

Arlington School Committee Special Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

August 30, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Conducted Remotely Via Zoom

Conducted by Remote Participation

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-suspending-certain-provision-of-open-meeting-law/download>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89150293357>

6:30 p.m. Open Meeting (K. Allison-Ampe)

The Chair of the School Committee, K. Allison-Ampe, opened the meeting and confirmed the attendance of the following School Committee Members: J. Thielman, L. Gitelson, L. Exton, J. Morgan, L. Kardon and P. Schlichtman. Also in attendance, Superintendent E. Homan, HR Director R. Spiegel, AEA Representative J. Keyes, Deputy Superintendent M. Ford Walker, M. Mason, A. Elmer and B. Hayner.

6:30 p.m. Public Comment (K. Allison-Ampe)

There were no participants for public comment.

6:35 p.m. Appointment of SC Representative (Bill Hayner) to the Arlington 250th Anniversary Committee

Dr. Allison-Ampe and B. Hayner previously discussed the opportunity to have B. Hayner appointed to this position given his long-standing history with the School Committee as the Arlington 250th Anniversary Committee had requested a School Committee Representative. B. Hayner will keep the Committee up to date. There is a meeting scheduled for this Committee tonight.

J. Thielman made a motion and it was seconded by P. Schlichtman to appoint B. Hayner to the Arlington 250th Anniversary Committee as the SC representative.

Roll Call Vote: P. Schlichtman, yes, L. Exton, yes, L. Gitelson, yes, J. Morgan, yes, L. Kardon, yes, J. Thielman, yes and Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes.

VOTE: It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative 7-0

6:36 p.m. Review and possible approval of revised student handbooks – Elementary and High School

Dr. Homan reported that there has been a significant overhaul on the elementary handbooks due to outdated information and procedures that are no longer common practice. Dr. Homan provided document comparisons and noted that the handbooks have been reviewed by Legal Counsel. Dr. Homan welcomed questions from the Committee.

Dr. Allison-Ampe asked about the elementary handbook homework policy (homework in lower grades). L. Gitelson asked if there is a consistent policy in the elementary schools due to discussions on the Arlington Parent ListServe. Dr. Homan answered the questions accordingly and reported that there is not a consistent across districts. J. Morgan commented about the inconsistency in the reading-log piece. Dr. Homan and Dr. Allison-Ampe commented. Student clothing in the high school was discussed as well. Dr. Allison-Ampe and L. Kardon had questions on the illness policies and Dr. Homan answered accordingly. L. Kardon abstained from the vote regarding the High School Doctor note in the handbook.

A *motion* was made by J. Thielman and seconded by P. Schlichtman to approve the elementary School handbooks as presented with the understanding that the Superintendent can make adjustments as necessary.

Roll Call Vote: P. Schlichtman, yes, L. Exton, yes, L. Gitelson, yes, J. Morgan, yes, L. Kardon, no, J. Thielman, yes and Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes.

VOTE: It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative 6-0

A *motion* was made by P. Schlichman and seconded by L. Kardon to receive the elementary handbook.

Roll Call Vote: P. Schlichtman, yes, L. Exton, yes, L. Gitelson, yes, J. Morgan, yes, L. Kardon, yes, J. Thielman, yes and Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes.

VOTE: It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative 7-0

6:55 p.m. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Homan reported that Opening Day was today and it was a lot of fun. A wonderful student panel participated in the activity, the new cabinet team was introduced and answered previously submitted questions. Speakers included P. Schlichtman, J. Keyes and R. DeLoreto. Dr. Homan said it was an overall wonderful day and she is grateful to be in Arlington.

7:10 p.m. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items for approval.

7:15 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

- Budget - L. Kardon. Met last week/two weeks ago and reviewed updates. A budget amendment will have to go before the Special Town Meeting to appropriate \$400,000 if the override passes. Potential ways to deal with hiring issues. Meeting again in mid September.
- Community Relations - L. Exton, no report.
- CIAA - J. Morgan. Meeting on September 13 to discuss Special Education, Outcomes Report, XBlock at AHS. CIAA is excited for their first meeting with Dr. Ford Walker.
- Facilities - J. Thielman. The Facilities Committee will be meeting soon. Mr. Mason is working on the Capital Plan.
- Policies/Procedures - P. Schlichtman. Met on July 24 and had an extensive meeting. Considered a number of policies including: ACA (referred the draft policy changes to Town Counsel who will advise on the wording and is monitoring an outstanding case in Ludlow, ACA-E (DESE guidance for safe and supportive school environment), JJ-E (to be forwarded to the full Committee for a vote which include language on gender identity per MIAA requirements), Policy AC-R (basically administrative changes), Policy AC (a typo being fixed), Policy JLCD (to be edited by the Director of Health and Nursing), Policy ADF (extensive revision).
- AHS Building Committee - J. Thielman. Meeting September 5 @ 6 p.m. Turnover date for Phase II has been moved up to October 30..
- Liaison Reports - none.
- Announcements - none.
- Future Agenda Items - none.

A *motion* was made by J. Thielman and it was seconded by P. Schlichtman to move into Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote: P. Schlichtman, yes, L. Exton, yes, L. Gitelson, yes, J. Morgan, yes, L. Kardon, yes, J. Thielman, yes and Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes.

VOTE: It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative 7-0.

7:05 p.m. Executive Session

7:17 p.m. A *motion* was made by P. Schlichtman and seconded by J. Thielman to return to the School Committee Special Meeting.

7:19 p.m. Possible vote to approve APS and the AEA MOA for Counselors, August 2023 and Unit D 2023-2024 SY Retention Payment Agreement, August 28, 2023

A *motion* was made by P. Schlichtman and seconded by J. Thielman to approve the side letter of agreement between the APS AEA and Unit D 2023-2024 and authorize the Superintendent to sign on behalf of the School Committee. Dr. Homan explained that this is an incentive both for hiring and retention for the Unit D Professionals.

Roll Call Vote: P. Schlichtman, yes, L. Exton, yes, L. Gitelson, yes, J. Morgan, yes, L. Kardon, yes, J. Thielman, yes and Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes.

VOTE: It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative 7-0

A *motion* was made by P. Schlichtman and seconded by J. Thielman to approve the side letter between the APS and AEA pertaining to special education, social workers and counselors at the Ottoson Middle School and authorize the Superintendent to sign on behalf of the School Committee. J. Keyes explained that this is basically merging duties between social workers and counselors so everyone knows what each is doing. She thanked the School Committee for their support.

Roll Call Vote: P. Schlichtman, yes, L. Exton, yes, L. Gitelson, yes, J. Morgan, yes, L. Kardon, yes, J. Thielman, yes and Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes.

VOTE: It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative 7-0

7:25 p.m. Adjournment

A *motion* was made by P. Schlichtman and seconded by J. Thielman to adjourn from the meeting.

Roll Call Vote: P. Schlichtman, yes, L. Exton, yes, L. Gitelson, yes, J. Morgan, yes, L. Kardon, yes, J. Thielman, yes and Dr. Allison-Ampe, yes.

VOTE: It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative 7-0

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth M. Diggins

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee