

## **Arlington School Committee Regular Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2022**

**– DRAFT–**

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

The Arlington School Committee Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:30 p.m.

The Chair confirmed the attendance of the following: Mr. Hayner, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe (v), yes, Ms. Exton, yes. Additional attendees included: Dr. Homan, Superintendent, Dr. MacNeal, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Mason, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Spiegel, Director of Human Services, Mo Nathan Hagenbuch, AHS student representative and Tamaki Sugihara (v), AHS Student representative, Sif Ferranti (v), AEA representative.

#### **6:33 p.m. Public Comment**

The Chair read the parameters for the Public Comment section of the meeting and invited the first speaker, Judy Geyer, to address the Committee. Ms. Geyer, the current President of the AEF, was in attendance as the parent of an AHS 9<sup>th</sup> Grader. She spoke to the topic of the AHS Building Opening in 2023 and asked that the School Committee think about what accommodation best allows students and teachers to be present, in school, in person; she supports Option 2. The second speaker was Anne Marie Faust who is the Mom of an APS student who is now sick with COVID. She spoke to the topic of COVID protocols no longer in effect at APS and feels that we should, as a District, be reporting cases, having outdoor lunch options, better air quality.

#### **6:41 p.m. AHS Student Representatives**

Tamaki Sugihara (virtually) attended. Mo Hagenbuch attended (in person). Mo, a junior who will graduate in 2024, gave an update of the beginning of the AHS school year saying things are going very well and everyone feels very welcome. The new school was a little confusing with the new hallways, but all seems fine. Sports teams are doing wonderfully and there is a lot of spirit. Mo reported that there are some wonderful things planned including a prep rally and a homecoming which will be fun for everyone. Things are going great so far. Tamaki spoke briefly and stated that he is a senior who will be graduating this year.

### **6:45 New Administrators**

Dr. Homan introduced the new hires who were here in person or attending virtually. She thanked all of them for their work to have such an absolutely wonderful beginning to the new academic year. Each New Admin Hire introduced themselves, their position and which school they are working. The Chair thanked everyone for being here to their new roles in Arlington. The Superintendent acknowledged their participation and offered that they could leave the meeting if they wanted to leave.

### **6:50 p.m. Equity Audit Report – Margaret Credle Thomas**

Dr. Homan acknowledged the hard work that went into this report and introduced Ms. Credle-Thomas to share her findings. Ms. Credle-Thomas shared the agenda and the purpose of the Equity Audit which is to understand the drivers impacting gaps in APS students' achievement and opportunities and the obstacles contributing to those gaps. Ms. Credle-Thomas described the process of the Equity Audit including who was involved and the various activities. She presented the Strategic Recommendations from the Official Report as well as the recommendations and the current activities of each. The next steps were presented and the floor was opened to a Q&A with the School Committee. Some of the questions included closing the achievement gap, student belonging, SEL. Dr. Homan addressed the achievement gap topic brought to the Committee's attention by Dr. Allison-Ampe. The 18 hours of DEI Training was discussed and the contract implementation/training involved. The Chair asked what's next and the answer was another audit in another five or six years. The materials we have now are a roadmap to where we will go.

### **7:25 pm. Possible Vote on AHS Start of 2023-2024 School Year**

Dr. Homan offered an update on the fall 2023 AHS Schedule and Project Recommendation. Dr. Janger was present. Dr. Homan reviewed the issue at hand and how to best resolve the problem. She reviewed the details and implications of both Option 1 (a lot of unknowns so an *estimate only* can be suggested) & Option 2 and the various phases of each as well as the cost. Dr. Homan recommends Option 2 to the School Committee and discussed how the various impacts of Option 1 which included the educational, logistical and cost aspects. Mr. Hayner realizes that this is early in the building process to use some of the contingency funds but this is why we have it and supported the Option 2 recommendation. Mr. Thielman made sure that everyone realizes that we are not asking for more money, but rather taking it from a contingency fund.

Mr. Thielman made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner to move that the School Committee endorses an academic calendar and schedule for the 2023-24 school year in which Arlington High School opens with a traditional, full-day schedule on September 5, 2023, with all students attending full days of school while Phase II of the high school building project is

completed. Further, it is moved that the Arlington School Committee respectfully requests that the Arlington High School Building Committee take all necessary actions to ensure that the facility can accommodate the opening schedule described above, including, if necessary, utilizing contingency funds and shifting the construction schedule to allow student and staff use of Fusco House and the Blue Gym during September of 2023.

