

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
February 18, 2016

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 7:02 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
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 Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. Ms. Van Doren was 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 Dr. Kanninen 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

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
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
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

3. Recognitions:

The African American National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice,” was performed by Kenmore Middle School Chorus in recognition of Black History Month. Five APS teachers who received National Board Certification were also recognized, as well as four student County Decal Contest Winners. The Board then recognized the Clerk and Deputy Clerk during School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

4. Announcements: (8:06 PM)

Meetings:

- *February 19, 2016 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session on the New Elementary School at the Jefferson Site, Jefferson Middle School, Library, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, 4:00 – 5:30 PM*
- *February 25, 2016 School Board Meeting: Superintendent’s FY 2017 Proposed Budget, 7:30 PM*
- *February 25, 2016 Budget Work Session #1, Rm. 101, immediately following the Superintendent’s Budget Presentation*

Dr. Murphy thanked the community for their patience through recent inclement weather. He shared highlights from Black History Month and updated the Board on the General Assembly’s potential changes to graduation requirements. Crossing Guard Appreciation Week and Love the Bus Week were celebrated recently. Dr. Murphy announced the Summer Activities Fair and Summer School Registration.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (8:16 PM)

Mr. Lander moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, 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. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- a. November 5, 2015 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- b. January 14, 2016 Meeting with Drew Model School Community
- c. February 1, 2016 Closed Meeting
- d. February 11, 2016 Meeting with the Henry Elementary School Community

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 2 Retirements

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Retirement

3. Appointments to the Whole Child Working Group

Dr. Violand-Sánchez announced that as a part of consent, the Board appointed Dr. Kristi Murphy as Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:17 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board, suggesting that the upcoming school calendar include the option for teachers to participate in the digital APEX Professional Development Model, instead of requiring them to attend teacher work days in person. Speakers stressed that this model enables staff to personalize professional development to meet their unique needs.

Josh Folb, teacher, member of Arlington Education Association (AEA)

Gerry Collins, President, AEA

Leslie Stockton, employee

Ingrid Gant, employee

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:31 PM)

1. Strategic Plan Summary Report

Dr. Murphy presented the report, outlining the Strategic Plan reporting process, and noting that this data informs the proposed FY 2017 budget. The presentation focused on gains and what students need to be successful. Dr. Murphy also reviewed next steps and priorities. Gains towards each goal were highlighted and videos were shared of

students commenting on high quality instruction and what has made them successful in their school experience. In Students also shared experiences which have provided them with multiple, personal paths to success and also made suggestions on how to improve the learning environments. Dr. Murphy noted the challenge of ensuring high quality instruction for all, and acknowledged the importance of self-advocacy as well as learning that occurs through extracurricular opportunities. He also spoke to the importance of healthy, safe spaces.

Dr. Murphy then spoke to areas for growth for the division, which match the growing enrollment. These include increasing options for personal learning, focusing on groups of students and their unique needs, addressing the whole child, enhancing family and community engagement, strengthening infrastructure, and expanding professional learning. After highlighting efforts implemented to address these areas for growth, Dr. Murphy outlined items that will receive focus in his upcoming FY 2017 budget proposal. In closing, he confirmed the fundamental beliefs that guide APS and how the division focuses on these beliefs.

Recognizing the challenge of the growing enrollment, Mr. Lander asked how APS is preparing to meet the needs of all students. Staff recognizes this challenge and Dr. Murphy confirmed efforts are underway to strengthen the quality education currently being provided. He noted the importance of focusing on individual student needs and strengths. Mr. Lander agreed with this focus and encouraged both the staff and the Board to educate the community about the challenges of providing a strong education to all. Dr. Kanninen appreciated the framework presented and looked forward to the Superintendent's budget proposal. She suggested adding two priorities: Compensation that reflects the value of staff contributions, and ensuring that students have enrichment opportunities. Dr. Violand-Sánchez appreciated student participation in the presentation and encouraged differentiated professional development that meets individual teachers' needs, including opportunities such as sabbaticals and fellowships. Dr. Murphy agreed, and confirmed that APS is working to provide appropriate professional development for all. Ms. Van Doren echoed the importance of investing in staff by providing opportunities for professional development.

2. Minority Achievement Program Evaluation Summary Report: (9:12 PM)

Dr. Murphy introduced the summary, reviewing the evaluation process, and looking to next steps. Specifically he confirmed there will be funds in his proposed budget to expand Minority Achievement program. He reiterated that the division is committed to addressing the achievement gap, and involves everyone throughout APS.

