

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
January 7, 2016

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 7, 2016, at 6:30 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member (arr. 6:38 PM)
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

A. CLOSED MEETING:

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider appointments of the Interim Director of Student Services, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. Mr. Lander was not present at the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM. *Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved to certify that to the best of her knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting, and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Lander – Aye; Ms. Van Doren – Aye and Dr. Violand-Sánchez – Aye.*

A recess was taken and the Board attended a reception to welcome new member Reid Goldstein.

B. MEETING OPENING

Also present were:

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services

¹ 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.

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
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education

1. Call to Order

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AFJROTC Cadet Corps

Following the presentation of the Colors, the Board thanked Sargent Jesus Perez for his service with the Jr. ROTC as he will be leaving the program. Mr. Lander noted the growth and success of the program under his leadership.

3. Recognitions (7:37 PM)

The Board welcomed Mr. Goldstein as a new member of the Board, and he looked forward to working with the Board and the community.

Dr. Wilks congratulated Wakefield student Rebecca Ricardo Rios who received a POSSE scholarship and will attend Bucknell University. Phyllis Gandy, Supervisor, Career and Technical Education, then presented the WISE Finance Literacy Gold Star Awards and the Blue Star Award to APS teachers and schools.

4. Announcements: (7:49 PM)

MEETINGS:

- January 9, 2016 School Board Retreat, Washington-Lee High School Library, 1301 N. Stafford Street, 9 AM
- January 19, 2016 Work Session on Minority Achievement Program Evaluation, Room 101 a/b, 7:30 PM

Dr. Murphy announced upcoming events including the Career Center Open House secondary course registration, Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations, Kindergarten Information Night, and events to commemorate the desegregation of Stratford Jr. High. He also shared winter weather reminders and a digital technology highlight.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:58 PM)

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, 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 6, 2015 Work Session on Stratford and Wilson Options
2. Personnel actions
 - P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 1 Change in Position/Salary
 - T-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 2 Resignations
 - A-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 1 Resignation
 - SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
 - 1 Appointment
 - 2 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 1 Retirement
3. Grants and Restricted Programs:
 - Special Project #13: Adult Education & Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)
4. Revised School Board Liaison Assignments
5. ~~Arlington Science Focus Project Close Out~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA

Dr. Violand-Sanchez announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Kelly Mountain Interim Director, Student Services.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:00 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, Arlington Education Association: appreciating the Board’s plan to allocate closeout funds to the compensation reserve; also speaking to the compensation study and encouraging the Board to share the results with employee advisory groups.

William Gillen, Claremont parent: encouraging the Board to revise the enrollment policy to give siblings first preference to attend Claremont. And commenting on crowding that will result if another kindergarten class is added instead of altering the policy.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:07 PM)

1. School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) Report

Co-Chairs Vera Cardinale and Katie Adamson presented the report. Ms. Adamson gave an overview, explained the history of school health advisory boards and shared

information about current membership and expertise the members bring to SHAB. Ms. Cardinale then reviewed the goals and current topics that SHAB's work is focusing on, noting the focus on meeting the needs of the whole child. Additional information was shared about the School Health Index being piloted in some schools and highlights of other efforts, including support for APS Policies related to health practices. After sharing information about the SHAB website and Facebook page, Ms. Cardinale and Ms. Adamson spoke to challenges that SHAB will continue to address and initiatives they plan to implement, such as a SHAB liaison at each school.

Board members appreciated the report and SHAB's support of student health and learning. Responding to questions, the co-chairs spoke to the meeting schedule and explained why schools are moving away from food-based celebrations of special events. Ms. Adamson appreciated the strong staff support that SHAB receives from both APS and the County. Dr. Sam Stebbins, School Health Physician, shared more data and reviewed efforts to address chronic illnesses, noting an increase in the occurrence of asthma and allergic reactions. The group briefly discussed whether students should be allowed to have outdoor recess during cold weather, and how possible health issues associated with relocatables are being addressed. Also discussed was the importance of informing parents about Lyme disease, and Dr. Stebbins briefly spoke to the limited data available on obesity in students. Dr. Violand-Sánchez encouraged additional efforts to identify issues so APS can support efforts to educate families on the dangers and how to address these health issues.

2. Academic Support Pre-K through Grade 12: (8:48 PM)

Dr. Murphy introduced the presentation, recognizing the multiple pathways available to APS students and the variety of supports available to help students succeed. Dr. Wilks and Ms. Pam McClellan, Director, Counseling, then presented the update. Dr. Wilks provided an overview of the Department of Student Services and Special Education (DSSSE), noting the recent move of the Language Resource Center to DSSSE to better meet the needs of incoming students. Ms. McClellan reviewed the Aspire2Excellence (A2E) initiative, reviewing how this program is implemented at the each grade level and how it helps inform student academic decisions. She also described how Naviance and the data warehouse are used to support students. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) guidelines have been incorporated into student services and Ms. McClellan explained how these guidelines align with the Arlington Tiered System of Support (ATSS). In closing, she reviewed recommendations, which include having all schools align to ASCA, A2E and ATSS initiatives, to review student services across all providers and to continue promoting these three initiatives throughout APS.

Appreciating the report, Board members asked about counselor staffing in the middle schools. Dr. Wilks recognized challenges and assured the Board that staff is working to meet all student needs, and Ms. McClellan agreed to send the Board information about the roles of school counselors and school psychologists. The group also discussed how to ensure that students who do not go directly to college are aware of opportunities and have the skills they need to succeed. Dr. Kanninen asked for detailed

data on high school credits earned by middle schoolers, noting concern she has heard about too much focus on acceleration. She also asked how the effectiveness of A2E is measured in elementary school. Ms. McClellan agreed to bring information to the Board on these topics. Responding to additional questions, Dr. Wilks confirmed that pathways documents are being prepared for students with disabilities and for English language learners, and will include ESOL/HILT pathways and information about the bi-literacy diploma in materials to be shared with families. The group discussed the need to better educate families about Naviance. Dr. Wilks agreed provide data on college acceptance rates which better reflects the schools that APS graduates attend.

3. FY 2016 Mid-Year Fiscal Monitoring Report: (9:42 PM)

Ms. McLaughlin presented the mid-year fiscal monitoring report, reviewing the fiscal status of the budget as of November 30. She confirmed that state revenue is lower than anticipated due to lower enrollment than projections. For expenditures, salary and lapse is higher than anticipated, and staff is looking to confirm the reason for this. She also noted that there are staffing contingency savings of approximately \$1 million, and she reviewed additional changes in expenditures from the budget. In closing, it is projected that there will be net funds available of approximately \$2.6 million, and staff is recommending no adjustments at this time.

The following speakers addressed the Board, sharing historical data on lapse and turnover funds, and encouraging the Board to allocate all lapse and turnover savings to the compensation reserve, rather than using these fund for other purposes:

Gerry Collins, President, Arlington Education Association

Josh Folb, teacher, parent, Chair of AEA Compensation Committee

Board members asked for information about the lapse and turnover funds and whether there are issues causing turnover, particularly for special education staffing or staff at the lower pay scales. Ms. McLaughlin confirmed staff is analyzing where these funds originated, and reiterated that most of the excess seems to be due to lower enrollment growth. She confirmed that staff will bring detailed information back to the Board. Responding to additional questions, she also confirmed that staff is looking carefully at all aspects of staffing to determine if there are issues that are need to be addressed, including review of administrative vacancies and staffing for future growth. She also agreed to see if data is available from other school divisions for comparison.

Ms. McLaughlin then summarized the 2016 Capital Construction and maintenance financial update. An update on the current major construction projects was shared and Ms. McLaughlin confirmed that the Barrett HVAC project was completed in this quarter. She then reviewed the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) budget, confirming that 86 of 145 projects have been completed using 64% of overall MC/MM budget.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:06 PM)

1. FY 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Framework

Lionel White, Director, Facilities Planning, provided an overview of CIP process and the draft schedule for CIP development. He reviewed enrollment highlights, confirming that the highest projected seat needs are at the high school level. He presented projected high school seat needs for the current school year, and also presented mid-term projections (SY 2020-21) and long-term projections (SY 2025-26). He also reviewed high school cohort data over several years, including projections through SY 2025-26. Current and projected seat need data was also presented for middle school and elementary school over the same time periods. Summarizing this data, Mr. White confirmed that the highest need is at the high school level, followed by middle school then elementary need. The status of projects included in the FY 2015-2024 CIP was then reviewed. After Mr. White outlined the status of these projects, Ms. McLaughlin summarized the financial status of the current CIP projects, noting changes that have occurred which has resulted in these projects not requiring as much bond funding as originally included in the original CIP budget.

Responding to Board questions, staff confirmed that the figures in this update are subject to change, and provided additional information about the projects and additional costs that will affect these figures.

Mr. Zach Larnard, Facilities Planner, then presented the proposed CIP Framework. Reviewing the projected deficit at each grade level, Mr. Larnard then reviewed several options that will be considered to address the deficits and highlighted guiding questions to consider as the options are considered. Summarizing next steps, Mr. Larnard confirmed that this process will allow community input and a final vote on the CIP in June.

Board members appreciated the clear and concise framework staff presented, and encouraged continued collaboration with the County to identify space in County facilities that might be available for APS. Dr. Kanninen encouraged a flexible approach to adding space at the Career Center, and suggested that an additional comprehensive high school should be part of the community conversation. Dr. Violand-Sánchez also recognized that Instruction is a key consideration in the process of planning for new space and additional facilities. Additional comments encouraged staff to include consideration of private or other non-profit properties when looking at options, as well as making note of constraints for the various options being considered.

2. Revision of School Board Policy 25-1.3 Discipline: (10:43 PM)

Ms. Johnson explained the proposed changes to this policy. As all members are in agreement with the proposed change, Dr. Violand-Sanchez called for a motion. *Mr. Lander moved that the Board approve the proposed revision to School Board Policy 25-1.3 Discipline*, seconded by Dr. Kanninen.

Ms. Van Doren and Mr. Goldstein stated that, to allow transparency and community input on proposed changes, they support following Board policy, which states that

policy revisions should be presented for information at one meeting and action at a subsequent meeting. Noting that policy also allows the Board to hear an item for information and take action at the same meeting, Dr. Violand-Sánchez asked, and staff confirmed, that a delay in acting on this policy would impact a student. There was some discussion of postponing action, but in the absence of the withdrawal of the motion, Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 2, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively and Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Van Doren opposing.

3. Waiver of School Board Policy 25-2.2 Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs: (10:54 PM)

Ms. Johnson stated that this is a proposed waiver of School Board Policy 25-2.2 that is exclusive to the three comprehensive high schools and allows high schools to accept transfers if the school is not projected to reach 120% capacity over the next 4 years. She noted that this will affect Yorktown and Wakefield for the 2016-17 school year. She also noted that the policy requires transfer students to provide their own transportation, and she explained the time sensitivity of this waiver based on the approaching deadline for transfer applications.

Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Van Doren reiterated their belief that the Board should comply with policy and not take action when items are presented for information, but also recognized the impact a delay would have on the application process. Responding to Board questions about Claremont Elementary School admissions, Ms. Johnson confirmed that the current policy gives preference to families in the cluster schools, then to siblings and then to feeder schools. Noting his preference to change the policy to accommodate sibling preference before cluster schools, Mr. Lander asked if there will be sufficient slots so that all siblings can attend Claremont in fall 2016. Ms. Johnson confirmed that at this time, projections include six kindergarten classes at Claremont. Mr. Lander stated his preference to postpone any action on this policy until it can be adjusted to allow siblings to be admitted first in the fall of 2016. Dr. Violand-Sánchez commented that the proposed waiver only addresses the high school transfer issue, and suggested that other changes to this policy be considered at a later time.

Responding to questions, Dr. Murphy explained in more detail how postponing action on this waiver would affect staff and students in terms of the transfer application process. He confirmed that while it would be feasible to extend the application timeline for high schools, this would complicate the process and cause confusion, particularly if there were different deadlines for different programs. Dr. Violand-Sánchez recognized that delaying this decision might negatively affect students as they considered course enrollment, and also spoke to how the waiver will help relieve overcrowding at Washington-Lee High School. She confirmed her belief that acting now would benefit families, as many decisions need to be made in this process. Dr. Murphy stated that the policy includes a timeline, and staff has provided an alternate motion for Board consideration that includes a revised timeline to address concerns. Dr. Kanninen reiterated that this motion is for a one-time waiver of current policy and will address crowding in secondary schools. She confirmed her support for this waiver

and for adjusting the timeline as part of the motion to allow families more time to consider changes. Staff again reviewed briefly the steps that would need to be taken to waive the policy and extend the deadline for transfer applications.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to waive policy 25-2.2 Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs as presented, and to adjust the deadline for accepting all secondary countywide application forms for secondary transfers and secondary countywide programs to Friday, February 5, 2016. The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Mr. Goldstein stated his support for the content of the change, but again stated his belief that for clarity and communication, he cannot support taking action at this time. Ms. Van Doren stated that she agreed with the purpose of this waiver, but also that she believed that the Board should follow policy and not take action at this time.

Dr. Violand-Sanchez called for a vote and the motion passed by a vote of 3-1-1, with Dr. Kanninen, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively, Mr. Goldstein opposing. Mr. Lander abstained.

Mr. Lander again asked for projections for Claremont and reiterated his preference for revising the policy to allow sibling preference to be considered first. Dr. Murphy stated that staff will analyze projections for Claremont and provide relevant information to the Board prior to Kindergarten Information night. He confirmed that if these projections do not allow accommodation of siblings at Claremont under current policy, then that information will also be shared and the Board can decide how to proceed. Mr. Lander appreciated the proposal, and stressed the importance of having accurate information to communicate with families at Kindergarten Information night.

4. Recommendation for Arlington Public Schools Representative to the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC): (11:44 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board recommend to the County Board the reappointment of Todd McCracken as the Arlington Public Schools representative to the Public Facilities Review Committee, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.

G. NEW BUSINESS: none

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board