

**Arlington School Committee
School Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

DRAFT

6:30 p.m. Open Meeting (L. Exton)

The regular School Committee Meeting was called to order by Ms. Exton and she confirmed the attendance of the following School Committee Members: Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Dr. Ampe, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Ms. Exton, yes.

Administration: Dr. Janger, yes, Dr. Homan, yes, Dr. MacNeal, yes, Mr. Spiegel, yes, Mr. Mason, yes, Ms. Elmer, absent. AEA Representative, Julianna Keyes, yes, AHS Student Representative, Amy Chelariu, yes. The Arlington School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes and Arlington School Committee Organizational Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2022 were approved.

6:33 p.m. School Committee Public Hearing on School Choice (L. Exton)

Ms. Exton referred to the APS policy to not admit non-resident students under the Terms and Conditions of the Interdistrict School Choice Law under the Massachusetts General Law 76, Chapter 12. This is done annually, prior to June 1. There was no public input on school choice. Mr. Schlichtman made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner for the Superintendent to notify DESE of the decision made by the School Committee for the reason of no available seats.

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

6:35 p.m. Nomination and Election of Vice Chair (L. Exton)

Mr. Schlichtman announced that he is withdrawing his candidacy for Vice Chair of the School Committee because he may not run for School Committee next year. Ms. Morgan nominated and it was seconded by Mr. Kardon to nominate Dr. Allison-Ampe for the position of Vice Chair for the School Committee 2022-2023 year.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Hayner, abstain, Mr. Kardon, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Ms. Exton, yes. (6 affirmative and 1 abstention)

Dr. Allison-Ampe was announced Vice Chair of the Arlington School Committee for 2022-2023.

6:38 p.m. Public Comment

Ms. Exton read the public comment parameters. Janine Duffy spoke to the Committee on the topic of downsizing of teachers and increasing class sizes and stated that she is firmly against getting rid of any teacher or making class sizes bigger.

6:40 p.m. AHS Student Representatives (A. Chelariu)

Amy had not yet arrived so this portion of the meeting was moved.

6:43 p.m. Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Survey Report (J. Dombrosky)

J. Dombrosky, Secretary of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) introduced the Members of this volunteer committee and explained their duties. All public school districts are required to have this Special Education Parent Advisory Council. Ms. Dombrosky discussed a survey that was sent (on line and in English only). Ms. Barton reviewed the survey results which included response demographics (current IEP or 504 plan, student grade level, disability category and placement percentage). Ms. Barton showed the results of the Communication and Transparency results of the survey as well. Ms. Hwang discussed the qualitative of the open-ended questions which included key takeaways (strengths/concerns) and next steps. A Q&A took place with members/SEPAC volunteers.

Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Kardon, Dr. Ampe and Ms. Morgan thanked the SEPAC members for their services and elaborated on topics such as communications, student support services, need for two team chairs, coordinators, revolving door/turnover, and transparency.

6:45 p.m. AHS Student Representative Amy Chelariu arrived.

7:10 p.m. AHS Student Representatives (A. Chelariu)

Amy reported that AHS spring sports in the middle of the season and everyone is doing really, really well. Overall people are feeling that April break was well loved and appreciated. People are happy that we are ending school on a Friday this year. Right now most people are thinking about the end of the year and starting next year – saying goodbye to the seniors and welcoming the freshman.

7:13 p.m. District Suspensions and School Discipline Reports (R. MacNeal)

Dr. Homan reports that these reports focus on the last school year and we may see previews of next year, but obviously this year is not over yet.

Elementary – Dr. MacNeal presented the Elementary School report which starts on the 19/20 school year. Between 9/19-4/22 – there was only one elementary out-of-school suspension (20/21 was hybrid/remove due to COVID) and elaborated on the behavior support systems that are in being put in place due to the impact of COVID on social/emotional learning and mental health development. Principals developed action plans based on the data they have received and will customize their surveys accordingly. Dr. MacNeal displayed various graphs on Elementary Discipline data for 19-20, 20-21 and 21-22 data thru April, 2022. He applauded the Admin and Staff in the Elementary Schools for their work. Dr. MacNeal noted that the previous multi-year discipline report was up to 18/19. Mr. Hayner, Ms. Morgan

Gibbs – Madame Pierre-Maxwell presented the Gibbs School Approach to Discipline, how they are doing supporting the students and their approach to discipline. The students are back full

time, the teachers have done an excellent job. She discussed the current Multi-tiered Approaches being used at Gibbs including the MTSS Leadership Team meetings, Weekly Learning Community Meetings and the Social Emotional Wellness Team work which function in synch with each other. She presented the data for 2020-2021/2022 which included information on detentions, interventions, logical consequences, external suspensions, in-school suspensions and broke down the students by race. The graphic data was displayed along with the Next Steps planned which included survey analysis, audits, survey distribution and continued training.

Ottoson – Mr. Meringer presented the Ottoson School Discipline Report which covered the last three years; he doesn't have an updated report but voiced that things are on the same trajectory with the last three years. Mr. Meringer's view on discipline is that all students feel physically, emotionally and psychologically safe at school. Students make mistakes – as we all do – and, when possible, would like students to take responsibility for their mistake and fix any harm it has caused (restorative justice). Mr. Meringer reviewed the analyzed data and reported on the rates of suspension by gender, education status and race and reported that the majority of suspensions were in-school suspensions. The Suspensions from 2018-2019 were due mostly to vaping. Mr. Meringer showed that the suspension data tracked with detention data. 2019-2022 – biggest conflict was student conflict (student altercations). Mr. Meringer presented a combined look at three years and ended his formal presentation with next steps to be taken at Ottoson which included professional development, administrative team meetings, identifying student needs and ways to make students feel successful in school and have a sense of belonging.

Madame Pierre-Maxwell and Mr. Meringer were asked specific questions by various School Committee Members and answered accordingly.

Arlington High School – Principal Janger joined/presented to the SC Meeting remotely. Dr. Janger thanked the SC Members for the opportunity to speak. His presentation covered discipline and discipline data 2018-2021 (3 year trend before the Pandemic). Dr. Janger reported that all of the Schools in Arlington have shifted away from a punitive approach to discipline. He spoke about interpreting the discipline data and the responses. They have eliminated the use of suspensions for anything except serious infractions so that students are not separated from school. He believes that kids can be successful; skill not will. There is a consistent reduction in challenging behavior. A slide showing 2017-2020 discipline trends reflected significant reductions across the board. Dr. Janger discussed the trends with a month-to-month reflection. Discipline trends in SY 2020-21 (predominantly remote) were discussed with the most challenging behavior being around attendance and engagement. SY 2021-22 overall discipline and suspension numbers remain low. This school year felt more like a rebuilding of the whole school culture. A COVID 19 Mental Health Screener was conducted in January. Dr. Janger reviewed focus of the three CPS Plans A (disciplinary consequences – do this or else, doesn't build skills), B (effort to work collaboratively with the students to meet Admin Expectations and meets the student needs, reduces challenging behavior, builds skills and helping relationships), C (reduce the expectations and not hold students accountable for certain behavior which is useful when a student is not able to meet expectations, is not disruptive to others and is safe. CPS Training in 2020-2021 was explained but the Chair asked that Dr. Janger focus on the discipline portion of his presentation and skipped over data until a slide showing out-of-school and in-school suspensions for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 with the lowest in

2018-2019. Dr. Janger discussed Equity Concerns and Things to Track. And, finalizing the presentation was a discussion on the Next Steps for Programming. The presentation ended and was opened up to a Q&A. Various questions were asked by School Committee Members and a discussion took place.

Dr. MacNeal thanked the speakers for these reports. Mr. Hayner thanked Dr. Homan and Dr. MacNeal as well.