Regina Van Horne, Assistant Director, Evaluation, briefly reviewed the program evaluation process, outlining the schedule, data collection, and data review. The two focuses of the report were the experiences of minority students throughout APS and the Minority Achievement program itself. Dr. Theresa Adkins, Minority Achievement Director, then provided an overview of the services and programs provided by the Minority Achievement office. Dr. Adkins then reviewed three findings of the evaluation and next steps to address the findings. First, she noted there are different

understandings about what the Minority Achievement Program is throughout APS, and the recommended next step is to define a vision and goals for the program. The evaluation also found that classroom experiences for minority students need to improve, particularly in terms of engagement and instructional support, and Dr. Adkins confirmed the plan to consistently provide culturally responsive instruction. Finally, staff recognizes the need to track and measure progress of students who participate in services and to ensure consistency, which will be addressed through clarifying program offerings. Dr. Adkins then reviewed the progressive plan developed to expand and improve minority achievement efforts, which will address needs across all school levels and also looks to address all student needs.

Board members appreciated the evaluation and staff efforts during the transition that took place in the Minority Achievement Office. The group discussed the diversity of students who participate in minority achievement programs, parent involvement opportunities, and staffing. Also discussed was the discretion principals have in utilizing staff, and Dr. Murphy affirmed that while there is flexibility, the focus is on meeting student needs and supporting program delivery. He also noted that staffing formulas are in place to ensure consistency throughout APS. The group discussed plans for additional funding for Minority Achievement and how to provide a broader, comprehensive, and better integrated cultural competence approach in APS. Dr. Adkins provided a more detailed description of her vision for expansion of the Minority Achievement Office, suggesting different focuses at each level. Dr. Violand-Sánchez commented on the importance of the cultural competence initiative, which she believes has been transformative for APS, and asked that this work continue. In closing the discussion, Ms. Van Doren encouraged the Board to consider all of the program evaluation reports together in the work to improve programs and services.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:56 PM)

1. Revision of School Board Policy 35-6.2 Retirement

Dr. K. Murphy reviewed three proposed changes to policy 35-6.2 Retirement, which are related to the School Board match to retirement contributions. Dr. K. Murphy confirmed that one of the changes is being recommended to bring APS in line with the Code of Virginia.

Responding to questions, Dr. K. Murphy explained efforts in place to ensure that staff understand their options in terms of retirement contributions. She also confirmed that, while staff would be interested in moving forward with this policy forward as the changes are minor. Ms. Van Doren and Mr. Goldstein stated that they strongly prefer following Board policy of presenting policy changes for Information and Action at separate meetings. They noted that it is important to have this delay as it allows staff and community members to review proposed changes and provide feedback. The Board agreed and agreed to vote at the next meeting on this policy change.

2. Revision of Select School Board Policies: (10:06 PM)

Ms. Johnson explained the proposed revisions to School Board Policies 10-6 School Board Advisory Committees, 10-6.5 Student Advisory Board, 10-6.6 School Plan Committees, specifically in terms of how members are appointed to these groups. Ms. Johnson confirmed that the change to the Student Advisory Board would not affect the relationship that the School Board has with the student group.

Responding to questions, Ms. Johnson stated that advisory groups have not seen the proposed changes, and agreed to share them with the groups. Dr. Murphy confirmed that this change allows committees to operate in a more flexible and effective way and will not have restrictions that apply to groups appointed by the School Board. Without this change, committees would be required to comply with FOIA requirements. In closing, Dr. Murphy reiterated that the changes will not affect the relationship between the Board and committees, but supports them in their work.

3. Abingdon Elementary School Final Design: (10:16 PM)

Architect Paul Lund of Hord Copland Macht presented the proposed final design for Abingdon. The project, to be completed in 2017, will include 140 additional seats, a 27,000 sq foot addition, and renovation of existing space. Mr. Lund reviewed the project schedule and spoke to how the project addresses strategic plan goals and supports learning. He reviewed several recommendations from the traffic study to improve safety at the site, and described the site plan, sharing interior and exterior perspectives. Mr. Ben Burgin, Acting Director, Design and Construction, then reviewed funding available, noting changes that have been made since the project was presented at schematic design. He also highlighted minor construction/major maintenance features that have been incorporated into this renovation, resulting in efficiencies. He also reviewed the cost estimates, and confirmed that the project is tracking on budget. In closing, he briefly reviewed the schedule for the project.

Responding to questions, staff confirmed the bond funding for the project has been approved, however, there may be some additional funding needed for HVAC. They also explained how the project will be phased to allow students to remain in the building during construction. The group also briefly discussed FLES implementation at the school and Ms. JoAnn Uyeda, Principal, explained the plan for Spanish instruction at the school. The group also briefly discussed how the design of the renovation will affect open spaces in the school.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board