representative, Ms. Carmody, yes. 6:34 p.m. Mr. Kardon joined the meeting at 6:34 p.m. The Arlington School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2022 were approved.

**6:34 p.m. Public Hearing on FY23 Budget**

Mr. Hayner opened the floor to public comment on the Budget. No comments were received.

**6:34 p.m. School Nurse Announcement.**

Dr. Homan introduced, Ms. Hassey, Director of the Northeastern University School Health Academy and on the MSNO Board as Chair of Scholarships and Awards. Ms. Hassey announced that our own nurse, Sarah Bott Lee, has been named Massachusetts School Nursing Organization School Nurse of the Year for 2021/2022. A number of individuals spoke about the incredibly valuable role the school nurses play in supporting our students, staff and our community and especially these past two years and congratulated Sarah on her award. Sarah spoke briefly and thanked everyone very much.

**6:42 p.m. AHS Student Representatives Megan Carmody**

Meghan is excited that they are hosting Battle of the Bands on March 18. All are welcome and tickets will be on sale soon. All the students love the new school and said that because it was so fancy it didn't feel like Arlington!

**6:43 p.m. Public Comment**

Mr. Hayner read the public comment parameters. Three speakers discussed their concerns which were all in regard to lifting the mask mandate. Speakers included: Michelle Orfanos, 19 Moccasin Path, Arlington, MA (Ms. Orfanos spoke to lift the mask mandates and feels they are harmful), Gina Carme, 55 Claremont Avenue, Arlington, MA, (Ms. Carme spoke to lift the mask mandates, including pre-school members) and Dolores McGee, who was uncomfortable providing her address, (who used her time to request that masks are dropped immediately with a mandate put in place that they will never again be put in place. She discussed the negative consequences involved. She also asked the vaccine be dropped for Arlington Community Ed.)

**6:55 p.m. Updated COVID19 Masking Recommendation**

Dr. Homan shared a presentation on her APS Revised Masking Recommendations and how we move forward. She discussed the time line of the various mask mandates being lifted in the Town, and nationwide (CDC), and because we are in the low level/in the green, restrictions are not necessary. She discussed the vaccination rates of the APS students and staff as well as the pool testing and at home testing. Thus, because of the continual decrease in cases the decision is to make masks optional as of March 7, 2022 for all students and staff. Exceptions to the optional mask policy is for all staff and students at Menotomy Preschool and APS daycares, school buses and vans, health offices, anyone who has had COVID and are still within the 10 day period. Dr. Homan discussed her decision for the masking in these facilities (e.g., not vaccinated, health problems). A mask exemption form can be submitted to the Superintendent. Testing continues and cases are recorded. Dr. Homan would like the opportunity to re-mask, social distance, repeat tests, etc., if needed due to outbreaks.

School Committee Members discussed the presentation by Dr. Homan and voiced their appreciation for her hard work and attention to these matters. There was discussion on the Community Ed Policy, the mandate for preschools and various input on optional masking as of March 7.

Mr. Thielman made a motion to accept the Superintendent's proposal and it was seconded by Mr. Schlichtman. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

#### **7:23 p.m. Literacy Report**, R. MacNeal

Dr. MacNeal discussed that this report is based on feedback from the Community. Dr. MacNeal shared the recent updates and future plans for the APS K-5. Specifically, Dr. MacNeal reviewed the current updates, shared what's on the horizon and then opened the meeting for comments and questions.

Dr. MacNeal discussed the foundation for the APS Literacy Instruction and displayed a time line of the past and future work. He thanked the many Teachers, Coaches and Directors (Literacy Team) for their work with this program as well as the teachers for their implementation in quite a short period of time. Dr. MacNeal offered resources for the Report.

Dr. Homan and School Committee Members commented on their appreciation for the work and how quickly the adjustments were made. A discussion of the report and the specifics of the process took place with Dr. MacNeal and the School Committee Members. Dr. MacNeal mentioned that the winter literacy assessments were just completed and the data not yet interpreted.

Mr. Kardon moved to accept the report and it was seconded by Dr. Ampe. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

#### **8:00 p.m. Superintendent's Evaluation**, B. Hayner

Mr. Hayner thanked the Committee for the formative assessments from all members and opened the floor to comments. Dr. Homan thanked the Committee for their reflections and their insights, ideas and her continued work as Superintendent.

**8:01 p.m. School Calendar**, E. Homan

Dr. Homan explained that the adjustments were made as suggested (e.g., conference dates, bottom key and times for early releases). A motion was made by: J. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Kardon to approve the school calendar. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

**8:04 p.m. Job Description for Approval**, E. Homan

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services – Dr. Homan described the new position role and the restructuring of Central Office.

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

**8:09 Interest of Member(s) to Hold Office**, B. Hayner

Mr. Hayner asked that SC Members let Mr. Hayner and Ms. Diggins know that they are interested in holding a position.

**8:10 p.m. Return to in person/hybrid School Committee Meetings**, (B. Hayner)

Mr. Hayner discussed returning to in-person meetings in the School Committee Room. Mr. Kardon asked if the public would be attending. It was noted that it would be difficult for the public to come in person and Dr. Homan discussed access at the front of the building. Ideas/costs are being discussed for the public to join. Dr. Ampe requested that it be a hybrid meeting and Mr. Hayner said absolutely. If we don't have arrangements made by March 17 (proper training, an entrance for the public and ACMI arrangements), in-person/hybrid meetings will resume March 31.

**8:17 Superintendent's Report** (E. Homan)

Dr. Homan shared the statistics of COVID case rates of APS, displayed some photos of the new AHS STEAM wing (gorgeous) now open, Strategic Planning RFPs, Leadership Instructional Rounds from Feb/March and Enrollment Reports. Ms. Morgan spoke to the complexity of the buffer zones process.

**8:22 p.m. Consent Agenda** (B. Hayner)

Warrant #22183, 922,184.41, Dated 2/22/2022

Regular School Committee Minutes, 2/10/2022

A motion was made by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Exton to approve Warrant #22183 and the Regular School Committee Minutes from February 10, 2022. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes.

**Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements** (B. Hayner)

- Budget – nothing to report

- Community Relations – Ms. Exton gave an update on the latest SC Chat; it was a very busy meeting. Next chat in April.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – Mr. Kardon reported that a meeting is scheduled for March 29 @ 4 p.m.
- Facilities – Mr. Thielman will work with Mr. Mason to discuss the playgrounds.
- Policy and Procedures – Meeting in the near future. Some pure housekeeping on policies that need to be fixed to cross reference the Land Acknowledgement and the SC stipends in July. MASC civil rights to go over AC non-discrimination so we need to make adjustments. Clear the EBC Policy for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Arlington High School Building Committee – building is open, it's exciting. A draft suggested policy about a protocol for naming the inside of the AHS Building. Consider naming/dedication to Brian Rehrig.
- Liaison Reports - none
- Announcements – The Chair survived the Polar Dunk.
- Future Agenda Items – none

**TIME Adjournment.** A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Thielman. Dr. Ampe, yes, Ms. Exton, yes, Mr. Kardon yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Ms. Morgan yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes Mr. Hayner.