

## Your School Board



Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair



L-R: James Lander, Tannia Talento,  
Nancy Van Doren

School Board Office  
1426 N. Quincy St.  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-228-6015  
703-228-7640 (fax)  
[school.board@apsva.us](mailto:school.board@apsva.us)

Residents who wish to meet with a Board member may do so on a walk-in basis during Open Office Hours on Mondays from 5-7 p.m. on days when school is in session. School Board members 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](http://apsva.us/schoolboard).

## Connecting...

### ...With Our Community

Over the course of the year, APS communicates with families, staff and the community on a variety of issues. In the next issues of *The Citizen*, APS will highlight the many channels and tools used to communicate with our stakeholders.



Follow us! All the latest APS news and information on social media:



## Welcome Back to a Year of Opportunities

by Dr. Pat Murphy, Superintendent

Each start of a school year brings new opportunities and a fresh start, one that brings about wonderful positive energy for our students and families, and all of us at Arlington Public Schools (APS). The Arlington community's strong commitment to public education and partnership with us is greatly valued and appreciated. APS is committed to building a solid foundation of learning and setting high expectations to ensure that all children stretch, reach their full potential and have an individualized path that matches their interests and needs. Our team is committed to meeting the needs of the whole child – for all students.

As you may have heard, APS has been hard at work planning for the future. Throughout this school year we will consider important policy choices and implement some of the decisions outlined in the 2017-18 Action Plan, available at [apsva.us/plans](http://apsva.us/plans). Many of these priorities are critical to the future of APS. We need your input and involvement as we update the Strategic Plan, continue planning for a new high

school and developing its instructional focus, manage facilities and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) investments, and make decisions about boundary refinements based on enrollment, to name just a few. We invite you to join us as we “craft the future” for our students and families. You will be able to stay abreast of the process and resulting decisions by using the Engage with APS! Microsite at [apsva.us/engage](http://apsva.us/engage). We invite you to join with us and we welcome your feedback as we consider many important decisions.

In addition to staying engaged, we are very proud of the many opportunities and choices we make available to our students both inside of school and in the community, which prepares students for a bright future. From early childhood to graduation, our students have multiple pathways that lead directly to college and a



career. Our work together connects students to a rich variety of enrichment activities, internships with business and community organizations, and volunteer and service opportunities that extend learning beyond the walls of our schools every day. We are proud of all that we have achieved, and our partnership with you is the key to making sure every child is learning and growing. Thank you for joining in and providing the support to create a promising future for all APS students.

## Students Keep Learning All Summer Long

by Erin Watson, Abingdon Literacy Coach and Communications Intern

Developing passionate, confident learners remains a continuing focus for APS all year long. For this reason, students of all ages took advantage of a variety of programs this summer that were designed to continue to encourage their curiosity and love of reading.

- This summer, APS debuted its new “Young Scholar’s Innovation Academy” for approximately 700 students. The program was launched as a collaboration between APS’s Gifted Services and Title I programs. Designed to help students develop their critical, creative, and collaborative skills, participants solved problems just as scientists, engineers and architects do. On the last day of the program, families were invited to attend “Innovation Hour” hosted by the students themselves to showcase their summer learning.
- Throughout the month of July, students and their families from Barcroft, Carlin Springs, Drew and Randolph boarded the award-winning “Traveling Trolley”

for a rousing trip to Arlington’s local libraries. Greeted by some of Arlington’s talented story tellers, students enjoyed read-alouds, light refreshments and opportunities to check out books for summer reading.

- While schools were “closed” for school this summer, the libraries at Arlington Science Focus, ATS, Ashlawn, Barcroft, Barrett, Discovery, Glebe, H-B Woodlawn, McKinley, Nottingham, Oakridge, Randolph, Swanson, Taylor, Wakefield and Washington-Lee promoted summer reading by providing free books, open hours for check out, programing or reading challenges. Also, about 650 students from APS’s Title I schools selected “just right” books to match their interests

and reading levels. The books were then mailed to their homes as part of the Summer Mailbox Program.

- The Summer Literacy Academy, offered to rising seventh grade boys of color, participated in a variety of instructional activities that support students’ educational careers. It also sparks creativity and gives them a voice to share their literary works at a culminating event at Busboys and Poets. Watch a documentary about this unique program on AETV at [apsva.us/aetv/word-summer-literacy/](http://apsva.us/aetv/word-summer-literacy/).
- APS and the public libraries weren’t the only organizations devoted to inspiring summer reading. Barnes and Noble also encouraged students to read while school was out by allowing those who read three books to select a title of their choice!

Arlington Public Schools would like to thank Graham Holdings, Arlington Soccer Association, Educational Theatre Company, Barnes and Noble, Busboys and Poets, and the many community members for their generous support (and collaboration) resulting in a productive and engaging summer for all of our youngsters.





## Opportunities to Engage with APS During the 2017-18 School Year

During the 2017-18 school year, many important decisions will address growing enrollment and future needs. We are asking the Arlington community to get involved and “Engage with APS” by participating in community conversations and policy discussions on a variety of issues.

Boundary adjustments for many elementary schools and all middle schools are expected in the year ahead.

