

**Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 23, 2022  
6:30 p.m.**

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

Ms. Exton opened the meeting and confirmed that all Members were present, in addition to Dr. Homan, Mr. Mason, Ms. Elmer, M., Keyes, AEA Representative. She acknowledged that all School Committee Members are present tonight so it is not necessary to do Roll Call Votes this evening. Next, Ms. Exton announced that this is the last meeting of the academic year and thanked Dr. Homan for her first year with the School and presented her with a bouquet of flowers to reflect the appreciation of the School Committee. Dr. Homan thanked everyone and voiced her appreciation for her Teams!

**6:35 p.m. Recognition of National History Day Competition Winners (E. Homan)**

Mr. Levy introduced the National History Day competition and the students who spent countless hours, outside of school hours, unlike Clubs who participate during the day. The students each spoke to why they decided to participate in the competition. Their documentary won the first prize and the website they created won second prize!

**6:40 p.m. Public Comment**

Ms. Exton invited the first speaker, Ms. Christiana. Ms. Christiana spoke about the Secure Storage of guns and gave statistics of a number of gun-related topics (safety, availability, etc.) Ms. Gitelson spoke next and asked the School Committee to vote yes on a secure storage policy. Ms. Lambert, mom of two APS students spoke next and asked the School Committee to bring back Science Camp to the Fifth Grade students; her daughter attended camp just before COVID. An unexpected speaker, J. Susse, was accepted as a public speaker by a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman. Ms. Susse spoke about disciplinary actions and the purpose/direction and asked the School Committee to discuss and find the purpose of it.

**6:55 p.m. Votes to Approve MOA's**

Four contracts were presented to the School Committee and voted as follows:

**AEA Unit D MOA**

Ms. Exton and Mr. Kardon worked on this contract and Ms. Keyes confirmed that the agreement has been ratified.

Mr. Hayner moved to approve and authorized the Chair to sign the AEA Unit D MOA and it was seconded by Mr. Schlichtman. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

**Traffic Supervisor MOA**

Mr. Schlichtman was involved in this negotiation and thanked Mr. Mason and Mr. Spiegel for their work on the foundation of this and it was a pleasure to work with the others involved.

Mr. Schlichtman moved to approve and authorized the Chair to sign the Traffic Supervisor MOA and it was seconded by Mr. Kardon. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

**Bus Drivers MOA**

Ms. Exton thanked the bus drivers for their work and Mr. Mason and Mr. Spiegel for their work.

Mr. Schlichtman moved to approve and authorized the Chair to Sign the Bus Drivers MOA and it was seconded by Ms. Morgan. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

### **AAA MOA**

Mr. Schlichtman voiced his great appreciation for the work and professionalism of the AAA Group. Mr. Schlichtman moved to approve and authorized the Chair to sign the AAA MOA and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

### **7:00 p.m. Professional Development Summary** – Dr. MacNeal

Dr. MacNeal explained that this report covers from last summer thru this entire school year. He presented the objectives which included highlights from Summer PD/Planning and highlights from the year and opened for questions and comments. Mr. Hayner thanked Dr. MacNeal for all of his work. Mr. Kardon suggested that next fall Mr. MacNeal promote what he does fresh in the fall. He also asked the Chair to request more about the K-12 social/emotional learning before next June. Ms. Exton thanked Dr. MacNeal and how many teachers are participating and appreciates the participation/professional development.

### **7:10 p.m. Update on K-5 Literacy Working Group** – Dr. MacNeal

Dr. MacNeal voiced that he wants to be sure that his understanding of the presentation is correct (possible vote by School Committee to approve?). Various School Committee Members explained. Ms. Morgan asked if there was a proposal and there is not.

This spring Dr. MacNeal, Dr. Homan, Ms. Elmer and Ms. Perry put together a process in order to create a literacy core team. Additional administrators were included in the many meetings and discussions. This presentation is the result of the work.

Dr. MacNeal presented that the objective for this presentation is to update the School Committee on the work completed by the Literacy Core Team. Dr. MacNeal reviewed the selection of the team involved and their goals for Spring Meetings (to create an agreed upon vision for an effective K-5 Literacy Program). Dr. MacNeal outlined the dates and objectives of the meetings that were held and what each included (e.g., Team Building/Activities, establishing a Mission/Purpose, a look at the Current Literacy Program, Review of the K-5 ELA data and the resource selection process). Ms. Elmer added that she believes that individuals are excited to join and explore and she looks forward to the Community engagement as well. Dr. MacNeal reviewed the time line and said that they are exactly where they are supposed to be. They will narrow down the list of Programs that they want to review so that they can hit the ground running in September. Mr. Hayner commended the Team on having Special Ed and ELL involved in this Program as it has not been done in the past! Ms. Morgan feels that the plan is Administrator heavy and asked about the applicants.

