

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
December 8, 2015

**Item D-1-c**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 8, 2015, 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  
Barbara Kanninen, Member  
James Lander, Member  
Abby Raphael, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent

**Also present were:**

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
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

**B. MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order.

2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AFJROTC Cadet Corps.
3. RECOGNITIONS (6:03 PM)

Five students from Yorktown High School presented a report on their experiences at the Minority Achievement Student Network (MSAN) Conference at University of Wisconsin in Madison. Ms. Shari Benites, Minority Achievement Coordinator at Yorktown, provided additional information about the MSAN program in APS.

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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.

Board members encouraged staff to facilitate sharing information learned at the MSAN conference with the other high schools.

3. Announcements: (6:16 PM)

*MEETINGS:*

- *December 9, 2015 Legislative Breakfast, Syphax Building, 2110 Washington Blvd., Room 101/103/105, 8 AM*

Dr. Murphy announced that APS was highly ranked as a NICHE 2016 Best Public School. He invited students to participate in Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary and Visual Arts contest, and invited families to an upcoming Summit on solutions for preventing and responding to sexual violence in high schools on Dec. 12. Dr. Murphy encouraged all to attend winter concerts and plays in the schools, highlighted FY 2017 budget meetings, and provided a digital APS update.

**C. CONSENT ITEMS: (6:23 PM)**

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

1. Minutes:
  - a. October 8, 2015 School Board Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Position/Salary

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:

Special Project #11 – Race to GED Grant  
Special Project #12 – ISAEP Grant-GED Program for 16-19 year-olds

**D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**E. ACTION ITEMS: (6:23 PM)**

1. Historic District Designation for the Stratford Building

Dr. Violand-Sánchez briefly reviewed this item, recognizing the historic significance and the courageous students who enrolled at Stratford Junior High School, resulting in the first public school in Virginia to be racially integrated. She highlighted the six points of the motion to move forward with consideration of historic designation.

*Mr. Lander made the following motion:*

*I move that the School Board direct the Superintendent to set aside, for the purpose of designating the Stratford property as a local historic district, the 2004 Memorandum of Understanding regarding the designation of Arlington Public Schools (APS) properties as local historic districts.*

*I further move that the Superintendent collaborate with his counterpart in the County:*

*(i) to draft proposed designation language which recognizes, emphasizes, and honors the fact that on February 2, 1959 four black 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, thus making Stratford Junior High School the first public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be racially integrated, and*

*(ii) to identify concise design guidelines that balance the importance of honoring the events of 1959 with the School Board's ongoing obligation to respond to the changing needs of its student population without delay and within available funding limits. The guidelines shall be based on criteria drawn from the existing state and federal historic designation. Upon adoption by the County Board, with School Board concurrence and the adoption of an appropriate Zoning Ordinance amendment, these design guidelines shall be used by the County Board to evaluate requests for Certificates of Appropriateness for additions to or exterior alterations of the Stratford building that require approval of a use permit by the County Board.*

*I further move that the School Board request that the County Board adopt an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would provide that any application for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding the Stratford local historic district, if it is so designated, be granted or denied by the County Board, with input from the County's Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, and that this amendment be considered by the County Board prior to or concurrently with its decision on the Stratford property as a local historic district.*

*After the Superintendent and County Manager have proposed designation language and design guidelines, the School Board will return to consider and take action on historic designation. The School Board's recommendation for historic designation may be conditioned on the County Board's adoption of the Zoning Ordinance amendment regarding issuance of certificates of appropriateness by the County Board in this matter.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

*Charles Craig*, Historical Architectural and Landmark Review Board: reading statement on behalf of Joan Lawrence, supporting the local historical designation of Stratford as a local historic district, noting community support,

*Saundra Green*, Calloway United Methodist Church: sharing the strong support of many community groups for designating Stratford a local historic district; outlining the history of school desegregation in Arlington and the role former School Boards had in this history and urging the Board to approve designation.

*Michael Beer*, parent and resident: supporting the effort for historic designation, and also encouraging the Board to rename the facility after one or some of the heroes who led the desegregation effort in Arlington.

Mr. Lander appreciated the efforts of the School Board, County, and the community who have worked together respectfully to come to a decision. He confirmed the Board recognizes the importance of honoring the courageous actions of local families in 1959. He also acknowledged that APS should take a role in ensuring that local history, including integration of the schools, is celebrated throughout the community as well as being incorporated into the APS instructional program. He then explained the process that APS has initiated, collaborating with the County Board, to move this designation forward in a way that best meets the needs of all. Dr. Kanninen also appreciated the hard work and collaboration that has occurred to this point, and acknowledged that this is a complex process. She reiterated Mr. Lander's explanation, confirming there are three aspects: to work to local historic designation, to educate the community and, to ensure students learn about this history.

Ms. Raphael acknowledged the importance of taking this action which will recognize and honor this important historic event, as well as respecting those responsible. She also commented on the importance of bringing a middle school to the site, providing needed capacity for students. She spoke to the Concept design which preserves the building and also ensures funding for historic interpretation within the building, and echoed the importance of and commitment to educating the community and students about the history that happened at Stratford. Ms. Van Doren thanked the community members who actively worked with the Board to educate them about the events that took place at this site, and recognized the hard work of the County Board as well as County and School staff. She also thanked the HALRB for working with the School Board on this initiative. Dr. Violand-Sánchez recognized Mr. Michael Jones, present at the meeting, as well as the three other students who integrated Stratford, and appreciated that this will honor the legacy of these students. She also appreciated the community support, the County Board, and staff, and confirmed that APS will continue to move forward towards historic designation.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.

2. Legislative Package: (6:51 PM)

Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, confirmed that no changes have been made to the legislative package, and briefly highlighted two areas where additional information has become available related to upcoming legislation. She stated that former delegate Bob Brink confirmed that the Governor recognizes some of the special needs in northern Virginia and will work toward meeting those needs, as well as recognizing the importance of flexibility for school divisions. She also noted that Senator Barbara Favola plans to submit legislation to allow the use of school bus cameras. In closing, Ms. Wise appreciated Ms. Raphael for her service on the Board, and particularly for her ongoing support and effort for legislative issues and concerns.

*Ms. Raphael moved that the Board approve the Legislative Package, seconded by seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.*

3. Quality Points for Dual Enrollment: (6:54 PM)

*Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board direct the Superintendent to revise PIP 25-5.150 Communication – Grade Reporting to Parents (Grades 6-12), to award a full 1.0 quality point to any dual-enrollment course in the High School Program of Studies, effective beginning with the 2015-16 school year, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.*

Ms. Raphael noted that two options were presented by staff on this item. The staff recommendation was to not change current policy, but to review the dual-enrollment courses each year to ensure that the quality points granted reflect the rigor of the course. She confirmed that she agrees with the staff position, so will not vote for this policy change.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 4-1 with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively and Ms. Raphael opposing.

4. Proposed Changes to the Middle School and High School Program of Studies for 2016-2017: (6:57 PM)

Ms. Skelton briefly highlighted changes that were made in response to Board consideration of this item at the last meeting. Dr. Murphy confirmed that the Program of Studies will also be updated to reflect the decision just taken on awarding full quality points for all dual-enrollment courses.

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve the proposed changes to the Middle School and High School Program of Studies for 2016-2017, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.*

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (6:59 PM)**

1. Final Fiscal Closeout/Status Report and CIP Quarterly Update:

Ms. McLaughlin presented the report, reviewing FY 2015 closeout process and status. She confirmed there is a net available ending balance of \$22.1 million, with an additional \$5.1 of County closeout anticipated. She explained that \$3.5 million in closeout funds have been designated as carry-forward to the current fiscal year, and \$2.1 million must be dedicated to capital projects. Ms. McLaughlin then summarized the net available balance in the seven APS funds, as well as reviewing additional funding from the County. Recommendations to allocate the close-out funds were then reviewed, with funds being designated for the following reserves: Capital, the Joint County/Schools Fund, Compensation, and Future Budget. Ms. McLaughlin also shared expenditure recommendations for use of the remaining funds. Dr. Murphy noted that this funding is one-time funding, and recognized the parameters in using this type of fund, and also confirmed that there is flexibility in most of the reserve funding which can, with School Board approval, be reallocated.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

*Gerry Collins*, President, Arlington Education Association: recognizing the strong fiscal stewardship that has resulted in this close-out position, and appreciating the recommendation of allocation of funds to compensation reserve.

*Josh Folb*, Chair, Arlington Education Association compensation committee: appreciating the recommendation to allocate funds to compensation, and thanking the Board for this action, and asking that this practice continue in future years.

*Michael Beer*, resident: thanking the Superintendent and staff for good stewardship of public funds, but sharing concerns about the proposed use of reserves, suggesting that compensation should be built into the budget rather than funded with reserves. He also supported providing a step every year.

Ms. Raphael recognized the strong fiscal planning that resulted in carry-over and appreciated the opportunity for input from advisory groups and the community before Board action. She spoke to possible use of the closeout funds to support the Board's work such as considering using these one-time funds for capital. Dr. Kanninen also appreciated the flexibility of reserves and suggested various considerations of how to use these funds. Staff provided additional information regarding some of the proposed uses of the carryover funds. Ms. McLaughlin shared more detailed information about the source of the closeout funds, and Ms. Van Doren stated that she recommends focusing this funding on supporting and strengthening instruction, through

professional development or other one-time expenditures. She urged caution when using one time funds for compensation or other expenses that become part of the base budget. Dr. Murphy appreciate her comments, and noted that using these funds for compensation will be considered carefully, and he assured the Board that staff is aware of this concern while also recognizing to the need to grow staff to meet the growing enrollment. Dr. Violand-Sánchez agreed with the importance of enhancing instruction and suggested looking at using these funds to support such programs as summer school, to develop a more culturally responsive curriculum, and strengthen support systems for students who need it. Ms. Skelton confirmed Instruction staff is planning work to take place this summer on strengthening the history curriculum local history, and agreed to continue to work on this focus.

Ms. McLaughlin then summarized the FY 2015 CIP closeout, sharing the status of the fourteen major construction projects, briefly reviewing some small changes that have been made since the third quarter report. . She also reviewed the status of the CIP reserves, and also reviewed the projects completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. She noted that 77% of the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) projects were completed in this year.

Board members thanked Ms. McLaughlin for the report, and Ms. Raphael requested a status report on the MC/MM projects that are not completed at this time. Responding to a question, Ms. McLaughlin confirmed that there are funds in the capacity planning budget set aside for planning for reconfiguration projects at Wakefield, Yorktown, and several other sites. Dr. Murphy confirmed that the actual projects will be considered as part of the upcoming CIP. Mr. Chadwick explained that it is anticipated that these projects will be completed by September 2017.

**H NEW BUSINESS: none**

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair  
Arlington School Boar