



Your School Board



Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair



Reid Goldstein, Barbara Kanninen, James Lander

School Board Office
1426 N. Quincy St.
Arlington, Va. 22207
703-228-6015
703-228-7640 (fax)
schoolboard@apsva.us

Residents who wish to meet with a Board member may do so on a walk-in basis during Open Office Hours on Monday from 5-7 p.m. on days when school is in session. School Board members can also meet by appointment with small groups of individuals to discuss issues or positions. If Monday is a holiday, Open Office Hours are held the following Tuesday from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

School Board Meetings:

Arlington School Board meeting dates, times, agendas and other information are available online at www.apsva.us/schoolboard.

Looking Toward the Future

by Dr. Pat Murphy, Superintendent

It has been a rewarding and successful school year and this is a good time to reflect on our achievements and thank the community for your strong support of our public schools. The Arlington community's investment in our schools and commitment to our students is directly linked to their growing success. Thanks to your confidence and support, we are viewed as a leader in public education and are proud to be a positive asset to our community.

As we look toward the future, we are focused on ensuring that our students have the essential skills and experiences that they need to be prepared for the workforce. Currently, the Virginia Board of Education is considering new graduation requirements that would include project-based learning experiences. State legislators and policymakers have recognized Arlington as a model for exactly this kind of authentic learning that provides students with the applied knowledge and skills they will need after they graduate. We are leading the way among school divisions in Virginia, and I'm very excited about where we are headed.

I recently traveled to Richmond, along with one of our teachers and two students from Wakefield High School, to share how APS has developed many options for students to gain the experience necessary to become college and career ready. Wakefield students are required to complete a

Senior Project, for which they earn a full-year course credit. Projects cover a range of topics that may include community service, leadership, career interests, cultural exploration, and political and social activism. Washington-Lee and Yorktown seniors have an experiential learning requirement as well, to complete a three-week Senior Experience so they can explore career options and gain practical experience. In addition, just this year, Washington-Lee initiated a pilot that allows students who are on a clear path to graduation to elect to waive the full-day requirement and leave school to pursue work and/or projects in a specific area of interest. The goals of each of these programs align with the state's proposed new requirement for Applied Knowledge and Skills. And as our two Wakefield students so eloquently communicated to state officials, these experiences have helped prepare them to be successful citizens and positively contribute to our community.

Next year, we will launch our new Arlington Tech Program, a full-day program at the Arlington Career Center that will be centered on project-based learning in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, focusing on environmental, ecological and engineering topics. As part of their high school experience, students will be able to earn certification in a variety of CTE programs that will allow them to enter



into a range of professional careers upon graduation from high school. This new program also will allow students to earn college credits from NOVA through dual-enrolled and STEM-related courses in Engineering and IT/Digital Media.

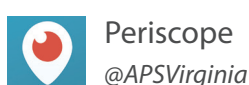
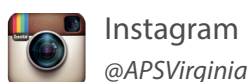
All of these initiatives have been designed to prepare our graduates to adapt to the changing workforce and to meet the future needs of our economy and our nation.

So, as we wrap up the 2015-16 school year, I want to thank you for helping us make APS a highly regarded and vital part of this community, as well as a top-performing school division in our region, the state and the nation. In the coming year, we will need your continued support to share your knowledge and partner with us to plan school facilities that serve the needs of our growing student population and community. We envision a future with shared facilities that are designed for learning outcomes that benefit students and foster strong connections throughout the Arlington community. Please let us know your thoughts, ideas and innovative solutions as we move forward.

Follow APS

to stay up-to-date!

Join the more than 16,500 people following us on social media to get up-to-date news and information about Arlington Public Schools. Like us on:

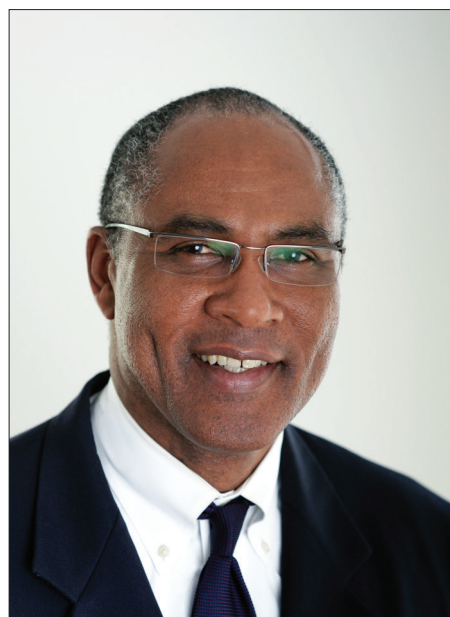


Honoring Our Exceptional Employees

This spring, APS is recognizing employees for their unwavering support of APS students. This year's honorees are:

Principal of the Year

McKinley Elementary School Principal **Colin Brown** was named Arlington Public Schools 2016 Principal of the Year.



McKinley Principal Colin Brown

Teacher of the Year

Oakridge Elementary School teacher **Jennifer Burgin** was named Arlington Public Schools 2016 Teacher of the Year.



Oakridge 2nd Grade Teacher Jennifer Burgin

Support Employees of the Year

Arlington also is recognizing six Support Employees of the Year who play a critical role in student lives.

