

Arlington School Committee Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Meeting Minutes

– DRAFT–

6:30PM

The Arlington School Committee Meeting was called to order by Liz Exton, Chair, The School Committee Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. In attendance: Mr. Hayner, Mr. Kardon, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Thielman, Dr. Allison-Ampe, Ms. Exton, Dr. Homan, Superintendent, Dr. MacNeal, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Mason, CFO, Mr. Spiegel, HR Director, Ms. Elmer, Assistant Superintendent, J. Keyes, AEA Rep, J. MacEwan, AAA Rep.

6:31PM

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement

6:32PM

The Chair read the parameters for the Public Comment Section of the meeting and invited E. Perez, the first speaker, to address the School Committee. Ms. Perez spoke about the Pandemic ramifications on the public and the options that can be undertaken without the blessing of DESE or CDC. The second speaker to address the School Committee was K. Leary who spoke in favor of spending some of the AHS Building Committee contingency funds to keep Fusco open rather than have the students attend school for half days.

6:44 P.M. Opening Day and Summer Activities Report (Rod MacNeal)

Dr. Homan introduced the next topic, a Review of Opening Day and Summer Activities, and the presenter, Dr. MacNeal. Dr. MacNeal thanked all those involved in the summer work and who attended the various learning sessions, etc. He reviewed the Summer Curriculum Work that took place (e.g., DEI teachers in K-12 who took the IDEAS course, ELA/English teachers who took self-paced, online courses, etc. Math/Computer Science teachers, nursing teachers, Performing Arts, Science, SEL, Special Ed (with comments by Alison Elmer), Visual Arts, World Language.

Dr. MacNeal noted that New Teacher Orientation took place as well with approximately 70 new staff participating in the orientation and training. The outgoing mentor/coordinator organized and structured this and handed it off to Joy Ruzzi and Melissa Eid(names?). Mr. Spiegel thanked a number of individuals for their time (including food services and the many staff) and commented on how they want to continuously improve the Program.

Dr. Homan spoke about the August Leadership Workshop that was held including the objectives, pre-reading, and an overview of the three-day, intensive Leadership Development Institute. There were over 115 attendees and Dr. Homan thanked the AEF for supporting expanded Teacher Leadership Stipends to expand their participation to the ALW. Opening Day themes were reviewed by Dr. Homan including district actions to support a sense of belonging for all in 2022-2023.

The Chair thanked Dr. MacNeal and Dr. Homan for their work.

7:00 Update and Discussion on School and District Logos

Dr. Homan discussed and shared the options for new AHS and APS logos as well as the process of involving stakeholders and administrative team (on website, letterhead). Dr. Homan presented the logo for AHS and the APS/District. A discussion on the logo (not the mascot) took place. The approved logos were presented – one for the AHS scoreboards and the other for the gym floor. The APS logo options were developed by Edlio (website vendor based on questionnaires. A number of factors went into the development and feedback was requested on imagery, taglines and selection process. Dr. Homan then presented the APS branding options 1, 2 and 3. Feedback requested input on tagline options, imagery and the process. School Committee Members provided feedback to the Superintendent on the various options and designs. AEA Rep, J. Keyes, commented that she felt that the Art students of AHS should have contributed. AAA Rep, J. MacEwan commented that she isn't a fan of any of the logos and asked about other options and going back to the drawing board.

7:20 p.m. Discussion AHS Start of School

Dr. Homan discussed the challenge we are facing regarding construction/space constraints at AHS for the 2023-2024 academic year at AHS. The fall of 2023 AHS will not have enough space to house the entire student body for the first 3 weeks of 2023 school year. There was a Subcommittee meeting held to discuss the problem. This is the first time the full committee is hearing the full report from Dr. Janger and Dr. Homan and more to come in the next full School Committee Meeting. Dr. Homan explained that there are two options to consider to manage the newest challenge and the options were presented to the School Committee. The two options being presented are a result of a number of meetings on the various challenges. An overview of the contracted construction timeline was presented: Phase 2 Transition and Phase 3 Transition. Option 1 for the Phase 2 Transition is to follow the contracted construction timeline. The details and implications were presented which included less learning hours, half day for the students, absorbing early release and a cost of at least \$125K but much more additional cost has surfaced. This is the MINIMUM cost. If Option 1 is chosen it affects Phase 3 transition. The financial implications are not yet known but Menotomy PreK would have to delay their move in and LABBB will need to move 2 times. A new gym, locker rooms, LABBB Program and admin space won't be available until late September, 2024.

Option 2, phase 2 transition – shifts the Transition and would cost \$1.2M. We could run a regular schedule with a full student body which maintains time on learning, early release for teacher professional learning and accommodates a full student body. This would no longer negatively affect certain aspects of Phase 3 transition given Menotomy can move in sooner, LABBB maintains their space.

The new gym, locker rooms, LABBB program and admin space will not be ready until January, 2025. The total delay would be roughly 5 months. Mr. Thielman spoke about the meeting at the Building Committee on Tuesday evening. He explained that the School Committee makes a vote to bring to the Building Committee and then the Building Committee makes the decision. The funds come out of contingencies (not going above budget, not asking for more money). Many School Committee members are already on board with the option of spending the \$1.2M to avoid delaying the school year and the implications involved. Various members continued the discussion with questions on options and if the project might be delayed further, cost be more, etc. Dr. Janger explained that we cannot get enough space in the current buildings to run the classrooms. The logistics of kids on the field and getting back and forth to the classrooms was not ideal. AEA Rep asked if this would change the length of day and complained about the “deplorable conditions” currently being experienced by the teachers and students.

