



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 13, ISSUE VI

MAY 2024

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Support Your Schools On May 21

This year's school budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 21. The ballot will also include a transportation proposition, a capital project proposition, and four school board positions.

The support of every ATA member is vital to ensure a positive outcome to the budget process. If you do not live in the district it is important that you talk to your friends and family who do and encourage them to get out and vote on the 21st. Make sure to tell them why passage of the budget and the propositions are important to you and how they will benefit the children of this district.

In addition, offer to give them information about the candidates for school board and explain why it is important for the success of the district to have people on the school board who are able to work with the employees of Arlington to further the educational opportunities that we offer. There are several qualified candidates running, and the ATA has carefully considered whom to endorse.

In this issue you will find some facts to help you inform others about the 2024–2025 Arlington school budget and propositions. More information about these items can be found at arlingtonschools.org.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

There are five candidates running for four seats. The ATA, AESA, and ATAA are endorsing **Sofia Bonnet Hollis, Donna Logan, and Mary Anne Meaden**. The three highest voter-getters will each be elected to serve a three-year term beginning on July 1. The candidate who comes in fourth will fill a one-year unexpired term starting on May 21. We do not make an endorsement for the fourth position.

BUDGET FACTS

- A 2.0% tax levy increase is proposed, which is below the allowable 2.51% cap.
- If the budget fails twice, a contingency budget must be adopted, meaning that an additional \$4.11 million would have to be cut.
- Proposition #2 is for the purchase of bus and equipment replacements in order to provide cost predictability. If this proposition does not pass, more buses will likely need repairs as they get older, which could lead to cuts to educational programs to cover these additional costs.
- Proposition #3 is the capital bond proposition that will address essential infrastructure repairs and improvements. See page 3 for details.

Visit arlingtonschools.org for more information

ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

How much would the average Arlington homeowner pay per month for the district's 2024 capital bond proposal?

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was Anya Tomaseski from BES. She knew that the ATA has approximately **760 members**. She will be the proud owner of ATA gear. Answer this month's question and you could win ATA gear too!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by **May 31**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Napora Receives TALAT Grant

Long-time AHS special education teacher Colleen Napora has worked with experienced teachers on the National Board process for many years, and now she has set her sights on the other end of the spectrum—recruiting students to the teaching profession. After helping people submit their portfolios or tenure binders it seemed like a natural progression to her to work with students who want to become teachers. “As I approach retirement,” she says, “I am very concerned about the upcoming teacher shortage and want to help young people with an interest in the field. I hope that they love the job as much as I have for so many years.”

To that end, Napora applied for, and was awarded, NYSUT's Take a Look at Teaching Grow-Your Own (GYO) grant, funded by the National Education

Association's Great Public Schools fund. She plans to use the \$10,000 for purchasing books and materials to help educate students on how to become teachers, taking field trips to

Look at Teaching (TALAT) club. Napora says, “I would love to work with a middle school teacher and collaborate on working with students. If anyone is interested in working with me on the club at the secondary level, please let me know.”

How can we inspire students to become teachers? Napora advises, “Share what you love about teaching with your students...even the really young students. Share it often. Encourage kids who you think may be good with people and show a love for kids. Encourage our students who may come from different backgrounds and may be first gen college students. We hope to inspire them at a younger age.”

For more information about the TALAT club, or to offer help with the program, contact Napora at AHS at cnapora@acsdny.org.

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state schools that offer teacher preparation programs, and offering a stipend to someone who would help with the Take a

Come to the 2024 Recognition Dinner!

On Friday, June 21, the ATA will hold its annual recognition dinner/dance. The evening provides an opportunity to recognize and say goodbye to those who have decided to retire and celebrate those who have received tenure. The event takes place at Christos Restaurant in Poughkeepsie starting at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$80.00 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and a cash bar. To purchase tickets, contact Steve Hertzog at AHS.

**New Members--
Scan the QR Code for a chance
to win two free tickets!**

(You must be within your first four years at Arlington to enter.)



Vote YES For Our Schools!

On May 21, Arlington Central School District ballots will include a capital project bond proposition to approve funding for facilities improvements to our schools. The Arlington Teachers' Association strongly supports the passage of this bond proposition, and we encourage voters in the Arlington district to vote *for* it on May 21. Please help us to spread the word by talking to your friends, neighbors, and family members about why the passage of this proposition is important to us.

