



Your School Board



Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair



L-R: Reid Goldstein, James Lander,
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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 apsva.us/schoolboard.

Important Dates 2017-18 School Year

The School Board adopted the calendar for the 2017-18 school year. Here are some key dates:

- Sept. 5 – First Day of School
- Oct. 9 – Columbus Day Holiday
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Holiday
- Nov. 22-24 – Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 22-Jan. 1 – Winter Break
- Jan. 15 – MLK Holiday
- Feb. 19 – Presidents Day Holiday
- March 26-30 – Spring Break
- May 28 – Memorial Day Holiday
- June 14 – High School Graduation
- June 15 – High School Last Day
- June 18 – Middle School Last Day
- June 19 – Elementary Last Day

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

An Engaging Year of Progress and Planning

by Dr. Pat Murphy, Superintendent

We are quickly approaching the end of a school year that has been filled with a lot of work and positive energy that are all resulting in some great achievements. I always look forward to participating in the culminating events and graduation ceremonies that celebrate another year of progress and academic achievement for our students. Our community takes great pride in our public schools, and your investment in our students' success is making a difference. All of our schools are fully accredited, our graduation rate remains one of the highest in Virginia, and Arlington Public Schools (APS) is consistently recognized as one of the best, both regionally and nationally.

Families recognize the value of a public education in Arlington, and our enrollment continues to grow every year. We appreciate and depend upon your support of our schools and engagement in our planning efforts so that we can ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed as we grow. Last fall, we shared our APS 3-5 Year Action Plan (apsva.us/plans) that outlines how we are preparing for that growth and making decisions that both reflect the needs of APS and the priorities of Arlington County. Over the past few



months, we have been working diligently to complete the work outlined for the 2016-17 school year, and are pleased that so many have engaged in our community conversations.

We have completed work on a new vision for Drew Model Elementary School, which will focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) after the Montessori Program is relocated to the current Patrick Henry site in 2019. A new elementary school will open at the Jefferson site, to accommodate neighborhood students who currently attend Patrick Henry. Additionally, we are preparing to grow to 30,000 students by 2021 (only four years from now), and almost 32,000 students by 2025. Last fall, we completed a boundary refinement for high schools, and we are preparing for expansion to add another high school to accommodate 1,300 students by 2022. Our evaluation of the high school options has been coupled with our work to more closely align our K-12 instructional focus across the school division in the years ahead.

This spring, we have been working with the community to update our enrollment and transfer policy. Through a series of community conversations, surveys, online feedback, and continuous refinement of the policy, we are close to finalizing a new policy and framework that meets our goal to provide an appropriate blend of neighborhood schools and programs. We are also focusing on ensuring equity of access to these programs, standardizing the policy and simplifying



the admissions process for families to access the available options when they enroll their children in APS. Our new "Engage with APS!" online platform (see below) has helped us develop a proactive and interactive communications process that has proven beneficial as we work through the APS 3-5 Year Action Plan.

Together with the School Board, I am proud of the progress we have achieved. We have created a more robust community engagement process that has resulted in outcomes that are closely aligned with our collective values. We are making sure that we have the capacity to support our continued growth, creating an instructional foundation that provides an array of educational options for our families, and ensuring that opportunities for academic success remain accessible to everyone. If you have not engaged with us yet, I invite you to join us now, and get on board as we prepare for the 2017-18 school year. Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you at schools or out in the community in the months ahead.

"Engage With APS!" Webpage Continues to Evolve

Since the launch of the "Engage with APS!" webpage in February, the page has grown based on continuing initiatives and feedback from the community.

The Engage page makes it easier to find information about current community engagement opportunities and to provide feedback. Community input and coordinated collaboration are vital parts of the process as APS continues to grow and make decisions that will positively shape the future for our students.

This new section includes:

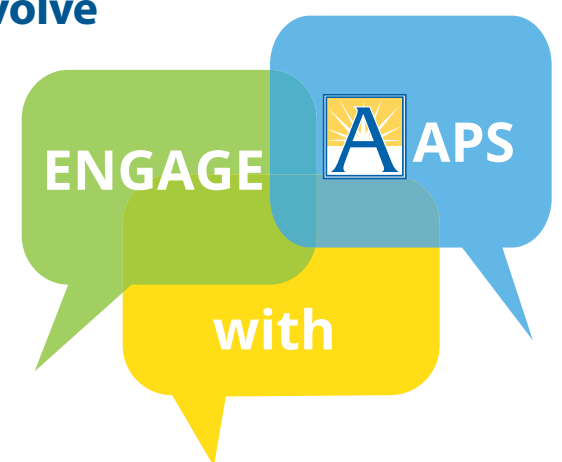
- A list of current opportunities for engagement
- Links to separate web pages with more detailed information about each process

- A consolidated calendar of all meetings and events related to the engagement processes
- An online form allowing you to give feedback targeted to specific topics
- Information on other ways to engage with and contribute to APS

"Engage with APS!" can be found on the top menu of the APS website, and under "Quick Links" on all school homepages. Visit apsva.us/engage.

Other Ways to "Engage with APS"

- APS is using the hashtag #EngageAPS on social media to flag news or upcoming activities related to the engagement processes. Use the



hashtag #EngageAPS to ask questions and share opinions as well.

- Community members can also email engage@apsva.us
- Contact APS directly at 703-228-6310 to ask a question or leave a message.

NewsBRIEFS

Dr. Murphy Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

The James Madison University Alumni Association presented Arlington Superintendent Dr. Pat Murphy with the College of Education Distinguished Alumni Award at the university's 2017 Alumni Awards Banquet on March 17. Dr. Murphy was recognized for his career achievements in education for the past 28 years, since graduating in 1981 from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education.

APS Student Wins "Letters About Literature" Competition

Jefferson Middle School sixth grader **Fatima Mouslik** won the statewide Letters about Literature competition. Her work, a letter to Anne Frank, beat out over 1,000 students from across the state. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to the author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally. Letters are judged on state and national levels. To read her letter, visit www.apsva.us and search "Letter about Literature."



C-CAP Scholarships

Four Arlington Career Center culinary arts students were awarded scholarships through the Careers Through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) Scholarship Competition. Students had to prepare a meal as part of the competition. APS student winners were: **Elizabeth Sheriff**, Yorktown High School – \$57,240 (Culinary Institute of America – Full Tuition); **Renè Espinoza**, Washington-Lee High School – \$1,000; **Sebastian McCoy**, Washington-Lee High School – \$1,000; **Kameron Harris**, Wakefield High School – \$400 (Monroe College Bootcamp)

Follow us! For all the latest news and information, follow APS on social media:



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

Swanson Middle School Principal **Bridget Loft** was named Arlington Public Schools 2017 Principal of the Year. Loft has been an educator for 22 years. The Swanson administrative team said of Loft, "Much is demanded of us, but we are given opportunities to learn and take responsibility. Bridget Loft has created a student-centered building that brings the finest performances from her staff."



Swanson Principal Bridget Loft

Teacher of the Year

Wakefield High School social studies teacher **Michelle Cottrell-Williams** was named Arlington Public Schools 2017 Teacher of the Year. Cottrell-Williams has been an educator for 10 years. "Ms. Cottrell-Williams is a dynamic educator whose students are actively involved in lessons, engaged in dynamic discussions, and participating in simulations or analyzing texts," said Principal Dr. Chris Willmore.



Wakefield Teacher Michelle Cottrell-Williams

Support Employees of the Year

Arlington also is recognizing six Support Employees of the Year.

- LaVerne Gant, Montessori Assistant – Drew Model School
- Karen Key, Food Services Manager – Ashlawn Elementary School
- Thomas Robinson, Bus Driver – Facilities and Operations
- Steven Bernheisel, Assistant Director of Maintenance – Facilities and Operations
- Jane Magill, Educational Administrative Coordinator – Tuckahoe Elementary School
- Edwin Hernandez, Custodial Supervisor – Washington-Lee High School
- Tenita Mangum, Extended Day Assistant Supervisor – Drew Model School

County Board Approves Stratford Renovation Plan

In March, the Arlington County Board approved the use permit request to renovate the existing Stratford School, which is currently home to the H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program and the Stratford Program. Once the renovations are completed, the building will be home to a new neighborhood middle school, which will open in 2019.

The Stratford School became an Arlington Historic District in June 2016 for its role in desegregation. In February 1959, four African American students — Michael G. Jones, Gloria Thompson, Ronald Deskins and Lance D. Newman— courageously walked through the doors of Stratford Junior High School and enrolled as seventh grade students, thus

making Stratford Junior High School the first public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be racially integrated.

The renovation will include a 40,000 square foot addition to the existing building. The addition will include a new library, auxiliary gym, new core classrooms, science labs and other teaching spaces as well as a new student commons area. The addition will add an estimated 1,000 new seats. The project will aim for a LEED Silver green building certification.

The project will cost \$36.55 million and construction is scheduled to begin in 2018. Included in the project cost is \$250,000 for commemorating the historic events surrounding integration.

Mark Your Calendars

MAY



Memorial Day
No School

JUNE



Stratford Program Graduation



Last Day of High School
(Early Release)
H-B Woodlawn Graduation
5:30 p.m. at H-B Woodlawn



High School Graduation Ceremonies
at DAR Constitution Hall
• Washington-Lee (10 a.m.)
• Yorktown (2:30 p.m.)
• Wakefield (8 p.m.)



Last Day of Middle School
(Early Release)
Middle School Promotion
Langston HSCP Graduation Ceremony
Arlington Community High School Graduation



Last Day of Elementary School (Early Release)

JULY



First Day of Summer School

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



Artist's renderings