### **7:35 p.m. Second Read/Possible Vote to Approve Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Strategic Priorities** (E. Homan)

Dr. Homan presented her updated Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities. She reports that this is the foundation of what will become the five-year plan. She thanked the Community for their assistance. She reviewed the timeline of where we are and where we are going. Dr. Homan read aloud the new Vision Statement, Mission Statement and her Strategic Priority 1: Ensuring Equity and Excellence, Strategic Priority 2: Valuing All Staff, Strategic Priority 3: Improving Infrastructure, Operations and Sustainability and Strategic Priority 4: Sustaining Collaborative Partnerships.

Mr. Schlichtman commented that he enjoyed the process and felt that they learned a lot from each other. He feels that the biggest lesson they learned from this is that the community is really smart, thoughtful and really care about their schools and siblings. Mr. Thielman explained that this involved many meetings and that's why the discussion is shorter tonight as it was done in the CIAA Meeting prior to this meeting and the CIAA Subcommittee recommended approval. Ms. Morgan was skeptical about the process when it first began and is delighted that she was wrong.

Dr. Homan thanked everyone for giving us all their time to do this.

A motion to approve the updated Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Strategic Priorities was made by Mr. Kardon and seconded by Mr. Hayner. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

**7:45 p.m. Second Read/Possible Vote to Approve District Goals for SY2022-2023** (E.Homan/R. MacNeal)

Dr. Homan explained some of the minor changes and reordering of the goals. Ms. Morgan asked that the School Committee receive periodic updates/pieces of these goals as they happen.

Ms. Morgan asked that the School Committee receive updates/pieces of these goals. She would like to have updates periodically as they happen.

A motion was made by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to approve the District Goals for SY2022/2023. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

**7:50 p.m. Science Camp** (Jane Morgan)

Ms. Exton reports that there is a motion in Novus about this; Mr. Thielman wrote it.

Families and communities want the School Committee to think about and analyze options that might be available to bring back Science Camp. The motion voted on at CIAA Subcommittee Meeting requests that the School Committee request that the Superintendent prepare a report for the first School Committee Meeting in September about an overnight, educational experience for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Dr. MacNeal explained that there is on-going work happening on this and some teacher recruits work already done, looks at data, students who can/can't go, liability, all being considered as we move forward. They plan to continue the process and present it to Dr. Homan and the School Committee. Wants to have a parent forum to let them know we hear them. He understands the passion to continue the experience but we have to make sure it is equitable and supports all students in order to participate.

Ms. Morgan made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thielman for the Superintendent to prepare a report at the first School Committee Meeting of the year. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

**7:55 p.m. Monthly Financial Report** (M. Mason)

Mr. Mason presented reports/updates on the Arlington Public Schools Before Care School Pilot Draft Budget, FY23 Tuition and Fees, FY23 Updated Budget by Budget Transfer Categories and FY22 YTD

Spending by Budget Transfer Category. Mr. Mason supplied a motion that the School Committee can approve based on variances of what was spent vs. the budget that was approved.

Mr. Kardon moved to accept the reports/updates from FY22YTD Spending by Budget Transfer Category and it was seconded by Mr. Thielman seconded. There were no discussions and it was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Mr. Mason then presented the FY23 Updated Budget by Budget Transfer on all funds and appropriated funds (included in the monthly report) and explained that the report is for informational purposes only and does not require a vote.

Mr. Mason then turned over the conversation to Dr. Homan who discussed the possibility of a Before-School Program (sign-up required in advance) which would include a lead teacher and support person. Peirce and Thompson are the pilot programs where the need has been most requested. These programs will be held in the Cafeteria with additional help from custodians.

Mr. Mason discussed the possibility of expanding the “My School Bucks” Program (software already used for the Lunch Program) to include the use for collections of student activities and special programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Kardon to adopt the FY23 to remove and adjust fees and adopt a new Before-School Program Pilot. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

#### **8:15 p.m. Superintendent’s Report** (E. Homan)

##### **COVID Update**

Dr. Homan reported that we will not have reporting on COVID after this year. Pool testing has ended. We continue to have cases but they have been going down. It’s been great to have in-person celebrations.

##### **Administrative Hiring**

- Kaitlin Moran is the new History and Social Studies Director.
- Brackett Assistant Principal - position has been reposted.
- AHS SPED Coordinator - position has been reposted.
- Stratton Assistant Principal – position has been posted.
- Ottoson Assistant Principal – interviews to begin next week.
- K-12 Director of Fine and Performing Arts – initial interviews next week.

Additional Updates – Last day of school is tomorrow; year in review will go out tomorrow. Two new mentoring and induction Program Coordinators, PK-5 and 6-12. The Admin Retreat is scheduled for June 27 and updated enrollments were presented.

#### **8:20 p.m. Possible Vote to Retain New Counsel on July 1, 2022** (L. Kardon)

The decision for new counsel was discussed in the Subcommittee updates in the last meeting. This counsel (KM Educational Law) pertains to Special Education and School Discipline issues.

Mr. Kardon made a motion to approve hiring of new counsel and it was seconded by Ms. Morgan. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members.

**8:20 p.m. Discussion of School Committee Chat Format** (W. Hayner)

Mr. Hayner reported that the CHAT has more attendance and is more involved since the pandemic and wants to continue to doing CHAT via Zoom. He has asked counsel about it and plans to continue the CHATS remotely.

**8:22 p.m. Safe Storage** (L. Exton)

Ms. Exton discussed a resolution asking the school district and community to work together to inform the community about securely storing fire arms and the legal obligations of doing so.

Mr. Schlichtman asked that this resolution be referred to the Community Relations Subcommittee and Mr. Kardon seconded. Ms. Morgan voiced that we could do it without referring it to a subcommittee but Mr. Schlichtman thinks this is unique in that it directs the superintendent to do something. Mr. Hayner will like to call a subcommittee meeting ASAP. Mr. Kardon believes it should be in Policies and Procedures. A discussion continued amongst members. Ms. Exton believes that this should be a community discussion and is open to removing a clause.

There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative by School Committee Members to refer the subject to the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee.

**8:35 p.m. First Read – EBC Supplemental** (P. Schlichtman)

Mr. Schlichtman presented the policy as being mainly pandemic-specific (e.g., waiving PE requirements) and says it is time to make this policy end.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by to Mr. Schlichtman to suspend the rules of a second read so that we can adopt the EBC Supplemental Policy before the first day of school, September, 2022. It was a unanimous vote by School Committee Members in a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner to approve the second read to delete Policy EBC Supplemental. It was a unanimous vote by the School Committee Members in the affirmative.

**8:37 p.m. First Read – File JLCB** (P. Schlichtman)

If we wish to maintain this policy we need to adopt language here for that purpose. The Subcommittee had a difference of opinion on doing so. Mr. Schlichtman is OK to let this go with EBC supplemental. Dr. Homan spoke with Health Director about this and there doesn't seem to be a direct benefit to keep the vaccination requirement. Nothing will be done at this point and there will need to be a vote before the start of school in the fall.

**8:41 First Read – File FF-E** (P. Schlichtman)

This is a policy which will allow the Superintendent to name new spaces at the Arlington High School while the building project is ongoing and not after. Ms. Morgan would like the second read to include the names of the seven spaces which falls under this policy. Mr. Kardon mentioned some new wording is needed as well; he wants it to be more high school specific. This will need to be edited before the second read but we do not need to pass it/bring it back until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**8:42 p.m. First Read – File ACAB** (P. Schlichtman)

The previously received package on sexual harassment was mostly passed with the exception of ACAB because of some grammar and wording. It is now fixed and is being presented for a first read.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner to suspend the rules of a second read so that we can adopt the ACAB policy now. It was a unanimous vote by School Committee Members in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner to approve the second read to adopt Policy ACAB. It was a unanimous vote by the School Committee Members in the affirmative.

**8:45 p.m. Consent Agenda** (L. Exton)

Warrant #22283, June 14, 2022, \$682,708.95  
Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes, June 9, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Ms. Morgan to approve Warrant #22283 and the June 9, 2022 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes.

It was a unanimous vote by the School Committee Members in the affirmative.

**Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements** (L. Exton)

Budget – Meeting was held  
Community Relations – no report  
Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – met last week  
Facilities – no report  
Policy & Procedures – met on June 15<sup>th</sup>  
Arlington High School Building Committee – moving along, meeting the other night to finance the moving of the solar panels.  
Liaison Reports – none.  
Announcements – Mr. Hayner thanked Dr. Homan and administrative cabinets for a phenomenal job.  
Future Agenda Items – none.

**8:50 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to adjourn the Regular School Committee Meeting.

It was a unanimous vote by the School Committee Members in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee