

**Arlington School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023**

**6:30 p.m.**

**DRAFT**

**HYBRID**

Arlington High School  
School Committee Room - 6th Floor  
869 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476

Or via Zoom:

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**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, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Exton, yes. Also in attendance were: Dr. MacNeal, Superintendent Homan, Mr. Mason, AEA Representative J. Keyes, AHS Student Representatives Amy Chelariu and Tamika Sugihara arrived shortly after the meeting started.

Others in attendance: Magali Olander, presenter, Mona Ford Walker, wife and daughter.

### **6:30 Public Comment**

There were no participants for Public Comment.

### **6:30 p.m. AHS Student Representatives**

The Chair invited the AHS Student Representatives to speak next - not yet in attendance.

Tamika entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Amy Chelariu entered the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

### **6:33 p.m. Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning - Recommendation and Possible Vote**

Dr. Homan announced that the process has been completed to identify the new Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. She gave a brief update on the process that took place and made her recommendation of Ms. Mona Ford Walker. Dr. Homan presented many of Ms. Ford Walker's qualifications with the Committee. Reference checks provided were all excellent. Ms. Ford Walker was welcomed to the APS Community pending the vote by the School Committee. Ms. Ford Walker spoke briefly about the process and her visits to the schools during her interview process which was followed by a brief Q&A/comment session.

Mr. Schlichtman made a motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner, to approve the contract for the Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Committee.

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. A unanimous vote.

### **6:40 p.m. AHS Student Representatives**

The representatives arrived a bit late so the Chair circled back for their report. Tamika reported that the wrestling team won for the 5th time in a row. Amy Chelariu reported that this is the Team's last meeting in the gym before the building is torn down.

### **6:41 p.m. Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning - Recommendation and Possible Vote**

Ms. Ford Walker's family arrived at the meeting so it was suggested that the original vote made earlier be repeated as a courtesy to the family.

Mr. Kardon made a motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Hayner, to approve the appointment of Mona Ford Walker as Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning effective July 1, 2023.

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.

### **6:42 p.m. Social Emotional Learning Presentation (M. Olander)**

Dr. Homan welcomed Ms. Olander, who has been the interim SEL Director. Ms. Olander spoke about her background. She is new to this role, but not in the profession of SEL and Mental Health. She shared the MTSS Framework. She offered that the competencies are the foundation for Social Emotional Learning. She explained how the work is done (Competencies and Focal Construct). Ms. Olander presented the composition of the SEL Team and the work being done at the Arlington Public Schools. An overview of the Mental Health Programming was reviewed which included universal mental health screening (this is the 2nd full year of the Program). They are working on how to make this more responsive and more effective moving forward; interventions seem to be working.

An update on the Counseling Team was presented next. A Q&A was opened to the School Committee. One question was asked about how we can prevent the kids from missing classes to go to an SEL activity. Ms. Olander answered that the limitations of the school day and structure of the calendar at various schools creates the problem; the High School uses the X block. Dr. Homan will look into the issue. Mr. Kardon believes this should be a priority in the strategic plan. He also asked about the approach/delivery of instruction of SEL at the various schools, even if it requires bringing in a consultant. Ms. Olander said that we have room to grow and this is the front of the learning curve for many districts. Mr. Schlichtman shared his view on the SEL process and would like a discussion on the staffing levels of social workers for the entire building, particularly, on the elementary level; do we have sufficient staffing and what model is appropriate in a post-pandemic world? Ms. Olander reports that we have counselors and social workers are highly qualified. Ms. Elmer commented on the connection of SEL and Special Education.

### **7:15 Digital Learning Program Presentation (R. Pimprikar)**

Dr. Homan introduced Ms. Pimprikar and gave a brief overview of her work with Ms. Pimprikar. Ms. Pimprikar opened her presentation with an overview of the Digital Learning Program at APS. She had her APS Digital Learning Team along for the presentation with the exception of Jeff Snyder who was not feeling well. Ms. Pimprikar presented the pieces of the learning in her report on Digital Learning @ A Glance as well as the Standards and Frameworks. She presented a rough draft of the APS DLCS Curriculum Map. She hopes to make all of this curriculum and resources live on their website. She reviewed a Professional Learning Model. She gave a quick glimpse of DLCS (Robotics and STEAM) Integration. Robin and Erin gave a glimpse of the Elementary Highlights of the Digital Learning Program. Robin thanked the SC for their support for the funds to hire another DL Specialist, Erin ? Joanna Galvin gave a brief overview of the Gibbs/Ottoson DL Highlights as well as the High School Highlights in Jeff Snyder's absence. A short video was presented as well.

Len Kardon asked about the work with the Curriculum Leaders. Ms. Pimprikar said she follows the lead of the Department. Mr. Schlichtman asked about CHAT PBT and AI Tool that all the children know; Ms. Pimprikar answered accordingly. Pitfalls of using technology and the non-dynamic engagement. Ms. Exton asked whether 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students don't have the opportunity to access this Program because of other Programs. Ms. Exton believes

every student should have access if we are going to justify more specialists. Ms. Pimprikar and Dr. MacNeal answered accordingly.

