

School Board Focuses on Collaboration and Engagement

What are you most excited about as you look forward to the new school year?



Nancy Van Doren
Chair

I am honored to serve as Chair and to have the opportunity to lead APS' efforts to ensure

educational excellence for all Arlington students. We look forward to focusing on the redesign of our high school curriculum based on new Virginia standards, engaging the community to re-envision Drew Model Elementary School, updating policies to reflect the needs of our growing and changing school system, and monitoring our recently approved plans to meet capacity needs. Our schools and their diverse student bodies are great assets to Arlington and ensuring their continued pursuit of excellence is key to Arlington's success.



Dr. Barbara Kanninen
Vice Chair

This school year, I am excited to serve as the Vice Chair of the Board. APS had a very constructive

year last year but we have great deal of work this upcoming year. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration with the County Board. We will work hand-in-hand on our revenue sharing principles and the long-term planning of our school system. We also look forward to working with our community to discuss new opportunities for our students. We

are growing as a school system and our focus is to address the needs of our 21st century learners, together.



Reid Goldstein
Member

This school year I am excited for continued good working relationships and new opportunities for progress,

and am committed to improving communication and collaboration with my County Board colleagues to ensure prudent financing for our operations. I look forward to focusing on greater responsiveness and transparency of APS processes. We are also looking forward to improving the community engagement processes. I am delighted we have an active and involved community who bring their time and expertise to improve our community and school system. Together, we can maintain the stellar reputation of APS and move forward with the challenges our success has brought us.



James Lander
Member

Each new school year presents new opportunities for advancement for our teachers and, more importantly, our students. I am excited and very optimistic about the transition of leadership at APS, specifically in our Department of Instruction. I am

motivated and ready to work collaboratively with colleagues, parents, and the Arlington community to ensure success of all of our students. My passion remains steadfast: engaging in thoughtful dialogue to guide our work in eliminating the achievement gap across the spectrum of our diverse student population. APS has made great strides; however, we must continue to make our good schools better and our better schools the best! I am ready to move forward with new initiatives and a progressive educational mindset.



Dr. Emma Violand-Sánchez
Member

It is a joy to see students coming back to school, especially Kindergarten children, they are eager

to learn and meet their teachers and friends. I am proud to be part of a world-class school system, whose top priority is to ensure that each child is healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged and challenged. This year we will continue to focus on the whole child and enhance family and community engagement. We look forward to our continued collaboration with the County Board. Arlington and APS are a reflection of our commitment to foster pride in our culturally, linguistic, racially and inclusive community.



Contact the School Board

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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 www.apsva.us/schoolboard/.

Volunteer!

Support Our Students

Interested in **volunteering** or **partnering** with a school? Currently, more than 500 businesses and community organizations provide over 600 partnership relationships with the schools and programs in APS. To learn more, visit www.apsva.us/volunteers/ or contact Dawn Smith at 703-228-2581.



Upcoming Changes

This fall, APS will begin a community process to refine high school boundaries. Discussions will take place from September through November, and changes will affect only rising 9th graders (Class of 2022) beginning in September 2017. This process is one of the options approved as part of the 2017-28 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address high school capacity needs. For more information, visit www.apsva.us/moreseats/. To get involved, watch for messages via APS School Talk, the website and all APS social media channels this fall.



Construction Begins on Abingdon Elementary Addition/Renovation



Artist rendering

Over the summer, APS began construction of the new addition/renovation of Abingdon Elementary School. The \$28.8 million project will add an estimated 136 seats to the school and be completed in time for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

For a complete list of current tasks and a timeline of the construction project, visit www.apsva.us/design-and-construction/abingdon-additionrenovations/.

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Instructional Leaders Share Plans for School Year

On July 1, Dr. Tara Nattrass joined APS as the new Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Over the summer, she and her team have been planning for an engaging 2016-17 school year that reflects our mission to instill a love of learning in our students and prepare them to be responsible and productive global citizens. Our Department of Instruction will support schools in implementing an approach to meet the needs of the whole child, which ensures that each child is healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged, and challenged.

Additionally, creativity, innovation, problem-solving, content-knowledge, and empathy are but a few of the competencies and attributes that are key for our students as they learn and grow within APS. Much of our work throughout the year will be focused on creating school environments that foster these attributes and meet the needs of each student. We look forward to community dialogue about high school redesign to make sure our students are prepared for the workforce. We will continue to personalize instruction that supports students as readers and integrates technology adapted to individual learning needs.

Elementary Schools

The Office of Early Childhood and Elementary Education is excited

about a couple of key areas of focus for this year. Our elementary student day has been revised to differentiate instruction and better meet our diverse student needs. Additionally, we will be implementing a new writing curriculum in all kindergarten through grade 5 classrooms that will be used during our reading/language arts daily block of instruction.

We will also continue our focus on personalized learning. Our digital initiative, which involves iPads for each student beginning in grade 2, provides greater opportunities for students to collaborate with peers, apply critical and creative thinking and engage in 21st century learning. Our collaborative approach with schools, families and the community provides the foundation for our youngest learners to grow, develop and thrive.

High School Redesign

APS is excited about the promise of redesigning our high schools to better prepare our students for the opportunities that await them after graduation. In January of 2016, the Virginia Board of Education began considering strategies to create graduation requirements that address the demands of the 21st century workplace. It is our expectation that these new requirements will offer

students unprecedented flexibility as they develop and implement their individual path to graduation. The basic premise of the redesign is to reduce the number of mandated tests and create new methods for students to demonstrate mastery of content in all academic areas.

We will begin the PreK-12 journey by working in concert with the Arlington community to develop a progressive plan for the redesign of our high schools. We are especially excited by the prospect of allowing our students opportunities to earn credits while participating in activities outside the classroom. For example, APS is committed to using this opportunity to engage our community of professionals to provide students with internships that will help them develop the workplace skills of tomorrow while they are concurrently addressing high school graduation requirements.

Special Education

One of our foundational values is that special education is an integral part of the total education system, not a separate entity. In order to create inclusive environments for students, we will continue to collaborate with



New Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Tara Nattrass focusing on literacy with students at Barcroft Elementary.

families, principals, and school staff as we provide ongoing support for students with disabilities. We also work together with our representatives from the Special Education Advisory Committee, APS Inclusion Work Group, the Dyslexia Task Force, and other advisory groups and community leaders to ensure the needs of every child are met.

We are enthusiastic about the potential outcomes of our initiatives for the 2016-17 school year and look forward to working closely with the community as we collectively endeavor to support all students. Please visit the APS website for information and reach out to the Department of Instruction if you have questions or want to learn more about how to get involved.

Drew's Innovation Academy Challenged Young Students This Summer

This summer, Drew Model students participated in the Innovation Academy, a free two-week pilot program focused on nurturing high academic achievement at an early age, in upper-elementary, middle school and beyond.

The Innovation Academy was developed as part of the Young Scholars initiative that Drew Model School has been implementing for students. An essential component of the Young Scholars model is identifying and nurturing advanced academic potential in students from diverse cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds.

Each week, students focused on technology-integrated architecture by participating in hands-on activities. They explored innovative technology, met with experts from the field, and participated in field trips.

Rising fourth and fifth grade students worked daily on a timed, hands-on, problem-solving challenge linked to architecture. Rising first and second grade students worked to design and construct an earthquake-resistant building. Students also participated in cooperative learning activities, including hands-on activities designed to engage them in problem-solving challenges.



At the culmination of the program, staff gathered data on student engagement, student pre- and post-assessments, parent surveys, and teacher observations that will be used to determine the effectiveness of the Drew Innovation Academy. Drew is confident that this program will have a significant impact on student learning and engagement. Pending the outcome and available funding, APS may continue and possibly expand the Academy next summer at Drew as well as at other APS Title I schools throughout the county.

Mark Your Calendars

SEPTEMBER



First Day of School, K-12



First Day of School for VPI and PreK Special Education



Elementary Back-to-School Night



H-B Woodlawn Back-to-School Night



Middle School Back-to-School Night



High School Back-to-School Night



Career Center and Arlington Community High School Back-to-School Breakfast

OCTOBER



International Walk and Bike to School Day
(Rain Date: Oct. 12)



Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences



Elementary/Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences



Harvesting Dreams
Kenmore Middle School,
5:30-9:15 p.m.



College and Career Fair
Washington-Lee, 7 p.m.



Middle School Information Night
Washington-Lee, 7 p.m.

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