### • Middle School Boundaries

During the fall, we will begin a community process to refine existing middle school boundaries and create a new boundary for the Stratford Middle School, scheduled to open in 2019-20. These new boundaries will be implemented in the fall of 2019 and are anticipated to affect all current middle school boundaries.

### • Elementary School Boundaries

In the winter, another community process will begin to refine elementary boundaries for most elementary neighborhood schools, including the new Alice West Fleet Elementary School, and to create an expanded boundary for Drew Model School (after the Montessori program is relocated to the current Patrick Henry site). The process also will address the options and transfer concerns for Arlington Science Focus and possibly others. New boundaries will be implemented in the fall of 2019 and are expected to affect current boundaries for most or all neighborhood elementary schools.



Other community engagement processes that APS will initiate during the 2017-18 school year include:

### • The 2018-24 Strategic Plan

Over the next year, APS will work closely with community leaders, APS families, and stakeholders to develop a new, six-year strategic plan. Staff and community involvement is essential to create a plan that clearly identifies the goals and focus areas for APS, to ensure that it continues to provide excellent instruction for all students and focuses on meeting the needs of the whole child.

### • High School Seats Added at Education Center and Career Center

A total of 1,300 seats will be added, with 500-600 at each location. The program and instructional focus, design concept, and potential high school boundary adjustments will be addressed during discussions throughout the fall. Final recommendations will be made to the School Board by December.

### • The Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (ASFAP)

The ASFAP provides a comprehensive look at student enrollment and building capacity within APS. This review will take place during the fall to establish a framework for the CIP.

### • The FY2018-27 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

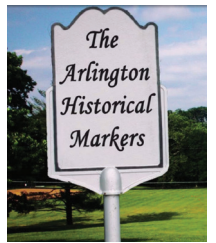
Every two years, APS revises its six-year CIP to address future facility needs. The CIP responds to requirements for new facilities, additions and renewals of existing schools, and other student accommodation needs, as set forth in the ASFAP. The community engagement process will take place in the spring of 2018.

APS also remains actively involved in the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC), which is an advisory body jointly appointed by the County Board and the School Board to address capital improvement plans and long-range facility planning for both the County and APS.

Information about these projects and important dates for each topic will be posted on the Engage website at [apsva.us/engage](http://apsva.us/engage). The community can provide feedback online or by contacting designated staff. APS will also send out regular “Engage with APS” School Talk messages throughout the school year to keep the community informed, and livestream important community conversations and public hearings. Stay tuned and engaged!

## AETV Spotlight Videos

Over the summer, we debuted 10 segments in season two of “Historical Markers,” including the Ball-Sellers house, Henry Wright Park and Campbell Ave. Watch online at [apsva.us/historicalmarkers](http://apsva.us/historicalmarkers).



AETV also premiered a series on the Arlington Tiered System of Supports (ATSS), which is a framework that provides resources and supports to help every student reach success in academics and behavior. Visit our website at [apsva.us/aetv](http://apsva.us/aetv) to watch online.

## APS Honors and Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

The community is invited to attend the annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, “Harvesting Dreams for Our Children: Opportunities for a Successful School Journey,” on Fri, Oct. 20, from 5:30-9 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School. The multifaceted program will feature a resource fair and learning circles on a variety of themes to offer new ideas and connections to help students succeed. This event is being offered in Spanish with English interpretation. Visit [apsva.us/cosechando](http://apsva.us/cosechando) for more information.

## Mark Your Calendars

### SEPTEMBER

**SEP 5** First Day of School, K-12

**SEP 6** First Day of School, VPI and Pre-K SPED

**SEP 13** Elementary Back-to-School Night

**SEP 14** H-B Woodlawn Back-to-School Night

**SEP 27** High School Back-to-School Night

**SEP 28** Middle School Back-to-School Night

### OCTOBER

**OCT 7** Career Center and Arlington Community High School Back-to-School Breakfast

**OCT 17** College Night  
Wakefield High School  
6-8 p.m.

**OCT 23** Middle School Information Night  
Washington-Lee High School  
7 p.m.

**OCT 30** High School Information Night  
Washington-Lee High School  
7 p.m.

To view the complete calendar, visit: [www.apsva.us/calendar](http://www.apsva.us/calendar)

## Help Keep Our Kids Safe

As students are returning to school, we need the community’s help and support to keep them safe. All of Arlington’s roads are busy, especially on weekday mornings and again in the afternoons. Please be mindful of all school zones along your driving route and other areas where children may be standing, walking or crossing, especially in neighborhoods and near bus stops.

Here are some safety tips from the Arlington County Police Department.

### Walkers and Bikers:

- Select a safe route to school or the bus stop and stay out of the street.
- Families should walk or ride the route with children to identify possible hazards.
- Obey all traffic signals and crossing guards at all times.
- Wear bright colors or reflective clothing.
- If biking, wear a helmet and ensure that the bicycle is in good, working condition.



### Drivers:

- Obey all speed limits, especially in school zones.
- Avoid any activities that can distract you from watching the road while driving, including texting, phone calls or using/reading email or other smartphone applications.
- Stop for school buses and crossing guards.
- Drop off children as close to the school as possible.