#### **7:40 p.m. Elementary Literacy Core Curriculum Update (R. MacNeal)**

Dr. MacNeal gave an update on the Program Review by presenting the Objectives, the Literacy Program Review Timeline, what has been completed and where we go next, thru Spring of 2023 with a Final Selection of the Program in April of 2023. Dates and activities were presented. Dr. MacNeal also presented the Resources for EL Education and will follow up with the links. Supplemental resources were also presented. Dr. MacNeal presented a sketch of the Implementation Plan with the initial focus on 4th and 5th grade. They will create lab classes and provide PD for all 4th/5th grade teachers. A Q&A followed. Mr. Kardon suggested a communication to the parents about where we are in the process. Mr. Thielman asked if the Superintendent or SC chooses the curriculum. The Superintendent will choose with input from a Team.

#### **7:50 p.m. Superintendent's Proposed Budget for FY24**

Dr. Homan began the presentation by thanking the students for the artwork on the cover of the Budget Book. She offered the Budget Priorities and Highlights of the Report.

Mr. Mason began the presentation with a slide on the APS in-district 10-year enrollment. He then presented the revenue by funding sources over the last five years, which included COVID resources that will end this year. The FY24 Funding Sources are over 90% from the Town appropriation. Circuit Breaker, Special Revenue, Grants are the other resources in addition to the small COVID amount. The FY24 Proposed Budget Expense by Category was presented. Anticipated Funding Sources for FY24 were then discussed (Local contributions, Chapter 70-State Aid, Grants, COVID-Related Grants, Special Revenue & Revolving and Circuit Breaker. A summary of FY24 Proposed Budget Changes were offered as well as Budget Efficiencies for FY24 which totaled (\$1,328,398) as well as FTE -35.0.

Dr. Homan presented the FY24 High School proposed additions which totaled 6.2 FTE at a total of \$411K. The Middle School level proposed additions included 3.9 FTE at a total of \$275K. Proposed additions for FY24 Preschool and Elementary included 18.8 FTE at a total of \$844,560. Districtwide Proposed Additions included 6.9 FTE at a total of \$527K. ESSER III FY24 Proposed Additions included 5.6 FTE at a total of \$936,595K. These positions include some specialty roles that they would like to try out to possibly keep in the future. A look ahead will include a Budget Hearing and Finance Committee Meeting in April. The SC Members asked questions on various details of the budget and they were answered accordingly.

The AHS Student Representatives were dismissed from the meeting.

#### **8:40 p.m. Second Read SY23-24 Calendar**

Dr. Homan presented the 2nd read of the calendar. She explained that we are still trying to determine the conference dates and will update according to the updated information.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Hayner, to approve a preliminary calendar with an updated calendar to be presented with final details.

Ms. Morgan asked about the AHS move and how the dates impact the calendar – Dr. Homan reported that the move will not impact the full day schedule - compartmental moving vs. half/full days off. We do not have the full details yet. Dr. Allison-Ampe explained that the problem is that we don't know exactly when the building will be ready. We can have a plan, but the plan could be late because of the building not being ready.

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. Unanimous Vote.

#### **8:48 p.m. Possible Vote for Approval of AHS Nordic Ski Team**

Mr. Bowler presents a list of teams at the beginning of each year. He feels it is important that the School Committee approves the team.

A motion was made by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Hayner for approval of the AHS Nordic Ski Team.

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. Unanimous Vote.

#### **8:49 p.m. Update on Implementation of Policy ECEV - Electric Vehicles**

Mr. Schlichtman reported that the signs for electric vehicles at AHS charging stations have been installed!

#### **8:50 p.m. Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Homan reported that there was a LGBTQIA+ Forum on January 22 and that there was an AEF Grants Showcase on January 30. She presented a new professional Development Course List which was recently published; one session was already presented. The Strategic Plan Public Comment days are approaching and Dr. Homan will present a brief video to explain to the participants. Dr. Homan reported that the Cabinet Team attended the DLD in San Diego and that the Leadership Re-Convening was tonight at Gibbs, with a presentation by the Chorus to start off the meeting. She gave an update on the Schools Grant for Afghan Refugee Support, the frigid temps/broken pipes, communication RE: Tye Nichols and enrollments (which can be found in Novus).

#### **9:00 p.m. Consent Agenda**

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

Warrant #23265, 1/24/2023, \$741,638.58

Warrant #23174, 2/7/2023, \$655,493.45

Approval of Regular School Minutes, January 12, 2023

Approval of Regular School Minutes, January 26, 2023

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, abstain.

**9:00 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements**

- Budget - Dr. Allison-Ampe - Meeting tomorrow, February 10
- Community Relations - B. Hayner - CHAT on Saturday February 11
- Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability - J. Morgan - Meeting on March 2
- Facilities - J. Thielman - Meeting February 15
- Policy & Procedures - P. Schlichtman - No report
- Arlington High School Building Committee - Mr. Thielman - As discussed in this meeting, the calendar timeline for the move was discussed.
- Superintendent Evaluation - Len Kardon - None.
  
- Liaison Reports - None.
- Announcements -Long-term custodian at Ottoson has retired and a video is being made in his honor.
- Future Agenda Items - None.

**9:02 p.m. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dr. Allison-Ampe, 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