

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting, Closed Meeting and  
Public Hearing on School Board Proposed FY 2017 Budget  
April 21, 2016

**Item C-1-d**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 6:00 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair  
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Member  
Barbara Kanninen, Member (arr. 6:05 PM)  
James Lander, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
John Cafferky, Attorney

**CLOSED MEETING:**

*Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider a student matter as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(2), seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. Dr. Kanninen and was not present at the vote.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

*Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved to certify that to the best of her knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting, and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Lander – Aye; Ms. Van Doren – Aye; and Dr. Violand-Sánchez – Aye.*

The Board then recessed to attend the 2016 Honored Citizens Reception.

**A. RECOGNITION OF 2016 HONORED CITIZENS**

**Also present were:**

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<sup>1</sup> Video clips of regular School Board meetings can be viewed on the APS Web site at the following link:  
<http://www.apsva.us/page/3067>  
DVDs of all regular School Board meetings are also available for viewing in the School Board office.

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Deirdra McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management  
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education  
Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction

The Board recognized seventeen individuals selected as 2016 Honored Citizens. Following the recognition, Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a brief recess at 7:35 PM and the Board reconvened at 7:46 PM.

## **B. MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AFJROTC Cadet Corps
3. Recognitions:

Kate Marshall, Vice Chair of Sustainability Committee, presented the Arlington Schools Green Action Awards to Discovery Elementary, Claremont Elementary and Career Center students in honor of Earth Day 2016.

4. Announcements: (7:56 PM)

*Meetings:*

- April 23, 2016 School Board Retreat, Room 101, 8:30 AM

*Events:*

- April 26, 2016 Arbor Day Celebration, Oakridge Elementary School, 2:45 PM

Dr. Murphy highlighted celebrations for Earth Day and thanked the Sustainability Committee for their work. Highlights were shared from the Washington Post Challenge Index and Career Center participation at SkillsUSA, as well as other events and activities. Dr. Murphy encouraged all to attend the upcoming Aspire2Excellence event and the Celebration of Excellence for the Principal, Teacher and Support Employees of the Year.

Mr. Goldstein again recognized and appreciated the volunteers who were celebrated as Honored Citizens.

## **C. PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BOARD PROPOSED FY17 BUDGET: (8:07 PM)**

The following speaker addressed the Board:

*Gerry Collins*, President, Arlington Education Association (AEA): appreciating the budget process and County support for APS, and encouraging that the compensation reserve be converted to a compensation carry-forward, so these funds are dedicated to compensation.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:11 PM)**

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:*

1. Minutes:
  - a. March 31, 2016 Closed Meeting and Work Session
  - b. April 1, 2016 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Change In Position/Salary

31 Resignations

13 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Change In Position/Salary

2 Resignations

1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

3 Appointments

2 Changes In Position/Salary

1 Resignation

1 Retirement

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:

Special Project #20 – IDEA Part B Co-Teaching Demonstration Classroom at Swanson Middle School

4. Approval of student service

**E. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:12 PM)**

The following speakers addressed the Board on the need to ensure that instructional materials and supports, including the English/Language Arts textbooks to be purchased, that address the needs of diverse students, particularly those who struggle with reading. The speakers shared personal experiences to illustrate the need for stronger supports for students:

*David Abramowitz, parent*

*Jenny McClennan, parent*

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

*Josh Folb*, Chair, AEA Compensation committee: advocating for the return of an annual Step for employees and encouraging that lapse and turnover funds kept for compensation.

**F. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:20 PM)**

1. ACI Committee Report: Gifted

Beth Dowd and Josh Turner, co-chairs, presented the report, supported by Gifted Supervisor Cheryl McCullough. The co-chairs thanked staff and the Board for their support, and shared progress made on implementation of the committee's recommendations for a full time Resource Teacher of the Gifted in each elementary school and use of the Naglieri assessment for student identification. Ms. Dowd spoke to areas for continued focus. Noting that one third of APS students are identified as gifted, the committee urged the Board strengthen implementation of differentiated instruction. In particular, the committee supports more structured opportunities for students and stronger staff training in differentiation. They also recommend that principals provide a yearly report on the effectiveness of gifted services at each school. They will continue to support adding intensified classes in middle school, a gifted specialist position in the central office, and they encourage APS staff to meet with Dr. Joyce VanTassel-Baska to her feedback, as she facilitated the program evaluation.

