

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
January 21, 2016

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 6:47 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair (arr. 6:48 PM)
Reid Goldstein, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member (arr. 6:49 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 the appointment of a 0.5 Assistant Principal at Washington-Lee High School) and to consider the appointment of a member to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. Mr. Lander and Ms. Van Doren were not present at the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:25 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.

B. MEETING OPENING

Also present were:

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

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.

Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
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 - 3. CANCELLED

4. Announcements: (7:49 PM)

MEETINGS:

- *January 28, 2016 ACI Work Session, Room 101, 6 PM*

EVENTS:

- *January 27, 2016 CCPTA Reflections Ceremony, Wakefield High School, 6:30 PM*

Dr. Murphy spoke to plans for the expected inclement weather, highlighted grade reporting dates and APS events, and shared a digital update. Dr. Kanninen appreciated the actions of an APS bus driver who went beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety of students. Dr. Violand-Sánchez encouraged all to attend the special commemoration planned for February 2 to recognize the integration of Stratford High School, which was the first school in Virginia to be integrated.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:40 PM)

Mr. Lander moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. 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 15, 2015 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session
 - b. January 9, 2016 School Board Retreat

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement (revised date)

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Resignation With Prejudice

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 7 Appointments
 - 1 Change In Position/Salary
 - 1 Resignation
4. Appointment to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs
 5. Fenwick Contract Agreement
 6. ~~McKinley Elementary School Addition/Renovation Project Budget Construction Management Services Fee~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
 7. Taylor Elementary School Roof Project Contract Award
 8. Increase in a Fixed Price Contract by More than 25% of its Original Amount
 9. Appointment to Wilson Building Level Planning Committee

Dr. Violand-Sanchez announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Julie Cantor as 0.5 Assistant Principal, Washington-Lee High School. Responding to a request from Mr. Lander, Mr. Chadwick explained the reason for the increased fee approved in item C-8. He confirmed that this will not impact funds available for the project, which remains within budget and with no change to the scope.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:45 PM)

There were no speakers.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS: (7:45 PM)

1. Charge to Whole Child Working Group

Dr. Kanninen presented the draft charge to the Whole Child Working Group, reviewing the goals, tasks, products and timeline that are proposed for this group. She stressed that this charge is meant to be broad and provide the group with flexibility so they can move forward and organize in the way that most supports their work. She also reviewed the proposed membership of the group which will include staff support.

Board members discussed the framework and the range of topics to be explored, and confirmed that the goal is for this group's work to inform Board decisions. Dr. Violand-Sánchez noted the importance of aligning with the County and community groups, so that efforts are integrated to provide the best support to students. Recognizing the short term of the group, the Board may consider continuing efforts beyond June. Dr. Kanninen recognized the importance of building sustainability in efforts to address students' needs. It was recognized that collaboration between APS and the County that is already occurring, and the County will continue to participate in this process. Board members appreciated this collaboration, and encouraged any residents interested in being considered for this group to contact the School Board.

2. Appointment of Chair to the Whole Child Working Group: (7:56 PM)

Dr. Kanninen recommended Heather Sauve for Chair of the Whole Child Working Group. Dr. Violand-Sánchez shared information about Ms. Sauve, highlighting her work at Oakridge Elementary School to expand health and wellness opportunities.

Ms. Van Doren confirmed that Dr. Kanninen would be the SB liaison to this group. Mr. Goldstein also commented on the connection of this initiative to the Strategic Plan Goal 5. Dr. Violand-Sánchez noted these two items will come for Action on Feb. 4.

F. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:00 PM)

1. ACI Mid-Year Status Report

Ms. Skelton presented the report, outlining the ACI recommending and reporting schedule. She reviewed the role of the ACI and confirmed that there were 22 recommendations made, noting that 56% of these recommendations are being enacted and 44% are under consideration for FY 2017. She shared information, noting that recommendations are being considered or implemented in terms of ESOL/HILT, Special Education, English/Language Arts, and World Languages.

Ted Black, ACI Co-Chair, spoke to the importance of the ACI's work, confirming staff support for each committee. He reviewed the ACI schedule which has been adjusted so that recommendations can be considered prior to budget development and funds can be allocated to implement them in a timely manner.

Board members commended the ACI and staff for strengthening their relationship and for improving the recommendation process to better inform budget development. Mr. Lander appreciated collaboration with other advisory councils as well. Responding to questions, Ms. Skelton described efforts to strengthen world languages in middle schools. The group discussed the recommendation on compliance with the homework policy, and the need to develop pathways to graduation for ESOL/HILT students. Dr. Wilks confirmed that these pathways are available, and staff works with students to ensure that they are aware of all options. Finally, the group briefly discussed integrating physical activity in classrooms and how staff is working to implement this recommendation throughout APS.

2. Strategic Plan Progress Report #2: (8:25 PM)

Lisa Stengle, Director, Planning and Evaluation, introduced the report focused on Goal 3 and Goal 4. Dr. K. Murphy reported on progress towards Goal 3, sharing data on the Key Performance Indicator (KPI), percent of APS teachers who are highly qualified, and the KPI related to staff diversity. Dr. K. Murphy reviewed recruitment and retention efforts such as using social media, partnering with universities, and targeted job fairs to meet staffing needs. She also spoke to efforts to support staff advancement such as the Assistants-to-Teacher Program and Aspiring Administrators. Ms. Luz

Manzano then shared her experience in the Assistants-to-Teacher program as she pursued a degree. Dr. K. Murphy then spoke to next steps, including efforts to improve staff satisfaction.

Board members congratulated Ms. Manzano, and she shared more of her experiences, and Ms. Erin Wales-Smith, Recruitment Coordinator, shared some statistics about the Assistants-to-Teacher program. Responding to questions, Dr. K. Murphy described the efforts to staff hard-to-fill positions. Board members commented on the need for increasing staff diversity, particularly administrators, and encouraged efforts to recruit, as well as to strengthen professional development opportunities for all staff. Dr. K. Murphy spoke to efforts to improve recruitment and support for all staff and described professional development available throughout APS. Staff agreed to provide follow up information on staff diversity and retention, particularly for assistants and substitutes. The group also spoke to improving data gathered in the staff satisfaction survey, which will inform the next Strategic Plan. Dr. K. Murphy also described challenges faced and how staff collaborates with all departments to address needs.

Ms. Cathy Lin, Energy Manager, presented the update on progress on Goal 4, focusing on the multi-faceted approach to develop spaces that are adaptable and accommodate learning styles as well as needs. She explained how this approach encourages energy efficiency, and shared data from Discovery Elementary school to illustrate the benefits of operating an efficient facility. In closing, Ms. Lin reviewed next steps to embed optimal learning environments in the CIP process and projects.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, Arlington Education Association: speaking to staff retention and drawing attention to lower ratings on staff satisfaction, and noting areas with room for growth.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez appreciated Mr. Collins' comments, and shared his concerns about staff satisfaction. Responding to the Board, Mr. Chadwick confirmed efforts to ensure that all schools have furniture that supports educational goals and all learning styles. Board members appreciated this approach but encouraged developing a cost-effective plan to provide furniture as needed. The Board noted community interest in a broader discussion of sustainability efforts. Ms. Lin spoke to current savings from geothermal, and agreed to provide information about long-term costs and payback for energy efficient features. She also outlined plans to expand sustainable energy.

G. ACTION ITEMS: (9:39 PM)

1. FY 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan Framework

Mr. Lionel White, Planner, reviewed the proposed CIP Framework, highlighting adjustments made based on Board feedback at the recent work session. He highlighted needs, considerations and next steps to address issues at the three levels; high school, elementary and middle school. He then reviewed the timeline for next steps.

Superintendent Murphy briefly spoke to recognizing the constancy of change and the value in revisiting options that had been considered previously.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Michael Beer, community member: supporting the framework, recognizing crowding in schools, and sharing suggestions to add capacity or modify current practice to better balance enrollment.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the proposed FY 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan Framework, seconded by Mr. Lander.

Confirming his support for the framework, Mr. Lander commented on the development process, and recognized how this effort will inform the Board's decisions. He noted the budget impact of rising enrollment and commented on the need for flexibility and for revisiting decisions as changes occur. Acknowledging the need to focus on high school capacity, Dr. Kanninen appreciated staff efforts to create a document that reflects Board input, and was optimistic that this plan will address capacity needs. Mr. Goldstein spoke to the importance of community engagement throughout the CIP process. Responding to questions, Mr. Chadwick provided a detailed description of the CIP process in terms of community input and engagement. Dr. Violand-Sánchez spoke to the need for context to guide discussions, recognizing that some decisions have been made. Dr. Murphy confirmed that the context is based on priorities already identified. Mr. Chadwick agreed with this approach, but recognizing that the community may not have knowledge of past decisions, so that background will need to be provided. Ms. Van Doren encouraged creation of a simple framework document that provides this information clearly and efficiently. She encouraged strong efforts to solicit feedback from community and school groups, and online opportunities for input. She recognized the importance of partnering with the County and using information from their efforts to gather community feedback.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote and 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.

H. NEW BUSINESS: None

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board