8:06 p.m. Superintendent’s Report

Monthly Update

The Superintendent gave an update on the Strategic Plan which was shared with CIAA at their 8/26/22 meeting. The Strategic Planning team includes 24 administrators, teachers, community members and 4 subcommittee members. The task is to develop 2-4 Strategic Initiatives for each Priority Area. Plans will include engaging the community through Forums. Dr. Homan discussed the process and the effects of a strong initiative. She also discussed the First day of School of 2022 and shared some photos of some of the schools as well as the APS METCO and DEI Teams. She reported that there were no challenges, despite the rain and the election! Dr. Homan reported on a grant APS received for \$212,500 for additional staffing, professional learning and resources to support SEL Instruction and Mental Health. She also provided an update on the Elementary Before Care Program Pilot which includes 20 students so far. There is a drop in option added and scholarships will be provided to eligible families. Fees can be reduced if the Program proves financially sustainable. Transportation for Gibbs and Ottoson is being researched. Dr. Homan also updated the SC on the Gibbs bus and the capacity challenges. There was an athletic update, CFO Search update and an Enrollment update. Enrollments are up approximately 150 students compared to October 1, 2021.

8:17 p.m. Possible Vote to Approve AEA Unit C Contract, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025

Mr. Spiegel shared that there were successful negotiations with AEA Unit C and that Unit C had ratified (this was previously discussed in Executive Session a few weeks ago). Mr. Spiegel credited Mr. Mason for all his help in thinking creatively for these salary structures which hope to attract and retain staff.

A motion was made by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Hayner to approve the AEA Unit C Contract dated July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025.

It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approving the AEA Unit C Contract dated July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025.

8:19 p.m. Possible Vote to approve the Contract for Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, R. MacNeal, Jr.

Dr. Homan spoke on her recommendation for this new contract for Dr. MacNeal and the many accomplishments under his leadership and her recommendation for this new contract. She described Dr. MacNeal as thoughtful, respectful and humble. Dr. MacNeal thanked everyone for their support.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to approve and give the Chair permission to sign the Contract for Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, R. MacNeal, Jr., effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approving and allowing the Chair permission to sign the Contract for Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, R. MacNeal, Jr., effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

8:20 p.m. Policy and Procedures

Second Read and Possible Vote: Revised Safe Storage

Mr. Schlichtman moved to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner to adopt the Revised Safe Storage resolution.

It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approval.

First Read – File AD – Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities –adopted this in June. Do we wait two weeks to adopt the new File AD or go into a Second Read?

Mr. Schlichtman moved to approve, and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner, to suspend the rules for a 2nd read,

It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approval to suspend the rules for a 2nd read.

Mr. Schlichtman moved to adopt File AD and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner.

It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approval.

Second Read and Possible Vote: File FF-E – Procedures for Naming AHS Special Places. This is a second read, the first read was done in June. A re-write was done to meet the concerns that were expressed.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner to adopt File FF-E.

It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approval.

8:28 p.m. Discussion and Possible Vote to Change Date of June 8, 2023 School Committee Regular Meeting to June 15, 2022 (because it is the LABB graduation)

A motion was made by Dr. Allison-Ampe and seconded by Mr. Thielman to change the date of the June 8, 2023 SC Meeting to June 15, 2023.

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

8:29 p.m. Consent Agenda

- *Warrant #22302, \$423,736.28, 7/12/2022
- *Warrant #23011, \$290,277.22, 7/26/2022
- *Warrant #23021, \$504,026.61, 8/9/2022
- *Warrant #23032, \$659,182.17, 8/23/2022
- *Warrant #23044, \$1,444,376.72, 9/6/2022
- *Approval of Meeting Minutes from School Committee Meeting, 6/23/2022
- *Approval of Meeting Minutes from School Committee Retreat, 7/26/2022
- *Approval of Meeting Minutes from School Committee Retreat, 8/9/2022
- *Approval of Meeting Minutes from School Committee Special Meeting, 8/9/2022

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe to approve all items in the Consent Agenda.

It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approval.

8:31 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

- **Budget** – Dr. Allison Ampe reported that a meeting was held and another is being planned.
- **Community Relations** –
 - Mr. Hayner presented information on four Committee/Commission re-appointments that were needed/due.
 - Mr. Hayner made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thielman to approve all of the reappointments. It was a unanimous vote with all in favor of approval.
 - Mr. Hayner reported that Kym Goldsmyth will be seeking an appointment on September 22 for the LGBTQ+ Commission. This process is ongoing.
- **CIAA** – Ms. Morgan reported that this Subcommittee met on August 20 and discussed the planning update with Dr. Homan and Dr. Anderson. They discussed the fall 2023 plan and planned out their meetings through 2023.
- **Facilities** - Mr. Thielman reported that the Subcommittee meets on September 14.
- **Policies and Procedures** – Mr. Schlichtman discussed File JC and noted that we should be thinking about moving forward with this Policy.
- **AHS Building Committee** – Mr. Thielman had no further report and is trying to reschedule a meeting.
- **Superintendent Evaluation** – Mr. Kardon reports that he will be scheduling a meeting shortly.

- **Liaison Reports** - none
- **Announcements** - none
- **Future Agenda Items** – none

Ms. Morgan commented about the change in procedure of the Public Comment.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner at 8:40 p.m. to end the regular meeting and move into Executive Session.

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.

The motion was to enter Executive Session:

- To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion, in which if held in an open meeting, may have a detrimental effect.
- To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting, may have a detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted.
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; AEA Unit D - Menotomy Preschool TAs grievance.

8:50 p.m. Adjournment

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins
Administrative Assistant to the
Arlington School Committee