

**Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 9, 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. Hayner, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes, Ms. Exton, yes.

Administration attending: Dr. Homan, yes, Dr. MacNeal, no, Mr. Spiegel, yes, Mr. Mason, yes, Ms. Elmer, yes, AEA Representative, Sif Ferranti, yes.

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

Ms. Exton read the public comment parameters. Ms. Julie Hall (in person) spoke to advocate for resuming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Camp. She believes the Program builds confidence, especially now after COVID. She offered some experiences that can't be replicated in the classroom (evening hikes, putting away their own clothes, eco system). Ms. Hall asked that these Public Comment sessions be more of a discussion than a one-way delivery.

Ms. Elizabeth Pyle (via Zoom), her first time speaking at SC. She asked that we bring back 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Camp/overnight. She feels her daughter's experience was the highlight of her elementary school years. It made Science learning fun and the children now should have the similar experience. One of her recommended locations was Nature's Classroom Facility.

Dr. Homan spoke about alternative experiences which could happen during the school day. She spoke to the overnight experience for students being the special part, a social emotional part and does not want to lose these things. We are not able to do what we originally planned to do. We plan to try something next year. We are open to a discussion/dialogue to include accessibility (for all students to include services and supports), logistics (coordination is a major task, staffing), purpose (what is the goal?). Not shutting down the conversation and wanting to get this dialogue started next year.

**AEF Update** (J. Geyer)

Ms. Geyer thanked the School Committee for their support this year. Donors and volunteers appreciated the School Committee attendance and participation in AEF events. They appreciate Dr. Homan's and Ms. Dunn's help assuring that their funding is aligned with the district priorities.

AEF is 12 volunteers, in addition to Ms. Exton, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Diaz and Ms. Brubaker. 30% of their spending is spent on district improvement, as well as Development and Expansion Grants

(K-2), Innovations (requested by teachers-elementary and secondary) many from non-core course teachers and Scholar Awards. She discussed FY22 Development and Expansion Grants.

Various members of the School Committee thanked AEF for their work and partnership.

**7:03 p.m. METCO Update** (R. Smith)

Ms. Smith, the METCO Director, spoke about the METCO Program Structure and the Vision and Mission of the Program. She discussed the various METCO Member positions as well as the number of students served in the Program (70 students participating). She presented the employee highlights/affiliations as well as the student highlights/updates (4 graduated seniors, 7 students who had participated in their METCO DAYL Conference and 3 students who had participated in the Ottoson Anniversary. She also outlined the various student involvement/activities ranging from elementary to high school. She explained the New Program Implementations and Connections which included an internship for the 22/23 academic year, employment opportunities for AHS Seniors and AYCC provided gift certificates. METCO presentations were key in spreading the Arlington METCO News at the elementary schools in Arlington, which included 10 family meetings, an Art Night, Annual Family Walk, school-based celebrations and more. Five students participated in the Ottoson Day on a panel discussion and Ms. Smith served as a moderator for the student panel discussion. The METCO Slogan: “Learning together, working together for better education.” Ms. Smith presented a number of upcoming events (one of which is riding the bus with the Superintendent!).

Various School Committee Members thanked Ms. Smith for all of her work and specific questions about the incoming and outgoing students, cost, and enrollment

**7:30 p.m. DEI Update** (M. Credle-Thomas)

Ms. Credle-Thomas thanked everyone for having her here tonight and noted that she has been in this role since August, 2021. She presented the DEI Core Values – Integrity, Innovative and Inclusion. She gave an overview of her work in the past year which included listening sessions, meetings with various Commissions, Directors and Groups in addition to the undertaking of a district equity audit. She also held workshops, graduate courses, an all-day retreat, school walkthroughs and classroom observations with building-based leadership.

This past year, Ms. Credle-Thomas attended the Deeper Learning Dozen Conference and became a Member of various Programs. She partnered with ACMI for “DEI Matters Conversations.” Ms. Credle-Thomas held Monday meetings with Ottoson Admin and Ms. Smith and Ottoson will have their Committee do this again next year. Ms. Credle-Thomas plans to look into how this can expand to other schools.

Ms. Credle-Thomas discussed next steps which included work to review, analyzing and sharing the Equity Audit recommendations, hiring a DEI Specialist and launching a DEI website.

Members of the Committee asked questions and Ms. Credle-Thomas answered accordingly.

**7:55 p.m. First Read-Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives for Five-Year Strategic Plan** (E. Homan)

Dr. Homan started her presentation by noting that everything is in DRAFT form. Additional feedback is expected and will be included on June 23 when we can finalize strategic priorities and the vision and mission statements. She offered a timeline from June, 2022 – January, 2023 (final approval and work begins) Dr. Homan shared the DRAFT Vision Statement and explained the meaning behind the statement. She offered the DRAFT Mission Statement which included four priorities. She explained each priority along with the possible 5-year actions steps that could be included. A Q&A began with various questions/comments from the School Committee Members. Some of the input included removing some of the wording, including a deadline to edits and shortening the mission statement. Members appreciated the Superintendent's work with the community.

