

**Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Thursday, May 12, 2022  
6:30 p.m.**

**DRAFT**

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

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, Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Hayner, Liz Exton, yes.

Administration: Dr. Homan, yes, Dr. MacNeal, yes, Mr. Spiegel, yes, Mr. Mason, yes, Ms. Elmer, yes, AEA Representative, Julianna Keyes, yes, AHS Student Representative, Megan Carmody.

**6:35 p.m. Public Comment** (L. Exton)

Ms. Exton read the public comment parameters. Ms. Cheryl Miller spoke about the DEI Job Description and had a concern that the opportunity did not contain representation for individuals with disability.

**6:37 p.m. AHS Student Representatives** (M. Carmody)

Ms. Carmody gave an update on the Student Council – working on transition from current to new members. She also reported that the masking mandate at AHS has been going fairly well and students understand the reasoning.

**6:39 p.m. Afterschool Programming Report** (L Homan)

Ms. Exton explained that the afterschool programming update is reported under Policy KFB which asks the superintendent to provide the School Committee with afterschool space and use through APS buildings. This is a snapshot in time.

The Superintendent shared a presentation covering the Afterschool Programming Report, with a specific focus on waitlist and enrollments as well as next steps to be taken to expand the before and after school care in Arlington. Vendor programs, 2021-2022, almost all families were accepted at the start of the school year with the exception of the Gibbs Kid Care Program. She presented a projection for the 2022-2023 school year which showed more spots open, but waitlist increases. Most significant waitlists are currently Dallin and Brackett Schools. For APS Programs for 2021-2022, we had 91 students who were still on the wait list at the end of the year. Challenges with staffing were the reason. Hourly wages were raised to attract candidates. Space wasn't the challenge, but rather the staffing. The 2022-2023 APS Program enrollment has approximately 100 spots but the current waitlist is larger as well.

Pre-COVID capacity was presented and Dr. Homan says that they are looking to expand if staffing can support additional openings. Next steps include collecting/compiling financial summaries (being done now), having building-based after school programming meetings during May and June, investigating before-school programming, potential models for full-time, shared positions for AASP to help with recruitment, retention and lunch supervision. They are currently recruiting AASP staff. A Q&A followed the presentation and Dr. Homan answered accordingly.

**6:44 p.m. AEA Resolution on Fair Share Amendment** (J. Keyes)

Ms. Keyes spoke on the proposed resolution which will be voted on in November. She explained the ramifications if the Fair share Amendment is not passed and asked the School Committee for their support.

A motion to endorse the Amendment was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner.

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

**6:50 p.m. Approval of Job Description – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist** (L. Homan)

Dr. Homan hopes that we can move forward with this position with any changes suggested by the School Committee. They have revised the language in the job description and explained there was no intent to leave anyone out. Inclusive classrooms and making sure all students have what they need.

Dr. Homan opened the floor to questions and or recommendations from the Committee and discussed the process of attracting qualified candidates, explaining that the specialist will be in an AEA role and that any discrimination reports will go through Dr. MacNeal. Other questions were asked by various SC Members which included one request to wait two weeks to do a little more work on the description. The job description will be brought back for some work to the CIAA Meeting for approval and then bringing it to the Administration to post, with a note pending SC approval.

**7:00 p.m. Superintendent's Report** (L. Homan)

**COVID Update**

Dr. Homan presented the COVID cases at an APS and discussed the new indoor masking requirements due to the rising numbers. We want to continue to operate safely and effectively and keep schools fully staffed. The main reason for masking remains to keep services going and end-of-year events happening. Cases are threatening staffing level. Masking mandates are instituted on a short-term basis and re-evaluated based on current conditions.

### **Strategic Planning Update**

The third meeting was held on May 9. Dr. Homan spoke about the analysis so far and the themes emerging from the analysis. Two more sessions next week (May 16 & May 17).

### **Deeper Learning Dozen Conference**

Dr. Homan and Dr. MacNeal spoke about the Deeper Learning Dozen Conference they and other members of the Administration attended. She thanked the School Committee for their support in having the Administration attend the Conference which was held in British Columbia. The Team visited elementary, middle and high schools and learned how vision, mission and deeper learning is implemented across this large district (large number of indigenous communities) and how to implement the principals and frameworks district wide.

### **Other Updates**

Dr. Homan offered additional updates on appreciation celebrations that have taken place, an adjustment that was made to the start to the school day for the Elementary schools and the reasoning for earlier start vs. later end of school day. She reminded the community that all levels are having Wednesday early release days in 2022-2023. She talked about the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Canobie Lake Park which might require an adjustment to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school day to accommodate using Arlington Transportation (thus the impact on release dates/time). METCO bus schedules were discussed as well; no problem anticipated.

### **Update on Administrative Hiring Searches**

- Director of Wellness – finalist interviews this week – final candidate will be announced very soon.
- Director of Visual Arts (interviews this week).
- AHS SPED Coordinator (initial interviews this week).
- Director of History and Social Studies and Brackett Assistant Principal positions are posted.

### **7:15 p.m. Consent Agenda** (L. Exton)

Warrant #22242, May 3, 2022, \$567,010.50

Regular School Committee Minutes, April 28, 2022

Approval of the Ida Robbins Scholarship, 2022

Approval of the E. Nelson Blake Book Award, 2022

A motion was made by Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner to approve all Consent Agenda Items.

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

**7:20 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements** (L. Exton)

- Budget – Dr. Allison-Ampe – meeting next week.
- Community Relations – Mr. Hayner – nothing to report.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – Ms. Morgan – meeting scheduled for next week.
- Facilities – J. Thielman – not available.
- Policy and Procedures – P. Schlichtman - scheduling in process.
- Arlington High School Building Committee – J. Thielman – not available. Dr. Allison-Ampe reported that demolition is underway, updates show pictures of what's going on. Things are going reasonable well.
- Liaison Reports –none.
- Announcements – Mr. Hayner gave a brief update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Mock Town Meeting.
- Future Agenda Items – none

**7:25 p.m. Adjournment to Move to Executive Session** (L. Exton)

A motion was made by Ms. Exton and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to move into Executive Session. Ms. Exton announced that we will not be returning to the Regular School Committee.

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