

Arlington School Committee Meeting
March 2, 2023
Arlington High School
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor
School Committee Room,
Arlington, MA 02476

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Open Meeting:

The Chair opened the meeting and confirmed the attendance of the following School Committee Members: Mr. Hayner, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, yes, Mr. Thielman, yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes (remotely), Ms. Exton, yes. Also present: S. Ferranti, AEA Representative, M. Hagenbuch, AHS Student Representative.

6:31 p.m. Public Hearing on the FY24 Budget

The Chair opened the Public Hearing on the FY24 Budget and asked for comments; no comments were made. The Chair closed the Public Hearing.

6:33 p.m. Public Comment

The Chair read aloud the Public Comment parameters and invited the first/only speaker, Ms. J. Hall. Ms. Hall commented on the Sexual Education Program in the Arlington Public School System (APS). She has filed an official objection to the curriculum being taught to the younger students in APS which, she feels, is not scientific data. She objected to the change of language in the curriculum.

6:36 p.m. AHS Student Representatives to the School Committee

M. Hagenbuch commented that the APS Sports Season is ongoing and that Hockey is “destroying it.” Upcoming school events include the Junior/Senior spring fling in a few weeks which is a precursor to the Prom. All is going well.

6:37 p.m. Athletic Department Presentation (J. Bowler)

Mr. Bowler presented the Athletic Department Update and thanked the Committee and Superintendent for allowing students the opportunity to play any sport without paying a fee. He gave a comparison of the sports being played now (with no fees) in comparison to Fall 2021 (with fees). He presented the Fall and Winter 2022-2023 Accomplishments. He reports that it has been a great year. Field space was discussed for the public knowledge. A Q&A was held and Mr. Bowler answered accordingly.

6:57 p.m. Menotomy Preschool Presentation (J. Schlenger)

Ms. Schlenger introduced her co-presenters (E. Knightly and K. Simoneau) and gave an introduction to Menotomy Preschool (MPS). She shared the number of students, classrooms and evidence-based curriculum. She reflected on the participation of MPS in a DESE-appointed Program, known as the Pyramid Model, (voluntary) where a kind, safe and engaged classroom is promoted (these expectations and others in the pyramid model are infused throughout the Program). A series of Parent Workshops are also promoted at the Preschool. Ms. Schlenger presented the MPS Priorities which coincide with the Arlington Public School priorities (belonging, growth, joy and empowerment), her Key Initiatives for MPS and upcoming Action Steps. The presentation ended with Ms. Schlenger presenting the Resources needed to Support Success at MPS. A Q&A was opened and Ms. Schlenger, Ms. Knightly and Ms. Simoneau answered accordingly.

7:11 p.m. K-12 Mathematics Report (M. Coleman)

Mr. Coleman presented the APS Math and Computer Science Report. He spoke about the District Vision and how it impacts the Math and Science Departments and how well-versed these Departments are to work with as far as teacher leadership and engagement. They embrace their participation for their students and themselves. Coleman's presentation tied back into the Strategic Plan and Goals, specifically Priority 1, (1.1, 1.2, 1.3). Mr. Coleman offered general updates for Elementary, Gibbs/OMS and AHS. He shared action items for next year at each level. Mr. Coleman explained participation in the MIT Pace Project and how wonderful it is being part of this Project. Participation in additional outreach opportunities were presented as well as District Race/Ethnicity Demographics. What is left to do was briefly presented and then the meeting was opened to a Q&A and Mr. Coleman answered accordingly.

7:47 p.m. AHS Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative (M. Janger)

Dr. Janger presented an update to the AHS Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative (HGI) and thanked everyone for their time. He introduced D. Perry and M. Eidson, who were participating remotely, who reported on teacher participation and feedback. This is the 4th or 5th presentation to the School Committee this year and current information only is being presented as well as next steps. There was an overview of participation rates (level changes), honors participation by year, grade outcomes overall, average grade by demographics and gender performance data. Dr. Janger reported on the spring data collection ahead which will include a classroom panorama survey, parent survey and end-of-year grades. Teacher Feedback was presented by Ms. Eidson with brief overviews of Common Planning Time, plans for the March Retreat., planning for Summer Retreat and Questions and Lessons for SY 2023-2024. Ms. Perry added that there is a lot of interest in meeting next week on writing more on the heterogeneous experience from a teacher's perspective. A Q&A was opened with the School Committee Members and Mr. Janger and Dr. Homan answered accordingly.

8:30 p.m. Discussion and Possible Vote on Appraisal of Property at 0 Lot Appleton Street (J. Thielman)

Mr. Thielman briefed the Committee on the property appraisal needed as a next step in the possible sale of the Appleton Street Lot.

A motion was made by Mr. Kardon and seconded by Mr. Hayner to vote to approve and direct the survey and appraisal of a portion of the parcel known as "0 Lot Appleton Street," believed to be owned by the Arlington Public Schools as a portion of the Ottoson Middle School campus.

Legal counsel was present and answered the questions of the School Committee Members accordingly. Dr. Allison-Ampe made it clear that the Facilities Subcommittee Meeting did not make a recommendation for selling; they discussed the appraisal process only and apologized that maps had not been provided but a map was ambiguous. Note was made that only with the School Committee approval would this be brought to Town Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Hayner, yes, Mr. Kardon, yes, Ms. Morgan, yes, Mr. Schlichtman, no, Mr. Thielman, yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes, Ms. Exton, yes. (6-1)

8:35 p.m. FY24 Proposed Budget Updates and Discussion (L. Exton)

This was a placeholder for those who might want to share any comments. Dr. Homan shared some adjustments - ESSER vs General Fund. Projections are shifting a bit so space and support are impacting needs. Mr. Mason did not have additional information. Dr. Allison-Ampe did not have anything to add. It was added that the budget document was reviewed this week to clarify numbers that may not have been entered correctly.

8:38 p.m. Superintendent's Update (E. Homan)

Dr. Homan reminded everyone that the Strategic Plan is open to public comment thru the end of next week, kicking off hiring season. Social Worker week is next week and she thanked all of the social workers at APS for their work. The Admin hiring report was presented as well as the update on enrollments.

8:40 p.m. Consent Agenda

The Chair presented the Consent Agenda items and requested a motion

*Warrant #23194, \$778,462.69, 2-22-2023,

*School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman to approve all items in the Consent Agenda.

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.

8:30 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

Budget - K. Allison-Ampe, Chair - The Committee met and will meet again.

Community Relations - B. Hayner, Chair - No report.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability - J. Morgan, Chair - Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2023.

Facilities - J. Thielman, Chair - Met on February 13 to discuss the property near Ottoson and progress in the district for facilities issues.

Policy and Procedures - P. Schlichtman, Chair - No report.

Arlington High School Building Committee - J. Thielman, Chair - Meeting on Tuesday.

Superintendent Evaluation - L. Kardon, Chair - No report.

Liaison Reports - No reports.

Announcements - Next School Committee Regular Meeting will be held at METCO Headquarters. It will not be available on Zoom but IS being recorded by ACMi. The METCO Headquarters is open to the public.

Future Agenda Items - None.

8:46 p.m. Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Hayner and seconded by Mr. Kardon to move into Executive Session for the purposes of conducting strategy with respect to non-union negotiations or to conduct collective bargaining sessions with non-union personnel, specifically the Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth D. Homan and not return to the Regular School Committee Meeting.

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.

8:50 p.m. Adjourn to Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins
Arlington School Committee
Administrative Assistant