**Job Description Approval** (A. Elmer)

Ms. Elmer explained how this Program works and how the District will provide this position. Mr. Spiegel suggested adding "or other Community Colleges in the State" in the position description in the event that we want to expand to other colleges.

A motion was made by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Kardon to approve the Job Description.

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.

**Monthly Financial Report** (M. Mason)

Mr. Mason presented the Monthly Financial Report. He started with the General Fund Report which has a remaining balance of approximately \$21K (will be changing to \$70K). He showed the driving factors and projected expenditures. The Special Revenue and Revolving Fund items were presented (with a remaining balance of approx. \$5.2 million). Mr. Mason shared the information on Grants, with a total awarded, expended and encumbered as well as projected expenditures and the remaining balance of COVID19 money. Mr. Mason shared that budget transfers will be handled in the next meeting.

Mr. Mason explained that the last EDCO meeting was held and that we can expect some reimbursement for being overcharged which will go to Free Cash or to the School Committee. Dr. Homan announced that Mr. Mason was accepted into an MBA Program today.

Dr. Allison-Ampe asked what is needed for the next SC Meeting and Mr. Mason suggested a Budget Subcommittee Meeting within the next week.

### **8:50 p.m. Superintendent's Report** (E. Homan)

#### **COVID Update**

The Superintendent presented the COVID status which shows that the rates have gone down significantly in the Arlington Public Schools with a down turn in the Arlington Community as well.

#### **Hiring**

A number of Administrative Hiring Searches are going on and some positions have been filled – K-12 Wellness Director, K-12 Visual Arts Director. Other positions are in the final stages and/or posted. Dr. Homan also reported that the expectations for Administrator Hiring have been posted as well.

#### **Updates**

Dr. Homan presented her updates which covered the Class of 2022 graduation, Science Camp discussion, Before School Programming, Website Stakeholder Survey and the Deeper Learning Dozen Conference Membership. Dr. Homan stated that they are watching enrollment numbers for the incoming 4th and 5th grade sections at Stratton and referred Members to Novus for the enrollment status.

Dr. Homan answered questions from School Committee Members regarding the AHS website, and Science Camp communications.

### **9:13 p.m. Discussion and Approval – School Committee Letter to Select Board, RE: Traffic Safety Concerns** (P. Schlichtman)

Mr. Schlichtman presented his reasons for submitting a letter to the Select Board regarding problematic traffic issues in the Town. Mr. Schlichtman moved to allow the Chair to submit a letter to the Select Board regarding Traffic Safety Concerns and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner,

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.

### **9:16 p.m. Discussion/First Read School Committee Presentation Calendar SY22-23** (E. Homan)

Ms. Exton presented a first read of the School Committee Presentation Calendar and asked for feedback to be submitted to Ms. Diggins. It was noted that some of the items will be referred to Subcommittees.

### **9:19 p.m. Discussion on School Committee Summer Workshop** (L. Exton)

Ms. Exton shared her thoughts about what could be done for the workshop to include a reflection on the first year working with Dr. Homan, Strategic Plan discussions as a Committee and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop for the Members. Mr. Schlichtman suggested CIAA work, over- reaching goals, sustaining relationships, and coming back together; he's missed the physical presence of being with colleagues. Ms. Morgan wants to talk about the implications of the override. Dr. Allison-Ampe likes the idea of a DEI Workshop. Mr. Hayner thinks it's a good idea to be together. Mr. Thielman is glad we have two days with two/three-hour sessions.

He thinks the DEI workshop is pretty broad; he's not opposed to it, but he agrees with Ms. Morgan to start to have conversations now about their position on the override.

**9:26 p.m. Consent Agenda** (L. Exton)

Warrant #: 22269, May 31, 2022, \$725,687.70

Regular Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2022

Ms. Exton presented two consent agenda items to the Committee and asked for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Kardon to approve the consent agenda items.

No 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.

**9:30 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements** (L. Exton)

- Budget – Dr. Allison-Ampe – None.
- Community Relations – Mr. Hayner – On June 11 a School Committee Chat was held.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – Ms. Morgan – A meeting was held and more will be scheduled. They hope to meet on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss mission and vision statements.
- Facilities – J. Thielman – He is going to try to set up a meeting.
- Policy and Procedures – P. Schlichtman - There will be a meeting on June 15.
- Arlington High School Building Committee – J. Thielman – Everything is going great.
  
- Liaison Reports – None.
- Announcements – Mr. Hayner commended students and staff at Ottoson for the Memorial Day Celebration.
- Future Agenda Items – Discussion of 22/23 goals, first read; they need to be on the June 23 meeting agenda. School Committee Chat – brief discussion on whether we stay on Zoom or Go Live.
- Legal Services Subcommittee – Bill Hayner/Len Kardon – we are switching counsel.

Mr. Kardon made a motion to approve the new counsel, and then withdrew it. The vote will be at the next meeting. No vote was actually taken.

**9:35 p.m. p.m. Adjournment to Move to Executive Session** (L. Exton)

A motion was made by Ms. Exton and seconded by Mr. Hayner to move into Executive Session. Ms. Exton announced that we will not be returning to open session.

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