

**Arlington School Committee**  
**Standing Subcommittee: Policies and Procedures**  
**Friday, August 12, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**School Committee Room**  
**Sixth Floor, Arlington High School**  
**869 Massachusetts Avenue**  
**Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Paul Schlichtman, chair.

Kirsi Allison-Ampe

Bill Hayner

**Also Present:**

Elizabeth Homan, Superintendent

Juliann Flaherty, Chief of Police

There was no **Public Comment** agenda item. As part of the agenda, members of the public who wish to comment on individual agenda items would have had the opportunity to comment.

**Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2022**

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of June 15, 2022. **Roll Call:**

Kirsi Allison-Ampe	Yes	Bill Hayner	Yes
Paul Schlichtman	Yes	(3-0)	

**Secure Gun Storage Resolution.**

The subcommittee joined Superintendent Homan and Chief Flaherty in a discussion of the resolution offered by several parents, and referred to the subcommittee at the most recent school committee meeting.

Superintendent Homan. And Chief Flaherty discussed the collaboration between the schools and police to promote gun safety. They discussed a social media campaign conducted with the support of the Arlington Human Rights Commission. Chief Flaherty reaffirmed her commitment to partnering with the schools to promote gun safety.

Chief Flaherty said there are currently 1700 gun licenses in town. These licenses come up for renewal every five years. The police department uses the renewal process to remind license

holders of the need for safety locks, firearm safes. The police distributes firearm tips and reminders of the gun safety laws that apply to license holders.

The superintendent stated that the schools would also have Wellness Director Kim Biscoe engage in the gun safety partnership with the police.

The superintendent and subcommittee members discussed the form of the proposed resolution. It was noted that resolutions are a statement of opinion, and are not policy directives. The superintendent and subcommittee agreed on language that states the committee supports gun safety initiatives involving the Arlington Public Schools and the Arlington Police.

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was **voted** to recommend that the Arlington School Committee adopt the revised resolution. **Roll Call:**

Kirsi Allison-Ampe	Yes	Bill Hayner	Yes
Paul Schlichtman	Yes	(3-0)	

#### **File: AD – VISION, MISSION, AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

File AD contains the Vision, Mission, and Strategic Priorities of the district. Changing the language in the policy to reflect the new Vision, Mission, and Strategic Priorities to align to those adopted in June is a housekeeping matter.

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was **voted** to present a revised File AD for first reading and recommend its approval. **Roll Call:**

Kirsi Allison-Ampe	Yes	Bill Hayner	Yes
Paul Schlichtman	Yes	(3-0)	

#### **File FF-E: PROCEDURES FOR NAMING AHS SPECIAL SPACES**

The committee had a brief discussion of potential revisions to the version of FF-E presented for first reading in June. Some revisions were made to clarify questions raised at the last school committee meeting.

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was **voted** to present a revised File FF-E to the the Arlington School Committee for second reading and recommend its adoption. **Roll Call:**

Kirsi Allison-Ampe	Yes	Bill Hayner	Yes
Paul Schlichtman	Yes	(3-0)	

#### **Discussion: Open Enrollment (File JC – Assignment of Students to Schools)**

Superintendent Homan discussed the current Open Enrollment policy with the subcommittee. She said it could be helpful to ask families attending a school under Open Enrollment to submit their intent to remain in their Open Enrollment placement for the subsequent school year. Subcommittee members noted this discussion should follow the class size and buffer zone report

in October, so the committee could consider the full picture of parent choices for elementary school assignment.

### **Future Agenda Items**

None

### **Adjourn**

On a **motion** by Mr. Hayner, **seconded** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, it was **voted** adjourn at 9:41 a.m.. **Roll**

**Call:**

Kirsi Allison-Ampe	Yes	Bill Hayner	Yes
Paul Schlichtman	Yes	(3-0)	

## Arlington Public Schools Resolution: Secure Gun Storage

One of the Arlington Public Schools' highest priorities is school safety. While we focus on all areas of safety, this resolution has a particular focus on gun violence prevention through the leadership of the district, information sharing, empowerment, and education of our school community.

The Arlington Public Schools are aware that an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm<sup>1</sup> and that each year nearly 350 children under that age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else<sup>2</sup>. That is roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 77 percent of these incidents take place inside a home<sup>3</sup>. Another 700 children die by gun suicide each year<sup>4</sup>, most often using guns belonging to a family member<sup>5</sup>. Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens<sup>6</sup>.

**Whereas**, The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes;

**Whereas**, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

**Whereas**, Across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America's Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

**Whereas**, State law requires adults to securely store their firearms;

**Whereas**, In order to continue with preventive measures to increase student and school safety we must act now;

now therefore, be it **Resolved**, That the School Committee supports the efforts of the Superintendent, staff, and Arlington Police to inform parents and guardians of their legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the School Committee and the Superintendent supports our work with local law enforcement agencies, and health agencies to collaborate and increase efforts to inform Arlington parents and guardians of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.

<sup>1</sup> Azrael D, Cohen J, Salhi C, Miller M. Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: results of a 2015 national survey. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2018; 95(3):295-304, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-018-0261-7>. Study defined children as under the age of 18.