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

#### **7:47 Handbooks – Dr. MacNeal**

Dr. MacNeal presented the handbooks for the various Arlington Public Schools, including the high school, the middle schools and the elementary schools. In preparation that we were in line with current regulations and policies, counsel reviewed the previous policy handouts and she updated all the policies and regulations and a template was provided to each principal to add to the handbook if needed. No major changes were made, only minor language changes. Redline changes were requested for next time for substantial changes. Upon approval, they will be translated into the major languages and posted on the district website. Ms. Morgan asked if we can do the handbooks in the spring before they are put in the students' agenda books. Dress code updates will need to follow School Committee policy and it will be the same across the district.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner, and seconded by Mr. Thielman to approve the Arlington High School handbook.

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

#### **7:59 p.m. Financial Report – Michael Mason**

Mr. Mason presented his Monthly Financial Report as of August 31, 2022. The report included the General Fund, Revolving and Special Revenue and Grant reports. Specifics on the general fund were presented with a projected balance of \$2,066,540 as of 9/22/2022. No driving factors yet, too early. An actual vs. budget expenditures for the General Fund indicated they are pretty much in line as where they expected to be. The General Fund – Actual vs. Budget and cumulative amounts shown in the chart. Special Revenue and Revolving Funds were presented with a remaining balance of \$5,639,226. Grant information was shared as well with total awarded grants is \$4,947,466 with expenditure at \$364,653.

### **8:08 p.m. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Homan offered a Strategic Planning Update to the School Committee, including when the meetings were held and the mapping out of the initiatives. Dr. Homan also offered a report on the first few weeks of school and highlighted the First Annual Gibbs Day and the Instructional Leadership Teams Launch with support of the AEF. Also discussed was the new website design which is still under construction and reminded everyone that we are still adjusting through the migration. A calendar adjustment for evening conferences at Ottoson and Gibbs made due to a long weekend. Additional items discussed included the DLD Convening in Lexington, KY which is being held in the last week of October, APS COVID Protocols for 2022-2023, the on-going CFO search (final interviews will take place the first week of October), an update on enrollments which indicated an enrollment increase much higher than last year and Mr. Mason has sent the preliminary numbers over to the Town.

Mr. Schlichtman would like to consider moving the School Committee meeting from the same night of the AHS parent conferences to November 10.

**8:20 p.m.** Dr. Homan dismissed the two AHS Student Representatives.

### **8:20 p.m. Consent Agenda**

\*Warrant #23056, September 20, 2022, \$515,178.78

Mr. Hayner made a motion to approve Warrant #23056, dated September 20, 2022, for \$515,178.78 and it was seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

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

### **8:22 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements**

Ms. Exton mentioned the need for a door monitor during subcommittees when held after hours. Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested that this be brought to a Subcommittee Meeting. Mr. Hayner suggested that the various subcommittee chairs should be the ones to designate accordingly. Mr. Schlichtman suggested a different address for the back of the building.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe to talk about this in a Community Relations subcommittee meeting.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Hayner, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr.

Thielman, yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe (v) yes, Ms. Exton, yes.

- Budget – Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair – meeting next week.
- Community Relations – Bill Hayner, Chair – Chat on September 24 @ 11 a.m. on Grades 6-12 parents, remotely. An upcoming Community Relations Meeting will be scheduled.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Accountability – Jane Morgan, Chair – Meeting on Wednesday @ 8:30 a.m. in person in the SC Room – Strategic Planning and Science Camp
- Facilities – Jeff Thielman, Chair – met on September 14 and had a report on playgrounds and a report assessing capital needs at Ottoson Middle School. The discussion will be continued down the road.
- Policy & Procedures – Paul Schlichtman, Chair. We got a message from MASC with recommended changes to various policies with new language and to correct cross-references. A meeting will be held in the next month to discuss.
- Arlington High School Building Committee – Jeff Thielman, Chair – Meeting on October 11 to discuss a motion made tonight on the AHS opening using Option 2.
- Superintendent Evaluation, Len Kardon, Chair – Two meetings are now schedule; the first is Tuesday at 1 p.m.
- Liaison Reports - none
- Announcements -none
- Future Agenda Items – Mr. Hayner announced that Envision Arlington reappointments will be held at the next regular School Committee Meeting.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to move into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

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

**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 (v), yes, Ms. Exton, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee