

*Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Thursday, October 12, 2017  
6:30 PM  
Arlington High School  
School Committee Room  
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor  
Arlington, MA 02476*

*Present: Jeff Thielman, Chair, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Bill Hayner, Secretary, Paul Schlichtman, Cindy Starks, Len Kardon, and Jennifer Susse*

*Roderick MacNeal, Assistant Superintendent of the Schools, John Danizio, Chief Financial Officer, Rob Spiegel, Human Resource Director, Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant, Liz Higgins AEA Representative and Theo Rosen, Student Council Representative*

*Absent: Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D. Superintendent of the Schools*

*Open Meeting*

*Mr. Thielman held for a moment of silence for Mr. Stephen Porciello Deputy Fire Chief, father of Stephen our APS School Resource Officer, who recently passed away and for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting. The high school student's artwork displayed tonight included Digital Photography, Abstract Expressionist Paintings, Contour Wire Drawing and Silhouette and Symbols, Surrealist Ink Paintings and Observational Ink and Stick Drawings.*

*Public Participation*

*Ms. Christine Falcone, 345 Washington Street, Stratton and Menotomy Preschool parent stated she is concerned of the large Kindergarten classroom size and urges the School Committee to hire full time Kindergarten Teaching Assistants, since the Tools of the Mind requires two teachers to administer the program and that a new math curriculum is in place said we should invest in hiring full time TA.*

*Ms. Liz Exton Washington Street, Stratton Kindergarten parent agrees with Ms. Falcone and is asking us to make it a priority for additional funding for full time Kindergarten TA.*

*Ms. Kate Leary, Milton Street Hardy parent, sent the School Committee members the Hardy playground presentation and will attend the next Facilities Subcommittee meeting to discuss this further. Ms. Leary spoke on the CPA grant request, enrollment growth and the crowded playground at Hardy and would like us to hire a landscape architect to see how we can use space smarter.*

*Ms. Terry Holt, Hardy PTO president pleaded for families to raise funds and invest in the play space for the Hardy playground.*

*Mr. Dan Bouchard – Overlook Road and Stratton Kindergarten parent supports having full time Kindergarten Teaching Assistants in the classrooms.*

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*Ms. Stephanie Gendron, Lansdowne Road, Stratton parent, wanted to reiterate what everyone stated tonight that we need more support for students in Kindergarten.*

*Ms. Katarina Kalacuatiruo Stratton Kindergarten parent said 25 students is too many in the classroom and that it's not management and suggests having a full time Teaching Assistant.*

#### Meet New APS Administrator

*Mr. William Pappazisis Director of Performing Arts spoke about having over 35 years' experience and served on DESE Arts framework and is excited to work with the faculty and wants to provide the best for the students in Arlington. The committee members would like to see a website and maybe a spot on it for the public to be able to make donations.*

*Ms. Dawn Carney, Director of World Language spoke on her 25 years of experiences working in the schools and is happy to be here in carrying on the previous directors standards. Ms. Carney said she has worked with Dr. Bodie and Dr. Woods over the summer on progress of students having the same language for grades 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders.*

#### ELL Report Update from the CPR Audit

*Ms. Bruzzese, Director of ELL and Ms. Smith, ELL Family Liaison, teacher and parent presented a snapshot of the current departments growth over the six years as Director of English Language Learners. Ms. Bruzzese said the students have grown from 200 to about 300 now and that the biggest population in the elementary grades is mostly Japanese students.*

*The CPR review showed one finding under the ELL that we do need to have more translation on our documents for parents, not just what is available in Google translation. We now have an active plan to work with the Assistant Superintendent and the Director of IT, and then pass the plan on to the ELL Family Liaison to then work with families on help with coordination of translation of documents and to have translators at teacher conferences, and at PTO meetings as well as help with financial aid.*

*The committee members acknowledged the challenges for the translation piece for ELL parents, and that the SEI Professional Development may not be helping and asked what they could do to help since the Cultural Competency goal ties it all in together for the district.*

#### Civil Rights Update from the CPR Audit

*Mr. MacNeal presented the piece from the CPR Audit on Civil Rights for the district and reviewed the process and timeline of the CPR Finding and Ratings we received. He said we had 9 findings under Civil Rights and provided the descriptions of the corrective action.*

*After the committee heard the presentation of each of the 9 findings and corrective action plans for each it was discussed that we should have had our legal team review the handbooks sooner, but Mr. MacNeal is working on the draft of the handbook and working with our attorney which is part of our action plan. Mr. Hayner indicated that he had mentioned before that the handbooks were not updated and that the school committee's counsel is responsible to update these annually.*

Ms. Susse is looking for the Student Discipline report and Mr. MacNeal will do a review of the report when it becomes available and provide an update to the School Committee members. After the discussion Mr. MacNeal invited the School Committee Members to our Professional Development Day, November 1<sup>st</sup> to hear from our speaker Dr. Anthony Mohmand from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

#### Arlington Community Education Update

Ms. Rothenberg, Director of Community Education and Ms. Loeb, Youth Programs Manager spoke on programs and their employees who help run them which include 7 site coordinators at each of the elementary schools and 14 high school students. Their mission is to increase the 26 classes offered each week and to mix up programming and continue to increase out of town adults attending. The high school offerings include driver's education and test prep for students as well as a new GED program. The Youth programming has grown and is year round and we have a huge demand for wellness programming but space is the biggest challenge.

The high school rebuild was brought up and discussed since the space is will affect Community Education. Ms. Rothenberg said they will need to use the space at night and on weekends and would like to continue the education enrichment programs for the entire Arlington community.

Mr. MacNeal wanted it to go on record that when he spoke on our CPR findings and comments he made on our handbooks has no reflection of our legal staff. Since he was not here back then he said going forward he will make sure to correct these actions.

Mr. Thielman informed the community that Dr. Bodie is away at an educational conference.

#### Minority Hiring Report

Mr. Spiegel spoke on the student enrollment data as of October 1, 2017 and then reported out on all the Minority Hiring Data report presented to the committee.

#### Discuss the Resolutions for the MASC Annual Business Meeting

Mr. Schlichtman wanted the committee to discuss the Resolutions for the MASC Annual Business Meeting held during the Joint Conference on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 3:15 and wanted the committee to support his recommendations to Vote No on the MASC Resolutions on Chapter 70 and support the rest of the resolutions presented. No motion was made but all agreed.

#### Superintendent's Report

##### AHS Building Update

Mr. Thielman informed the committee about the AHS Building vote to take place next week and said we are down to three different design firms for the high school which include HMFA, Finegold, and Arrowstreet Architects. They will attend the MSBA meeting and hear design proposals which cost about 30 to 40 thousand dollars, and then each side states their preference, then all 16 vote and the one with most points is the design firm for the town.

Mr. Thielman did bring up that the APool group held a meeting and applied to CPA looking for capital planning money, since they cannot interact with the school since this is not part of the AHS Building project. It was important to hold the meeting since 600 people in town signed the petition.

The committee members discussed the high school design plans and Mr. Kardon stated that if MSBA does not allow certain footprint designs like adding a track or a second gym, we can decide to fund things ourselves, and that it is important to keep that as an option.

#### Consent Agenda

**Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Consent Agenda Approval of Minutes: School Committee Regular Meeting, September 28, 2017, Approval of Warrant: Warrant # 18062, dated 9/28/2017, Total Amount \$360,447.54 and Approval of Trip: None, seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Policy: None

#### Subcommittee & Liaison Reports & Announcements

Budget, Kirsi Allison-Ampe, MD. (Chair) First Reading of the Budget Calendar, updated with dates, and the next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2017. Ms. Starks said with all the parent input and class sizes being so large with the Kindergarten classrooms, she would like Kindergarten aides discussed at the next Budget subcommittee meeting and receive some financial numbers for half time Teaching Assistants to full time Teaching Assistants.

Dr. Allison-Ampe said she is not disagreeing with the suggestions but we haven't heard anything from the principals yet and would like to hear from them. Mr. Hayner recommends that we review the system wide teaching Assistants for all grades. Ms. Susse suggested that parents advocate to town officials that the schools need more money.

Community Relations, Cindy Starks, (Chair) brief update from the Chat, nothing happened until the end of the hour that parents would like students to learn bike safety. Mr. Schlichtman suggested that the subcommittee look at the correspondence email.

District Accountability, Curriculum/Instruction & Assessment, (CIAA) Paul Schlichtman, (Chair) held a meeting on Tuesday with a group of Peirce parents about Teaching Assistants and discussed the budget and space issues. The gifted program ACE at the Gibbs was discussed.

Facilities, Jennifer Susse (Chair) held a meeting on 10/10/2017 and will hold another meeting to discuss hardy concerns and technically issues.

Policies & Procedures, Len Kardon (Chair) is planning a meeting 10/24/2017 at 5:30 and will confirm.

School Enrollment Task Force, Bill Hayner, Cindy Starks, Jennifer Susse nothing to report

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*Legal Services Review, Bill Hayner, Len Kardon still waiting for summer report  
Arlington High School Building Committee Jeff Thielman and Kirsi Allison-  
Ampe, nothing to report*

*Gibbs Committee, Cindy Starks, a committee meeting is planned for November.*

*Warrant Committee, Bill Hayner all paid*

*Liaisons Reports*

*Mr. Hayner attended the Stratton PTO meeting and the PTBC which an update on Thompson was given that it continues to be worked on and pictures of the Gibbs showed 85% of demo is down and it was noted they found issues with 3<sup>rd</sup> floor windows leaking, and aggressively working on the building. Hardy is going forward.*

*Announcements*

*The Children's rooms walk is this Sunday at Town Hall 10 a.m. and Bridging two communities' pot luck will come up soon*

*Future items*

*Review reports on general education Teaching Assistants part time and full time for the next meeting on 10/26/2017*

*Executive Session*

*None*

*Correspondence Received:*

*Warrant 9/28/2017*

*Draft Minutes 9/28/2017*

*MASC resolutions*

*Minority Hiring Report*

*Arlington Community Education Presentation 2017*

*ELL and Civil CPR Findings reports*

*Emails regarding TA's and communication issues 10 2017*

*League of Women Voters October 2017*

*Budget Calendar 2017 - 2018*

*Adjournment*

*Ms. Starks moved to exit and adjourn at 9:11 p.m. second by Mr. Hayner*

***Voted: 7-0***

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Karen M. Fitzgerald*

*Administrative Assistant*

*School Committee*