<sup>2</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety. #NotAnAccident Index. 2020. <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident> Analysis includes incidents that occurred between 2015 and 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety. #NotAnAccident Index. 2020. <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident>). Analysis includes homes of the shooter, the victim, relatives' homes, friends' homes, and "other" homes.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2015 to 2019. Children defined as aged 0 to 17.

<sup>5</sup> Johnson RM, Barber C, Azrael D, Clark DE, Hemenway D. Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides? *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*. 2010;40(6):609-611. Study defined children as under the age of 18. Over 80 percent of children who died by gun suicide used a gun belonging to a family member.

<sup>6</sup> Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. *JAMA*. 2005; 293(6):707-714. Study found households that locked both firearms and ammunition had an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm deaths than those that locked neither.

## **File: AD – VISION, MISSION, AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

The Vision and Mission Statements for the Arlington Public Schools are strategic in nature, define the district's hopes and dreams for its students, and articulate the district's top priorities. The strategic priorities guide the development of annual district goals developed by the Superintendent, and are approved each fall by the School Committee.

### **Vision Statement**

The vision of the Arlington Public Schools is to be an equitable educational community where all learners feel a sense of belonging, experience growth and joy, and are empowered to shape their own futures and contribute to a better world.

### **Mission Statement**

The Arlington Public Schools focuses on the whole child to create inclusive and innovative learning opportunities for all students, values diverse identities and ways of learning, prepares all staff to maintain high expectations while providing necessary supports, and sustains collaborative partnerships with families and the community.

### **Strategic Priority One – Ensuring Equity and Excellence**

The Arlington Public Schools will ensure equity, excellence, and access to rigorous learning experiences for all students. All graduates will be prepared to achieve their choices of post-secondary education, career, and community contribution.

### **Strategic Priority Two – Valuing All Staff**

The Arlington Public Schools will recruit and retain an excellent and diverse workforce by creating a collaborative and supportive culture for all staff; providing high-quality and relevant professional development; expanding opportunities for leadership and shared decision-making; and prioritizing representation, diverse perspectives, and expertise.

### **Strategic Priority Three - Improving Infrastructure, Operations, and Sustainability**

The Arlington Public Schools will maintain a system of schools that is safe, well-maintained, sustainable, and fiscally responsible, with the appropriate tools and resources to support best educational practices and an optimum teaching and learning environment.

### **Strategic Priority Four – Sustaining Collaborative Partnerships**

The Arlington Public Schools will partner collaboratively with families in meeting the educational needs of all students; facilitate consistent two-way communication; and provide timely, transparent, relevant, and accessible information to all stakeholders.

As part of the process to develop annual goals, the superintendent may recommend revisions of the Strategic Priorities, which will be subject to the approval of the school committee.

CROSS REF.: [BDFA-E-2](#), District-Wide Goal Setting and Performance Objective Process

**File: FF-E - PROCEDURES FOR NAMING NEW SPACES AT ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

The Arlington School Committee recognizes that it is traditional to designate spaces in school buildings with the names of important members of the educational community. This policy is meant to provide guidance and a process for naming and commemorations of seven new spaces at Arlington High School.

The Arlington School Committee has the authority to name spaces in the new Arlington High School building. The school committee has established a policy to seek an advisory opinion from the Public Memorial Committee prior to any vote to name spaces under the jurisdiction of the school committee. The opening of the new school provides an opportunity to name seven new major spaces, and the school committee seeks to create an open and transparent process for naming these spaces, aligned with existing policy and town bylaws.

In order to name seven new common spaces in Arlington High School, the Superintendent will create and convene an Advisory Panel on Naming and Memorials at Arlington High School, with no more than 11 members.

The panel would include a minimum of one representative appointee from each of the following:

1. the Superintendent's Leadership Team
2. the School Committee, by vote of the school committee.
3. A school administrator from Arlington High School,
4. 1-2 staff members from Arlington High School,
5. An Arlington High School student representative, selected by student government, and
6. A minimum of two community members, by vote of the school committee.

The advisory committee shall review the criteria for naming decisions, consult with the Arlington Public Memorial Committee, manage a process for receiving and reviewing proposals, and make recommendations to the school committee about naming the seven major named spaces at Arlington High School. The seven major named spaces to be named are:

1. Discourse Lab
2. Auditorium
3. Library
4. Black Box Theater
- 5-7. Three Gyms

**Charge of the Panel**

The Advisory Panel on Naming and Memorials at Arlington High School recommendations for the seven major named spaces shall be completed by September 2024 (the beginning of Phase 4). The Advisory Panel on Naming and Memorials shall dissolve upon the completion of its work.

**Criteria for Names**

The Arlington School Committee seeks to create an inclusive process and guidelines for making recommendations for naming facilities in the new building in ways that honor the legacy and values of Arlington High School.

As has been past practice, it is our intent to name spaces after members of the Arlington High School Community who have made contributions to the education of students and the mission of Arlington High School. These would include staff, alumni, or Arlington educators.

This criteria allows for naming of spaces after living people, but we recommend that we do not name spaces for people who are critically ill or until 3 years after their passing. This helps to allow for the community to process a death without creating conflict around the naming in the midst of grief.

References:

[File: FF - POLICY FOR SPECIAL DEDICATIONS OF SCHOOL FACILITIES](#)

[Title II, Article 4, Bylaws of the Town of Arlington](#)