

Arlington School Committee Regular Meeting
DRAFT Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2022
6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Open Meeting

The Chair called the Regular School Committee Meeting to order and confirmed the attendance of the following: Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Hayner, yes, Mr. Thielman, no, Mr. Kardon, no, Ms. Exton, yes. Also in attendance were: Dr. MacNeal, Superintendent Homan, AEA Representative J. Keyes, AHS Student Representatives Mo Hagenbuch, Amy Chelariu and Tamika Sugihara (remote).

6:32 p.m. Land Acknowledgment

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement in celebration of Indigenous People's Day celebrated on Monday, October 10, 2022.

6:34 p.m. School Committee Appointments to Town Commissions

The Chair invited Kym Goldsmith to speak on why they applied to join the Rainbow Commission. After some brief comments, Mr. Hayner and Mr. Schlichtman thanked Kym for their time and asked for periodic updates on the Commission activities.

Mr. Hayner made a motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Schlichtman, to appoint Kym Goldsmith to the Rainbow Commission.

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

The Community Relations Subcommittee Chair, B. Hayner, made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Schlichtman, to reappoint two members (Scott Lever and Michael Brownstein) to the Envision Arlington Commission.

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

6:40 Public Comment

The Chair read the parameters of the Public Comment portion of the meeting and invited the first speaker: Rebecca Gatti, Mom of 3 Hardy students, spoke about the time allowed for lunch at school and that food gets thrown away because lunch is not long enough. She suggested that it might be more efficient for students to eat in their classrooms.

6:42 p.m. AHS Student Representatives

The Chair invited the AHS Student Representatives to speak next. Amy Chelariu mentioned testing went well. Sports teams doing awesome - soccer is practically undefeated. Mo Hagenbuch reported that the pep rally was amazing. November 18 is the date for School Spirit. Overall a good year. Tamaki commented that the other two members have it covered.

6:45 Possible Vote to Approve Cafeteria Workers Contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Hayer, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman, to approve the Cafeteria Worker's Contract.

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

6:50 p.m. Peirce School SIP

Dr. Homan introduced the Peirce group to present their School Improvement Plan.

Mr. Ahmadi introduced the members of his instructional leadership team and educators at the Peirce Building.

The agenda for the evening was shared and Mr. Ahmadi started his Peirce School Improvement Plan. He began by thanking those involved in the process and the support of the PTO. He highlighted the Peirce Wins and the Peirce Challenges and discussed the Peirce Priorities for the 2022-2023 academic year. Some of the key initiatives and action steps included: engaging all staff, students and families at Peirce in meaningful, culturally responsive practices and providing students with opportunities to engage deeply with grade-aligned, culturally appropriate lessons in all content areas and making sure the students feel that they belong. Resources to support these key initiatives and action steps were presented by Mr. Ahmadi in the final portion of his presentation, followed by a Q&A with the School Committee.

7:08 p.m. - Jeff Thielman arrived in person (was virtual for the beginning of the meeting).

7:13 p.m. Dallin School SIP

The Principal, Thad Digman started his presentation by stating that it is his 9th year at Dallin and when he thinks about the importance of sustained leadership he appreciates the Administration and feels this is the reason for the wins for Dallin.

The Dallin Agenda was reviewed and the presentation started with Mr. Digman sharing some key points about the Dallin Community (Dallin at a Glance). The enrollment at Dallin has decreased slightly. They have a very active PTO, Student Council and DEIG. Their School Culture is a priority with students, faculty and families. The teachers have participated in work with early reading consultants since 2019. Key initiatives and action steps included to work within Literacy, Mathematics and Equity and Culture.

Mr. Digman finished his presentation and provided time for Q&A with the Committee Members.

Len Kardon arrived in person at 7:18 p.m.

Jane Morgan arrived in person at 7:21 p.m. (was virtual for the beginning of the meeting).

7:42 p.m. Outcomes Report/MCAS Report by Dr. MacNeal

Dr. MacNeal shared areas of success and future growth for the Arlington Public Schools across various outcome areas, using multiple measures to highlight: (1) Areas where APS is demonstrating success and a commitment to equity, (2) Areas where we can continue to adjust patterns of practice in order to achieve our shared mission, and (3) The steps we will take in 2022-23 to address our areas of challenge and growth.

Dr. MacNeal presented the Vision and Mission Statements that have been adopted and the state results and trends which included the MCAS for Grades 3-8 and Grade 10. Much of the data is based on 2019 and 2022 due to the Pandemic. Math scores have increased, ELA have declined, science has increased slightly. Student absenteeism remains a challenge.

A slide showing how to interpret the results of the studies. Grade 3-8 and Grade 10 ELA change in achievement levels for race/ethnicity/gender 2019-to 2022. Student Growth percentiles were presented, for 2022 only, showing typical to high growth which exceeded the state.

Math data was presented as well, with the same parameters used as those in the ELA study. No change, considered a win, given the challenges of the pandemic. Meeting or exceeding levels in the Math results. It's a challenge and a win. Student growth percentile reflects typical high growth, exceeding the state. STE achievements increased as well as the other sections of study.

Comparing our school to other schools shows that we have increased our percentiles (2022 percentiles is 83, up from 79 in 2019).

Dr. Homan then discussed the chronic absenteeism trends, defined as missing 10% or more school days during a school year (18+days), while the state reports 20% but will be returning to the 10% in 2023.