Noting that the Board is looking to identify ways to improve instruction as the division grows, Mr. Lander asked about a vision for an inclusive model that more effectively delivers differentiated instruction to all students. Ms. Dowd stressed the importance of teacher training, and all agreed that APS may look at other models in addition to differentiation, also recognizing that all students have strengths and weaknesses that affect their learning. Dr. Kanninen noted that differentiation fits with the Board's focus on meeting the needs of the Whole Child, and also with other Board interests, such as integrated learning and personalized learning. Ms. Dowd agreed that these initiatives are valuable and can support differentiation, and looked forward to continued implementation of these initiatives. Dr. Violand-Sánchez appreciated the committee's report, and commented on how the program has changed over the past several years.

2. Science Update: (8:45 PM)

Science Supervisor Dr. Dat Le presented the update, supported by Specialists Matt Hubbard and Jennifer Powell. After sharing the program profile including courses offered, Dr. Le presented data on student performance, highlighting areas of success. He then spoke to efforts to improve performance, sharing specific information about efforts to support English language learners. Dr. Le then reviewed lessons learned and strategies to address recommendations moving forward. In closing, he shared bright spots which illustrate successes in the Science program.

Responding to questions, Dr. Le explained what is meant by science power standards. Dr. Violand-Sánchez noted that funds have been included in the proposed FY 2017 budget for additional staffing that will support Science offerings. Also discussed were

opportunities for teachers to share best practices in teaching Science and summer school Science offerings. After appreciating the Science staff for providing strong differentiated instruction, Ms. Van Doren encouraged exploring the opportunity for students to take classes at Northern Virginia Community College for credit in the summer. Staff agreed and confirmed efforts are underway to ensure that these courses are included on the students' APS transcripts.

3. Whole Child Working Group Update: (9:08 PM)

Chair Heather Sauve presented the update on the work of the Whole Child Working Group. Recognizing that meeting the needs of the whole child is complex, she reviewed the charge to the group. She thanked Lisa Stengle, Director of Planning and Evaluation, who has provided staff support. Ms. Sauve then spoke to the membership and shared highlights of the committee process, which has included looking at framework models, small group discussions, and brainstorming sessions. In closing, she shared a graphic that reflects the group's thinking, summarized the five whole child focus areas, and confirmed work accomplished to date.

Recognizing the rich knowledge of the working group members, the Board appreciated all that has been accomplished, and also thanked Ms. Stengle and Dr. Kanninen for their support for this initiative. Ms. Sauve confirmed that the group's focus on the larger picture and the work will expand to include more focus on many areas such as incorporating physical activity and learning readiness. She also recognized that all of the areas that relate to the whole child are multi-dimensional, and these areas are interconnected, which makes the initiative very complex.

**G. ACTION ITEMS: (9:31 PM)**

1. Special Education Annual Plan

Dr. Wilks confirmed additional data was provided in response to Board questions when this item was presented for information. Dr. Violand-Sánchez noted her concern about the over-representation of minority students, particularly Hispanic students, who are identified, and encouraged staff to look more closely at these groups.

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve the Special Education Annual Plan, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion to amend was adopted in a vote of 5-0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.*

**H. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:33 PM)**

1. Stratford Historic Designation

Mr. Burgin presented an overview of the proposal, reviewing previous steps taken by both the County and School Boards in this process, including approval of a path to designation and a zoning ordinance amendment. He confirmed plans to recognize history at the site, and reviewed proposed design guidelines that were developed. He

also reviewed how the schematic design and proposed design guidelines are aligned. In closing, Mr. Burgin reviewed dates for upcoming actions.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

*Joan Lawrence*, Chair, Arlington Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board: appreciating the process that has taken place, stating support for historic designation, and agreeing to work with APS as the project moves forward.

*Susan Cunningham*, Chair, Stratford BLPC: appreciating the community and Board support for this designation, recognizing the process that the group went through to balance all different aspects of the site, and strongly recommending continued exploration of opportunities to preserve the historic aspects of the building.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked the community, County, and APS staff for working together on this process and moving the project forward. She particularly thanked former student Michael Jones and the other students who integrated the school. In closing, she suggested establishing a committee to follow up on how to recognize the historic aspect of the building.

**I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**J. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair  
Arlington School Board