As educators who work with the children of our district every day, we can see that our buildings are in need of substantial work in order to ensure they are safe and welcoming places with equitable learning spaces for all. Here are a few of the vital issues this capital project will address:

- **Maintenance of Traver Road School is no longer economically viable due to problems including asbestos concerns and a failing septic system.** The children of Pleasant Valley deserve better. This project will add on to West Road School so that it serves all of Pleasant Valley's elementary students, K-5. Traver Road School will be closed once this is complete, transferring all students to West Road, and keeping all of Traver Road's children together.
- **The traffic flow and parking situation at Arthur S. May school is dangerous.** This project will alleviate that concern by rerouting the paths of parent and faculty vehicles so that they are not crossing those from the bus garage and shipping department that are also located on site.
- **LaGrange Middle School is overcrowded, creating inequity with Union Vale Middle.** All of our middle grade students should be able to experience the same Arlington education, no matter which part of the district they live in. Adding new classrooms to LMS and expanding the cafeteria should help to achieve that.
- **"Temporary" classrooms at many of our elementary schools have long outlasted their intended lifespans.** Replacing them with permanent structures will create educational spaces free of the distractions that come with the temporary rooms, such as floors that bounce when walked upon and the odor of animals dying under the raised substructures.
- **Our schools do not have secure points of entry.** The construction of vestibules in the entryways of all schools will help our security personnel to keep our students safe.

In addition to those items, we also welcome the planned improvements to library media centers and gymnasiums, and upgrades to electrical, ventilation, and roofing systems.

Thank you for your help in passing this bond proposition, along with the district's budget, and the bus proposition, on May 21.



GET THE FACTS & LEARN HOW TO VOTE
www.arlingtonschools.org/facilityplan24

Rebuilding Our Community Together

The annual Rebuilding Together of Dutchess County event took place on April 27, 2024. For this event, ATA and Poughquag United Methodist Church (PUMC) teamed up to make several repairs in a house by Titusville Intermediate School in LaGrangeville. The homeowner, Ms. Stoerzinger, has been living in her home for about 20 years. Her place is filled with toys, as she adores her eight beautiful grandchildren. Ms. Stoerzinger worked for six years in the kitchen of AHS, LMS, and BES.

For this project, as well as other projects in the past, ATA donated funds to purchase materials. This year's mission included various jobs; something for each volunteer. A group of volunteers cleaned Ms. Stoerzinger's yard and removed the old fence and the 4x4 studs. Another group painted the foundation and shutters. Other volunteers replaced part of the outside steps with new steps, secured the railing, and installed a new screen door. Ms. Stoerzinger's house was also in need of replacing the kitchen floor, fixing a hole in the wall, replacing a door in the first floor, reframing the downstairs bathroom, and installing a new sink. Some other volunteers cleaned and reframed under the screened porch, dumped unwanted items in the dumpster, and filled up flower pots with topsoil. Ms. Stoerzinger is looking forward to planting some strawberry plants and flowers; something that will remind her of the kindness from her community.

Ms. Stoerzinger was thrilled seeing the love and care that each volunteer offered. She was beyond grateful and speechless when some of her children and grandchildren came to visit her during the day. The gorgeous weather along with the great transformation of her house put a smile on her face. Ms. Stoerzinger considered 4/27/2024 a remarkable day; a day of giving back to the Arlington community and helping each other.

A big thank you to our retiree Doug Dickeson (UVMS) and his family (Sheila-BES, Casey, and Allana-OPS) for always assisting with Rebuilding Together projects and representing our ATA. Also, a thank you to Judy McGuire (ASM); Aaron Murray, Debbie Pollack and her husband John (LMS); Megan McGinnis, Amanda Sosnick and her family members (UVMS); Christie Boydston and her husband Bill (BES); Laura Bagnarol and her family members (OPS); and Jon Nix (VFES) for their willingness to give up some of their Saturday's time to assist a member of our community.

-Eleni Anemelos AHS



Aaron Murray (LMS) removes old fence posts.



Eleni Anemelos (AHS, left) helps homeowner Mrs. Stoerzinger to dump unwanted items.



Photos Courtesy of
Eleni Anemelos,
ATA Rebuilding
Together Project
Coordinator



Debbie Pollack (LMS) cleans underneath the porch to prepare for reframing.



The Dickeson family works on replacing old outside steps.

2023 — 2024 ATA Officers

President

Bob Maier

Elementary Vice President

Nicolle McMorris

Secondary Vice President

Greg Nieman

Vice President For Membership

Steve Hertzog

Treasurer

Dave Cordella

Chief Negotiator

Robert McHugh

PR Committee Chair

Kristine Jackson

Community Action Chairs

Brendan Lawlor

Bill Mueller

Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

Communications Chair

Sam Falk

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — A'Rehema Leach

BES — Christie Boydston

NOX— Lynette Battle

VFES— Gwen Moschetto

OPS — Nancy Thomas

TRP— Diana Judge

JDWR—Barbara Mackey

TIS — Heather Blatz

LMS — Bill Mueller

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Theresa Daleo-Stock

What's Going On?

"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing sfalk@acsdny.org. We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help! Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

Arlington High

Special Education teacher Richard Dima was the Hudson Valley Renegades' Community Star for the month of April.

Science teacher Cindy Binnie was selected as the Mid-Hudson section of the American Chemical Society's 2024 recipient of their Award For Excellence in High School Chemistry Teaching.

Social Studies teacher Austin Crittenden is running for the Red Hook Central School District's school board.