- Tanya Dunbar, Special Education Assistant
– Campbell Elementary School
- Olga Cotom, Food Services Manager
– McKinley Elementary School
- Ernesto Miranda, Special Needs Bus Driver
– Facilities and Operations
- Tommy Baugh, Activities Coordinator
– Kenmore Middle School
- Janet Green, Educational Administrative Assistant
– Arlington Career Center
- Tek Chea, Custodial Supervisor
– Williamsburg Middle School
- Susan West, Extended Day Supervisor
– Arlington Science Focus School

Mark Your Calendars

MAY



Memorial Day
No School

JUNE



Stratford Program Graduation



Last Day of High School
(Early Release)

Middle School Promotion Ceremonies

H-B Woodlawn Graduation
5:30 p.m. at H-B Woodlawn



Last Day of Middle School
(Early Release)

High School Graduation Ceremonies

at DAR Constitution Hall
• Washington-Lee (10 a.m.)
• Yorktown (3 p.m.)
• Wakefield (8 p.m.)



Last Day of Elementary School (Early Release)

Langston HSCP Graduation Ceremony

Arlington Mill High School Graduation

JULY



First Day of Summer School

To view the complete calendar, visit:
www.apsva.us/calendar

APS Educates the Whole Child

In Arlington, a quality education is more than just reading, math, social studies and foreign language. It's about educating the whole child and ensuring that students become well-rounded individuals who contribute to our community.

But what does that look like? Goal Five of the 2011-17 Strategic Plan, "Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child," says that APS will nurture students' intellectual, personal, social, and emotional development with services and strategies that support students and their families to enable students to learn and develop their potentials.

The most important ways APS strengthens support services include:

- Promoting the development of internal and external assets in students;
- Developing dynamic partnerships between parents and schools, including the implementation of parent education and training to cultivate their involvement;
- Incorporating comprehensive physical, mental health, and wellness services;
- Implementing and enforcing anti-bullying policies and procedures system-wide; and
- Maintaining internet safety and social media policies and procedures, and ensuring that students understand and abide by the accepted norms, rules, and laws of being a responsible technology user.

"Students need an environment that is safe, healthy, challenging, engaging, and responsive to their needs and

abilities. Our families, educators and Arlington County must partner to provide the solid support network essential for student success," said School Board Chair Dr. Emma Violand-Sánchez, who has made meeting the needs of the whole child a top priority of hers as chair this year.

Whole Child Working Group

In the last several months, the School Board has created the Whole Child Working Group, whose charge is to develop a framework that will inform School Board decision-making related to meeting the needs of the whole child. This will serve as groundwork for the development of future School Board priorities and the next APS strategic plan.

APS staff and the Board will use the Working Group's framework to align activities and services as well as to bring consistency to communication about the ways we support the whole child. Their work will also help identify opportunities across the district and within schools to support the whole child. It will help staff look for ways to improve coordination with Arlington County and other parts of the community to make sure students are successful in school and in Arlington.

Family and Community Engagement

The Board also created the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Specialist position as another way to meet Goal Five. FACE is a strategy for improving student learning and healthy development that depends upon schools, families and community groups working together in a coordinated



fashion, to make sure students get the opportunities they need to succeed in school and in life.

In addition, the Board created the FACE Working Group, comprising parents and community members, with the charge of reviewing and revising the Arlington School Board Community Engagement policy and identifying a framework for family and community engagement.

For more on the Whole Child Working Group, visit www.apsva.us/wholechild or www.apsva.us/face.

New APS Website Launches in July

APS is putting the finishing touches on its new website, which will launch July 1, 2016. The multi-year redesign will relaunch the APS website with improved functionality and technological integration for the future.

After a rigorous search, APS selected local vendor Materiell to custom-build the new website using the WordPress platform, which was chosen for its adaptability to new technology, and its potential for future development as an open-source platform.

APS invited staff, families and the community to provide feedback in three rounds of user testing over the past year; the most recent was completed mid-April. Their comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the site functionality and design.

When the site launches, it will feature an intuitive user interface; seamless integration with our back-end systems; improved video and social media integration; and an elegant new design.

Check it out at www.apsva.us July 1!

APS to Resume School Bus Stop-Arm Cameras



Beginning July 1, APS will resume its school bus stop-arm camera program, which tickets drivers who illegally pass a school bus when its stop-arm is deployed and the red lights are flashing. APS operates 165 buses that transport about 10,000 students to and from school each week.

Arlington County was one of the first communities in Virginia to approve the use of exterior school bus cameras, piloting its stop-arm camera program in summer 2015. After an October ruling by the Virginia Attorney General, APS

had to suspend its program, along with other school divisions. Subsequently, the General Assembly amended Virginia Code to allow jurisdictions to issue citations for motorists who are caught on video passing a stopped school bus. \$250 tickets will be issued for failing to stop for a deployed stop arm.

According a survey by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, 1,828 vehicles illegally passed stopped school buses in Virginia in a single day in 2014. Over a typical 180-day school year, this one-day count could result in nearly 330,000 vehicles illegally passing school buses that are stopped to let children on or off the bus.

Frequently Asked Questions about the program and Virginia traffic laws pertaining to school bus stop arms are available on the APS website at www.apsva.us/stoparmcameras.

Important Dates 2016-17 School Year

The School Board adopted the calendar for the 2016-17 school year. Here are some key dates:

- Sept. 6 – First Day of School
- Nov. 23-25 – Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 – Winter Break
- Jan. 16 – MLK Holiday
- Jan. 20 – Inauguration Day
- April 10-14 – Spring Break
- June 20 – High School Last Day
- June 21 – High School Graduation
- June 22 – Middle School Last Day
- June 23 – Elementary Last Day

For additional school calendars, visit:
www.apsva.us/schoolyearcalendars