8:38 Monthly Financial Report (M. Mason)

Mr. Mason presented his Monthly Financial Report for the District as of April 25. He started with the General Fund; the remaining balance (somewhat fluid) of \$604,074 will be recommended to be used for FY23 OOD Tuition. Driving Factors (+/-) and Variances and Projected Expenditures were explained by Mr. Mason. The Special Revenue and Revolving Funds have a remaining balance of over \$4.4 million. The final slide was an overview of the Grants; \$5.4 Million was awarded. There is about \$1.7 million to be carried over. A Q&A was opened and various members asked questions and Mr. Mason answered accordingly. There are 7 vacancies in the Facilities Department which are hard to fill because of salaries.

8:45 p.m. Superintendent's Report (E. Homan)

The Superintendent gave a COVID update - significant uptick after the break but has been on the decline this week. Windows open at schools, going outside more. Some positive pools have come in this week and the cases are isolated. Overall, things are going OK, but some staff challenges due to illness but it's leveling out.

Dr. Homan next presented a Strategic Planning Update – the first meeting was held on 4/12, virtually. The second meeting was held in-person on 4/26 and the next meeting is on 5/9 where they will analyze vision and mission statements. It's gotten off to a great start; it's a big group, very well organized.

Dr. Homan announced the 2022 SILS Awards – Middlesex League Award – given to two AHS students. She thanked the Admin Assistants in APS for all their work as it is Admin Assistants Day. She offered information on upcoming LABBB events which included the Special on May 16 and graduation on June 9 and June 13. The Administrative hiring searches going on right now are about to be posted/posted today and reviewed the various open positions. Dr. Homan referred SC Members to their folders for the Enrollment Reports.

Ms. Morgan acknowledged her appointment to Chair as the CIAA Subcommittee and asked some questions regarding the district goals, subgoals, understandable pressure to do so to get the goals to teachers before they leave for break so they can do their work. She asked about the goals and that we all understand where we are going. Dr. Homan answered accordingly.

8:55 p.m. SC Rep for 2025 Patriot's Day Celebration (L. Exton)

Ms. Exton brought forth a plan for a semiquincentennial celebration – a detail about the plan is in Novus and the need for a Member. The Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting will need to discuss. It doesn't have to be a School Committee Member to be a Member of the celebration. Mr. Hayner will contact Mr. Hurd and get the full details and report back to the Committee ASAP.

8:57 p.m. Consent Agenda (L. Exton)

Warrant #22232, April 19, 2022, \$758,570.10

Regular School Committee Minutes, April 14

Organizational School Committee Meeting Minutes, April 14

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Thielman to approve the Warrant, Regular School Committee Meeting and Organizational School Committee Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2022.

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

9:00 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements (L. Exton)

- Budget – Dr. Allison-Ampe – Arranging a meeting next week or the week after.
- Community Relations – Mr. Hayner - A meeting will be set up ASAP.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – Ms. Morgan - A plan will be made imminently.
- Facilities – J. Thielman – When they get the reports back from Ottoson they will schedule a meeting (probably later in May).
- Policy and Procedures – P. Schlichtman - Will schedule a meeting when the Superintendent returns from her Conference.
- Arlington High School Building Committee – J. Thielman - 540 people signed up for the tour so far and they asked for volunteers.

- Liaison Reports – Mr. Kardon: AEF 5K coming up – May 15 - registration full.
- Announcements – Mr. Hayner - 3rd Grade mock town meeting next week at Town Hall.
- Future Agenda Items – Ms. Keyes - AEA wants time to discuss potential endorsement for a Fair Share Amendment.

9:02 p.m. Adjournment to Move to Executive Session.

A motion was made by Ms. Exton and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to move into Executive Session to approve Executive Session Minutes from the regular School Committee Meeting on April 14, 2022 and to discuss AEA Negotiations.

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