English teacher and football coach Mike Morano attended an awards ceremony on March 7 in the Legends Club at MetLife Stadium honoring the New York Giants high school coaches of the week for the 2023 season. He was selected as the Week 4 Coach of the Week, following a 55-18 win over rival Carmel High School. Morano was pre-



Photo by Stefanie Rice

Arlington FACS

FACS teachers Chelsea Sablinski (UVMS, left) and Jamie Lolkema (LMS) received awards at the New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Educators - Hudson Valley NorthEast Student Celebration On May 2 at Mahoney's in Poughkeepsie. Sablinski was the Promising New Professional award recipient, and Lolkema was the Donna Mears Teacher of the Year award recipient.

sented a \$2,000 donation from the New York Giants to the Arlington football program.

Overlook Primary

ENL teacher Sucheta Baichwal was a recipient of the 2024 MHSSC Teaching Excellence Award from the Mid-Hudson School Study Council. The award is designed to recognize those who have demonstrated excellence in achieving the educational mission at their BOCES, district, or campus level.

Vail Farm Elementary

Art teacher Linda Delaguerra was recognized by NYSATA Region 7 as the Outstanding Elementary School Art Educator for the school year 2023-2024. She was nominated by her colleague, Katherine Thyberg. Her award, along with the other Region 7 Art Educator award recipients, was announced at this year's NYSATA Region 7 Symposium, Bridges and Pathways: Navigating Creative Expression, on April 27.

Highway Cleanup Beautifies Route 55

The ATA’s annual spring highway cleanup was held on Saturday, April 20. For the past 14 years LMS math teacher Debbie Pollack has organized the event to help improve the appearance of Route 55. We congratulate her on her upcoming retirement and wish to extend our gratitude for her commitment to the betterment of her community. This year Pollack was joined at the cleanup by her husband John, Regina Godfrey (AHS) and her daughter Hannah, Sucheta Baichwal (OPS), Aaron Murray (LMS), Eleni Anemelos (AHS), retiree Marion Quinn, Rachel Klein (LMS) and her husband Paul Galgano and sons James and Luke, Melody Wolff (LMS), and Joe Healy (UVMS) and his daughter Stefanie.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Pollack

Spotlight On: Retiree Laurie Sorgen

Before her retirement, Laurie Sorgen taught world languages and ENL at many of Arlington’s schools over 22 years. The following is a first-hand account of her most recent travels.

On February 13, 2024, I departed JFK Airport for Buenos Aires, Argentina to take part in an Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) trip called “Chile and Argentina: The Andes to Patagonia.” As a June 2022 retiree, I was grateful to have the chance to travel during the month of February which is an opportune time weather-wise to visit this southernmost region of South America.

My group of 16 people spent 18 days under the expert guidance of Andrea Salas, our trip leader. Starting in Buenos Aires, we then flew to Bariloche, Argentina, where distant views of the Andes crown the glacial blue waters of its Lake District. We also traveled to Torres del Paine National Park in Chile, known for its signature three granite towers; at the end of the tour we viewed the massive blue-toothed Perito Moreno Glacier near Calafate, Argentina. Along the way we also trav-

eled to Chiloe Island, Chile where we saw penguins and other birds and palafitos, the houses on stilts that the region is known for. We saw volcanoes, rafted down the Limay River, and rode horses on the Patagonian Steppe. Each day was filled with new adventures.

We also met with individuals who had specialized experience and knowledge of current and historical themes relating to Argentinian and Chilean society. One highlight was a meeting with Guillermo, a 40-something-year-old man who was “appropriated” from his activist parents who “disappeared” during the military dictatorship of the 1970’s. His testimony was just one example of how OAT allowed each of us to not only see the



Photo courtesy of Laurie Sorgen

ATA retiree Laurie Sorgen (7th from left) is shown with a tour group in front of the three granite “towers” in Torres del Paine National Park, Chile.

sites, but come to better understand the complexity of Chilean and Argentinian society. Another highlight was the day we spent with two natives of Chiloe Island, Raul and Ilse who opened their home and farm to us.

For those wishing to have a similar experience, Sorgen strongly recommends OAT. NYSUT offers a discount of \$150 per person with the code 25614. For more information go to www.oattravel.com or call 800-955-1925.

Dates to Remember



MAY

- 14th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., UVMS
- 21st—**School Budget Vote and School Board Election**
- 23-28th—Memorial Day Weekend—No School
- 28th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

JUNE

- 4th—Regents Exam Day at AHS—No Classes
- 6th—Elementary School Half Day
- 11th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS
- 13th—Last Day of Classes, AHS
- 18th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 19th—Juneteenth—No School
- 21st—ATA Recognition Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Christos
- 22nd—High School Graduation, Dutchess Stadium
- 25th—Last Day of Classes, All Elementary and Middle Schools
Elementary School Half Day
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 26th—Last Day of School For Faculty



Announcements

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Do you know something great that an ATA member has done recently? Perhaps they have done charity work, received an award, attended a conference, or even published a book. Let us know by scanning the QR code or going to this link: <https://forms.gle/aGLYf3LWHqkP5gaS7>



Stay informed! Follow us on

Facebook and Twitter or check out

www.arlingtonteachers.com for

forms, photos, calendars, and more.