Dr. Homan reported that at the High School level the advanced coursework completion rate has decreased and that high needs and low income students have increased participation in advanced coursework.

Climate and Culture Student Belonging data from the Panorama Student was presented using data from Student Sense of Belonging by Race and Gender Identification.

Dr. MacNeal presented the Action Steps for 2022-2023 and the Priority Area #1 - Ensuring Equity and Excellence, Priority Area #2 - Valuing All Staff, Priority Area #3 - Improving

Infrastructure, Operations and Sustainability, and Priority Area #4 - Community and staff forums, continued design work on APS website, Before Care Pilot and updates on APS Communication systems.

Dr. MacNeal shared the various steps being planned which included DEI Office implementation of opt-in affinity groups, 18 hours of racial identify professional learning requirement, DEI and HR Office checkin in with new staff members, Focus on building belonging for staff.

A Q&A followed the presentation.

8:15 p.m. The AHS Student Representatives were dismissed

8:30 p.m. Science Camp/Overnight Experience

Dr. MacNeal shared that the CIAA Subcommittee met last week on Science Camp and received feedback to include an option of overnight camp. Science is not going to be the focal point for an overnight experience. It will have a focus on social emotional learning, etc. The thought is to have this experience focus on the 6th grade rather than the 5th grade, focusing on community building and the core values of Gibbs. It will be a partnership with the Gibbs PTO with a three day, two night arrangement. Various venue options, and the pros and cons of each, included:

- Morse Hill Outdoor Education Center, Inc.
- The Farm School
- Merrowvista
- Nature's Classroom.

A Q&A followed the presentation. Next Steps are being discussed and the feedback will be brought to a CIAA Meeting to see what is possible.

9:10 p.m. Buffer Zone Report

Dr. Homan spoke about what the Buffer Zone Report is as described in the Buffer Zone School Policy JC, JC-E

Buffer Zone Assignments and Comparisons were presented. There are 58 less families in buffer zones this year compared to SY21-22. The buffer zone grade level breakdown was presented. Dr. Homan spoke on the differences at the various schools.

Buffer Zone Trends were discussed including Stable K enrollments compared to last year. Efforts were made to swing away from the Stratton district in Spring 2022 due to anticipated space constraints. Increase in enrollment in grades 1 and 2 compared to the past two years (may be pandemic related - coming back to public from private schools). The class size overview and comparison was presented - K & 2nd slightly higher than anticipated.

Next Dr. Homan presented data on Open Enrollment. There were a total of 22 open enrollments approved. Open enrollment trends were presented which included families whose personal circumstances changed, school choice mechanism policy, requests that come from schools that

share a buffer zone with the requested school. There were some open enrollments that were denied as reported by the Superintendent. A Q&A followed.

9:28 p.m. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Homan presented a Strategic Planning Update - Initiatives taking shape, community forums starting, November 9 staff forum being planned, last one virtual - later to include more families.

Playground Updates - Stratton completion will be at the end of October, Peirce completion mid-November and Bishop opened on October 11. Delays are the result of supply chain and shipping issues with equipment.

Additional Updates included tryout numbers and athletic update, the rate for Before School Care Program Pilot (\$9), the next scheduled meeting for the Deeper Learning Dozen (next meeting on October 27), a review on Maestro Alberto Profeta performance at AHS and a CFO Search status; decision should be forthcoming. Enrollment reports are in the packets.

Mr. Schlichtman asked about the bus situation and Dr. Homan responded accordingly. The strain on the transportation to Ottoson has been a topic from families.

9:37 p.m. Elect MASC Delegate Assembly

Mr. Hayner made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thielman, that Mr. Schlichtman be elected as the MASC Delegate.

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

9:38 p.m. Consent Agenda

The Chair presented three items on the consent agenda for acceptance by the School Committee Members:

Warrant #23066, October 4, 2022, \$730,670.07

Approval of Regular School Minutes, September 8, 2022

Approval of Regular School Minutes, September 22, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to approve the items in the consent agenda.

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

9:40 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

- Budget - Dr. Allison-Ammpe - A meeting was held and another will be held. Discussed budget calendar.
- Community Relations - B. Hayner - Chat on Metco on Saturday, 10/15. A Subcommittee Meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability - J. Morgan - A meeting will be held on October 24 regarding literacy work, strategic plan and overnight experience. They met last week as well.
- Facilities - J. Thielman - No report.
- Policy & Procedures - P. Schlichtman - Hopes to hold a meeting soon. Accumulating items and possibly going to add an EV charging policy.
- Arlington High School Building Committee - Mr. Thielman - Committee met Tuesday night and voted to extend the project as suggested by the School Committee
- Superintendent Evaluation - Len Kardon - Met one night and recommended that the Committee keep with the projected schedule. More user friendly form being devised.

- Liaison Reports - Ms. Morgan/Dr. Allison-Ampe - Long Range Planning Committee met and lots of membership changes. Meetings are going to happen monthly.
- Announcements - Mr. Hayner thanked Dr. MacNeal for his work. Dr. Allison-Ampe spoke about the METCO Exec Dir who was attacked on October 11. She is stable and recovering at the hospital. Cards can be sent to METCO.
- Future Agenda Items - none.

9:45 p.m. Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman, and seconded by Mr. Hayner, to move into Executive Session to approve Executive Session Minutes from September 8 and September 22, 2022.

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

9:45 p.m. Adjournment

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins, Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee