

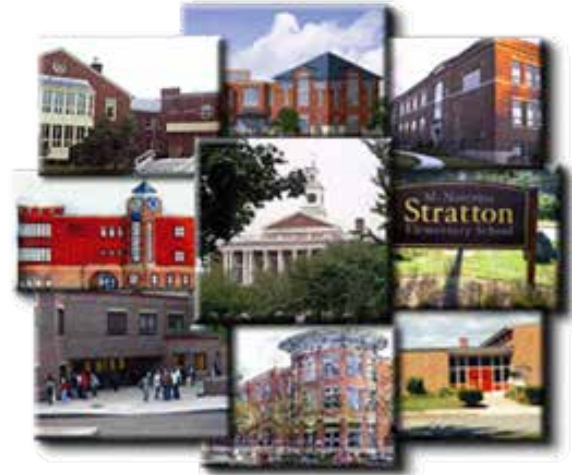
ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The tradition of excellence in the classroom, performing and visual arts, and athletics continued in the 2016-2017 school year. Motivated students, great teachers, dedicated administrators, involved parents, and a supportive community made this possible. This year continued the focus of building on past successes and moving forward on the vision of the Arlington Public Schools as detailed in the four over-arching district goals.

- The Arlington Public Schools will ensure that every graduate is prepared to enter and complete a post-secondary degree program, pursue a career, and be an active citizen in an ever-changing world by offering a rigorous, comprehensive, standards-based and data-driven K-12 system of curriculum, instruction, and assessment that integrates social, emotional and wellness support.
- The Arlington Public Schools will recruit, hire, retain, and build the capacity of a diverse staff to be excellent teachers and administrators by providing high quality professional development aligned to needs, instructional support, coaching, and an evaluation framework that fosters continuous improvement.
- The Arlington Public Schools will offer a cost effective education that maximizes the impact of taxpayer dollars and utilizes best practices, academic research, and rigorous self-evaluation to provide students and staff the resources, materials and infrastructure required for optimum teaching and learning in a safe and healthy environment.
- The Arlington Public Schools will be run smoothly, efficiently and professionally. The district will operate transparently and engage in effective collaboration and responsive communication with all stakeholders. It will provide timely, accurate data to support financial decision-making, envisioning of the district's future, and long-range planning in partnership with other Town officials. Through these actions it will create broad support for a high quality education system that is the community's most valuable asset.

The results of our efforts include:

- Clear expectations for what every child should know and be able to do (standards-based education) continued to be refined and integrated into daily life in the classroom.



District-wide common assessments continued to be refined and updated in all disciplines, including mathematics, English, and writing to help teachers pace their instruction and inform them about students who had mastered the skills and content and those who needed further instruction. The District's intensive reading program, which focuses on early intervention and intensive support for struggling readers, demonstrated continued success. All K-5 students were assessed during the school year. Data from these assessments determined the level of support provided for students not meeting benchmark standards. This initiative has helped many more students read at grade level. At all levels, teachers and administrators focused on incorporating 21st century skills into every classroom. While the content of what is taught remained in place, greater emphasis on team work, working in a multicultural global society, perseverance, communication skills, creative problem-solving, and the ability to evaluate and synthesize information was emphasized.

- Stratton Elementary School students and staff were housed in modular classrooms on site during renovation of the school during the 2016-2017 school year. The expected opening of the renovated Stratton is September 2017. Construction of six additional classrooms to address enrollment growth began at Thompson Elementary School with expected completion in September 2017. Construction commenced in the spring 2017 to renovate the sixth grade Gibbs School to house future sixth grade classes in order to alleviate over-crowding at the Ottoson Middle School (OMS). The expected opening of the sixth grade Gibbs School is September 2018.

- In May 2017, the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) Board of Directors voted for Arlington to commence the process involved in completing the Eligibility Module, which is the first phase of the process to rebuild or renovate the high school.
- The results of the 2016 state assessments indicates that Arlington continues to be a high achieving district with moderate student growth, as high performing schools have challenges maintaining high growth. Students in Grades 3-8 took PARCC assessments in 2016 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics instead of MCAS. The district participated in the PARCC assessment program this year because PARCC assessments were determined to be more similar to the next generation MCAS assessments, which all students in Grades 3-8 will be required to take in spring 2017. PARCC scores for 2016 in ELA and Mathematics were based on a formula developed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to compare PARCC scores to MCAS scores. A state average was available only for Grade 10 MCAS, which all MA students took in 2016. Overall trends in data reflect progress in closing the achievement gap. At the elementary level, schools where schedule and staffing allowed for consistent intervention services and coaching, data showed a positive achievement trend for high-needs students. At the secondary level, the Arlington High School (AHS) schedule supports consistent scheduling of interventions for high-needs students, resulting in the best positive trend for this sub-group in the district. AHS passing rate on MCAS for Grade 10 ELA is 98%; Math, 96%; Science and Technology/Engineering, 97%. Students who do not pass MCAS on their first try retake the failed tests and are able to successfully pass MCAS in order to graduate with a diploma.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, the staff, teachers, and administrators of Arlington Public Schools (APS) have each participated in over 70 hours of professional development focused on topics which enable the district to effectively work towards increasing the capacity of all staff to deliver an effective learning experience for all students. Teachers at all levels have participated in professional development centered around instructional techniques that are necessary to close the achievement gap between struggling and succeeding students, to assist teachers in creating supports necessary to provide each student with the social-emotional growth that will prepare them to become purposeful adults, and to provide teachers with the skills necessary to integrate the development of 21st century skills into the curriculum K-12. In order to deliver wide-spread professional development in a fiscally responsive manner, the district has frequently utilized the expertise of its teachers and staff to share knowledge through a professional learning community model. Math and literacy coaches, assisted by teacher leaders, provided an expanded level of support for improving instruction not previously offered within the district. The expansion of the skills of teacher leaders has been generously supported by the Arlington Educational Foundation (AEF). The use of mini-blended learning courses (courses which include both a face-to-face and an online component) taught by district curriculum coordinators and teacher leaders provided teachers with additional expertise in meeting the needs of English language learners and special education students. Libraries of exemplar videos have been expanded to assist teachers with continued refining of their classroom practices.
- AHS continues to excel on assessments of academic quality reflecting both high achievement and improvements in academic equity. AHS earned a Level 1 designation on the Massachusetts School Report Card for the third year in a row. This reflects not only high performance overall, but success in raising the performance of high-needs students. Given our high levels of achievement, this constant improvement becomes more difficult to maintain each year. AHS has again received Gold Medal distinction in the U.S. News & World Report Best High School Rankings, rising in its ranking both in the state and nationally. This year AHS ranked 16th among Massachusetts schools, up from 19 the year before, and in the top 2% of schools nationally. Arlington was also recognized as a top school in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, ranking 193 nationally. Newsweek also ranked Arlington in the top 2% of schools. Students at AHS also continued high levels of performance in the National Merit Scholarship Competition over the past four years.
- The Technology Plan was further implemented this year by increasing technology hard-

ware, including LCD projectors, in all schools and increasing WAN bandwidth to 10GB to all elementary schools. The size of both of the school internet circuits were increased from 250Mb to 500Mb. Data storage capacity and security were updated and expanded. School buildings were added to the Energy Management System Network as part of Phase 1 of School/Town Energy Management Project. APS website was redesigned to include site dashboard. Network, server and desktop infrastructure were upgraded to enable the PARCC exams to be taken by students at Ottosom Middle School, Stratton, Pierce, Dallin and Bishop. BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program was implemented at the OMS and AHS. Courses in technology expanded to increase the number of students studying digital modeling and computer science utilizing additional technology purchased through the support of AEF.

- Grants received supported the expansion of technology, curriculum initiatives, professional development and academic and social-emotional support for students.

In spring 2016, AEF awarded the district a Development and Expansion Grant for Safe and Supportive Schools. During summer 2016, over 30 teachers, administrators and parents met to develop a set of recommendations to address the growing behavioral health needs of our students. The task force had representation from all levels and buildings, special education and general education. The task force completed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Safe and Supportive Schools Self-Assessment to assess where the district was in six critical areas and developed district level recommendations in these areas.

In fall 2016, the district received a Safe and Supportive Schools Grant from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which allowed the district to build on the summer work at the pre-school, elementary schools, and OMS. These schools completed the state's Self-Assessment and developed recommendations and action plans to improve safety and supportiveness in individual schools.

AEF also awarded a sizable Development and Expansion Grant to support planning for the opening of the sixth grade Gibbs School in fall 2018. With this support, the team of teachers, specialists and administrators began developing plans in three key areas: 1) school community building, including programs and structures for ongoing support for an inclusive school environment and success for all students; 2) curriculum, instruction, and assessment, including structures for ongoing support in improving teaching and learning; and 3) building

operations, including schedule development.

Additionally, AEF awarded a School Improvement Grant for Teacher Leadership, allowing the lab-site model of teacher professional development to expand the number of teachers and the number of different types of opportunities teachers have to share their instructional practice with each other during the school day.

The George and Elizabeth Sanborn Foundation continues to fund the APS to support a myriad of activities addressing tobacco prevention education, intervention for those who are users, and cancer support and education for the students in K-12, the staff and the community.

Arlington benefits from entitlement grants that are based on federal funding, which provide for small group instruction for Mathematics and English Language Arts before or after school, or in the summer, a robust induction program for teachers, and a Summer English Language Learner's program for eligible students from all elementary schools. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant provides support for special education.

The schools continued to work in partnership with the police, town, and community to ensure consistent and coordinated responses to inappropriate student behaviors. The Diversion Program started in 2006, which focuses on restitution and rehabilitation for first time, non-violent behavior, has proven to be an effective model. The APS partnered again this year with community and nonprofit organizations to provide more options for counseling services. Meeting the social and emotional needs of children is as high a priority as meeting the academic needs of our students. The Parent Forum series continued again this year, free to all parents and community members. These forums included a variety of topics ranging from: Addiction, Local Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Teen Brain Development, Guiding Good Choices, Problem Solving, Anxiety Disorders, Smoking Cessation, Cultural Diversity, Working with Talented Students, Mindfulness, Raising Responsible Children, and Supporting LGBTQ Youth.

For more information about activities, school and department highlights, and achievements in the Arlington Public Schools during 2016-2017, please see: <http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/administration/budget/fy18/fy18budgettownmeeting04-24-17.pdf>.

For additional information, please see the Superintendent's newsletters: <http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/administration/newsletters/>

The Arlington Public Schools have a team of talented professionals working together towards our shared vision: All students will achieve at their full social, emotional, creative, and academic potential, and will be prepared for higher level academics, workforce success, active citizenship, and life-long learning.



Minuteman High School

Dr. Edward A. Bouquillon, Superintendent-Director
January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Minuteman Breaks Ground for New School

On June 14, 2017, state and local officials joined the Minuteman School Committee, School Building Committee and hundreds of Minuteman faculty, staff, and students for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the construction of the new high school. Completion of the new school is expected by start of school, fall 2019.

"An investment in education pays the best interest," Jack McCarthy, Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), told the gathering. The MSBA is investing more than \$44 million in the project.

Speaking on behalf of the area's legislative delegation, Rep. Jay Kaufman (D-Lexington) applauded the project and noted Minuteman's importance to students and to the region's economy. He also remembered the late Sen. Kenneth Donnelly (D-Arlington) as a big supporter of vocational-technical education and Minuteman High School.

Nothing about the Minuteman project has been easy. To secure project approval, the District needed to revise its governance structure and membership, scale back student enrollment, and change state regulations so non-members contribute to capital costs. The District was also forced to hold a district-wide election to secure final approval for bonding.

"This project nearly failed several times," said School Committee chair Jeffrey Stulin of Needham. Speaking directly to Minuteman students, Mr. Stulin urged them to take on important projects, be persistent, put their passion into it, and have the courage to accept that they might fail. In his remarks, Superintendent Dr. Edward Bouquillon urged state officials not to tinker with the existing model for career vocational-technical education. "Now is not the time to shave off the best aspects of CVTE and try to graft it onto a traditional high school schedule," he said. "All that will do is weaken our system in Massachusetts."

Guests included a host of town managers and selectmen, educational leaders, officials from the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS), and members of Minuteman's program advisory committees.

Minuteman Sells Bonds for New School

In September, the Minuteman School Committee approved the sale of \$36 million in general obligation

bonds for the construction of a new high school. The vote to issue the bonds was 10-0.

Eight financial institutions competed to purchase the bonds. The low bid was submitted by Bank of America Merrill Lynch with a true interest cost of just over 3.09%. The high bid was just over 3.43%.

The District offered the bids after receiving a credit rating of "AA" from S&P Global Ratings.

Major State Grant for Advanced Manufacturing

In March of 2017, Minuteman secured a second major competitive grant to launch its new Advanced Manufacturing & Metal Fabrication program. The new program will train high school students and adults for high-wage, high-demand jobs in the field of advanced manufacturing. The \$495,000 grant was announced by Governor Charles Baker during ceremonies at Greater Lowell Technical High School. The previous year, Minuteman received a \$500,000 grant.

Board Supports Minuteman Girls in STEM Program

Minuteman High School and Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce, Inc. joined forces to expand opportunities for young high school girls seeking careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). With the help of a \$14,500 state grant, Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce assisted in funding a series of activities for Minuteman's award-winning Girls in STEM program.

District Adopts Smaller Budget

For the second year in a row, the Minuteman School Committee adopted a budget that is **smaller** than the previous one. On January 31, the School Committee voted to adopt a budget of \$19,449,466. That's \$278,631 – or 1.41% -- smaller than the FY 2017 budget.

Students Earn Medals at National Competition

Six students from Minuteman earned medals at a national competition, two were from Arlington. The SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference was held June 19-23, 2017, in Louisville, Kentucky. SkillsUSA is a national organization that allows students in career and technical education to compete in a host of rigorous technical and leadership competitions. Adam Powell and Ethan Francis-Wright, both of Arlington, earned bronze in Web Design.

State Commends Minuteman for MCAS

In October of 2017, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) commended Minuteman High School for its 2017 MCAS scores. The school was one of only seven schools in the Commonwealth to be singled out for high achievement, making strong progress, or narrowing proficiency gaps.

Minuteman enjoys a Level 1 Accountability Rating for its students' MCAS performance. Each year, DESE rates all schools and school districts in Massachusetts from Level 1 to Level 5, with Level 1 being the best.

Minuteman Recognizes Outstanding Students

Two seniors earned recognition for exemplary character, leadership and scholastic excellence.

Davis Kahmann of Arlington, an engineering major, was selected as the school's Outstanding Vocational-Technical Student of 2017. Along with other distinguished student honorees from vocational-technical high schools and programs across the Commonwealth, he was honored at an awards ceremony at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on April 13.

Sean Datar of Acton was Minuteman's 2017 nominee for the Walter J. Markham Award. This honor is sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and the Massachusetts Vocational Association. Walter Markham was a pioneer in vocational-technical education in Massachusetts.

Minuteman Students Win Logo Design Contests

Melanie Hennessey was the winner of a logo design contest sponsored by the Battlegreen Run Foundation. Battlegreen Run is a non-profit foundation that organizes an annual road race in Lexington to fund worthy local charities. Ms. Hennessey, majoring in Design & Visual Communications at Minuteman, is a graduate of the Dover-Sherborn Middle School.

John "Jack" Ross, a Minuteman student from Arlington, was the winner of a logo design contest sponsored by the Minuteman Futures Foundation, Inc. The Minuteman Futures Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that raises funds to support students and programs at Minuteman High School. Christopher Bate-man, managing partner of the Lexx Restaurant in Lexington, serves as the Foundation's president.

Minuteman Students Get Laptops

Freshmen at Minuteman High School are now armed with digital learning devices because of a new initiative called "mPower—Empower Our Revolution." In early March of 2017, all ninth-graders received a laptop as part of Minuteman's one-to-one program. Under the program, each student is given an electronic device, in this case, an HP Probook x360. Students are able to use the devices in school and take them home at night.

Minuteman Featured in Nationally-Broadcast TV Documentary Minuteman High School was one of three vocational technical high schools in Massachusetts featured on "Job Centered Learning," a PBS television documentary about career and technical education. The documentary by award-winning filmmaker Bob Gliner first aired in October of 2017.

Minuteman School Committee Elects New Officers

As of July 2017, the Minuteman District includes ten member towns: Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Bolton, Concord, Dover, Lancaster, Lexington, Needham, and Stow. The newly-reconstituted District elected a new School Committee leadership team at the first meeting of the new ten-member Committee.

Members elected David Horton of Lexington as its new chair, Sue Sheffler of Arlington as its new vice-chair, and Pam Nourse of Acton as its new secretary.

Mr. Horton succeeds Jeffrey Stulin of Needham, who successfully led the School Committee from the start of planning for a new school to its groundbreaking. Mr. Horton, who formerly served as the committee's secretary, is a retired school administrator.

In addition to the three officers and Mr. Stulin, members of the School Committee include Jim Gammill of Belmont, David O'Connor of Bolton, Carolyn "Carrie" Flood of Concord, Ford Spalding of Dover, Jennifer Leone of Lancaster, and Alice DeLuca of Stow.

Comprised of volunteers appointed by each of the member communities, the School Committee approves the district budget, hires the superintendent, and sets policy for the district.

School Committee Member Receives State Award

Ford Spalding of Dover, a Minuteman School Committee member who helped lead the fight for construction of the new Minuteman High School, received a prestigious award from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). MASC selected Mr. Spalding to receive the MASC's Division VIII All-State School Committee 2017 award. Division VIII includes more than 80 school districts in Massachusetts with state-approved (Chapter 74) vocational technical education programs.

"We're very happy that Ford is being recognized for his hard work and we're grateful for everything he's done to support vocational technical education and the students at Minuteman High School," said Dr. Edward Bouquillon, the school's Superintendent. "In both good times and bad, he's been there, fighting alongside us. He and I always agree on one thing: the kids come first."

The award was presented to Mr. Spalding at the MASC Leadership Awards Dinner in Hyannis on November 3. Mr. Spalding serves as a member of the Minuteman School Committee representing the Town of Dover. He also serves as chair of the Minuteman School Building Committee, the group overseeing construction of the new \$144.9 million Minuteman High School. Previously, he chaired the Campaign for Minuteman's Future, a group of volunteers that helped win a district-wide referendum for construction of the new school.