

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting and Budget Work Session #1  
February 25, 2016

**Item F-1-c**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, February 18, 2015, at 7:31 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair  
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Member  
Barbara Kanninen, Member  
James S. Lander, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Deirdra McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management  
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education

A. **CLOSED MEETING: NONE**

B. **BOARD MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order.

5. Announcements: (7:32 PM)

*School Board Budget Calendar* (Meetings in Rm. 101 A/B at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated):

- March 2, 2016 Budget Work Session #2, Employee Budget and Non-Budget Concerns, 5 PM
- March 8, 2016 Budget Work Session #3
- March 15, 2016 Meeting with BAC, FAC, ACI Chairs/Budget Work Session #4
- March 17, 2016 Public Hearing on Superintendent's Proposed Budget

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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/15401081151356423/site/default.asp>

DVDs of all regular School Board meetings are also available for viewing in the School Board office.

- April 7, 2016 Board Action Item – School Board’s Proposed FY 2017 Budget
- April 8, 2016 Joint School Board/County Board Budget Work Session, County Board Office, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., 9:30 AM
- April 21, 2016 Public Hearing on School Board Proposed 2017 Budget
- May 5, 2016 Board Action Item - School Board's Adopted FY 2017 Budget

*Important County Budget Dates:*

- March 29, 2016 Public Hearing on the County Budget
- March 31, 2016 Public Hearing on tax rate
- April 16, 2016 County Board adoption of FY 2017 County Budget

Ms. Van Doren commented on the recent passing of a Thomas Jefferson staff member and called for a moment of silence in his memory.

**C. PRESENTATION: (7:35 PM)**

Dr. Murphy presented his proposed FY 2017 Budget, thanking staff, community members, and the County for their support. He highlighted priorities that informed this process and reviewed the budget development strategy. He outlined the School Board’s FY 2017 budget direction, and shared highlights of communications and feedback in the budget development process. He then shared both the revenue and expenditure summary as well as the total budget amount. Enrollment and cost per pupil data for several years was also presented.

Expenditures in the proposed budget include Arlington Tech, staff compensation, funds to address increasing enrollment. New investments include funds for student and instructional support, safety and security, professional development, and infrastructure and support. Previous reductions were reviewed, and Dr. Murphy confirmed that no class size reductions have occurred since 2011. He reviewed revenue adjustments and savings and efficiencies implemented to close the funding gap, then outlined the use of reserves in the proposed budget. A total of \$1.9 million is need in additional revenue or expenditure reductions to close the funding gap. Areas of focus for future budgets include psychologists/social workers, Arlington Tech, Central Registration, and improving building security. He closed with a review of upcoming budget calendar and shared a video on multiple pathways for success available to students in Arlington Public Schools.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked Dr. Murphy, staff and the community, and called for a brief recess at 8:03 PM. The Board reconvened in rooms 101 A/B at 8:09 PM.

**Budget Work Session #1**

**Also present were:**

Leslie Peterson, Budget Director  
 Tamika Love-Miller, Budget Analyst

- Budget Overview

Ms. Peterson presented the summary budget overview of the Superintendent’s proposed budget, noting that more in-depth discussion will occur in future work sessions. She reviewed the budget

development process and highlighted changes incorporated into the proposed budget. She reviewed the increase in County revenue in the County Manager's proposed budget, and spoke to other potential additional funds. She also highlighted increases in local revenues from Extended Day, Food Service and pool fees. Staff anticipates increased state funding based on the Governor's proposed budget, and an expected increase in sales tax income and other funds. Ms. Peterson also spoke to additional federal revenues of approximately \$500,000 and reviewed how reserves are incorporated in the budget, stressing that this is one-time funding.

For expenditures, Ms. Peterson noted that the biggest baseline adjustment is staffing resulting from lapse and turnover, and reviewed debt service and other funding adjustments that have contributed to baseline changes. In addition, she noted additional costs for new capacity at McKinley and the Fenwick building, and highlighted use of one-time funds for certain items. These net adjustments reduce the baseline by \$7 million. Also reviewed were costs of new investments in the Superintendent's budgets, and the proposed budget includes a step and a compensation adjustment for staff who do not receive a step. Ms. Peterson also reviewed funding to be phased in over the next few years. In closing, she confirmed a budget shortfall of \$1.9 million, and staff will look to address this shortfall through potential additional revenues or reduction of expenditures.

Staff members responded to Board questions related to County funding, compensation, and federal revenue, providing additional explanations of these items and confirming the budget will be adjusted as additional information becomes available. Dr. Wilks provided a detailed explanation of the plan to roll out central registration, and how staffing will be managed for this initiative. Board members encouraged strong community engagement as this new process is implemented, particularly for second language learners and students with special needs, and recognized that some families may be less comfortable registering at a central location rather than at their child's new school.

The group discussed the increase in the budget and the high cost per pupil, and how to control costs as the division continues to grow. Board members were also interested in the effectiveness of the residency verification initiative, and asked for more information on proposed increased staffing for Human Resources. Mr. Lander suggested exploring an Internship program with a local university to strengthen recruitment efforts in APS, and asked for an estimate of costs for such a program. Board members also looked forward to hearing the results of the compensation study, and Dr. Violand-Sánchez confirmed that will be part of Budget Work Session #3.

Additional items of interest were coordinating with the County on transportation, specifically to allow students access to ART buses, which would reduce the need for school buses. Dr. Murphy confirmed staff has begun discussing this with the County. Some members suggested that the Board reinstate the Multimodal Transportation Committee to look at issues like this. Board members also looked forward to hearing the vision for Instruction for a 30,000 student school division, and how to integrate instruction with Student Services. Board members recognized the challenge resulting from vacancies in several administrative positions, and encouraged Dr. Murphy to develop a vision for moving forward and working towards strategic goals that incorporates all departments. Ms. Peterson also explained that APS will not receive much additional funding from the Governor for staff compensation, based on the compensation already included in the proposed budget.

- Budget Question Process

Dr. Violand-Sánchez reviewed the process for submitting budget questions, and Ms. Peterson confirmed that questions can be submitted throughout the budget process and staff will respond as quickly as possible. Questions and answers are posted on BoardDocs as soon as they are available. Board members then submitted several questions to be responded to by staff related to compensation and benefits, and Ms. Peterson confirmed answers will be provided

- Topics for Future Work Sessions and Wrap Up

Ms. Peterson briefly reviewed the agendas for the upcoming budget work sessions, confirming that Board members can suggest additional topics for discussion. The Board also reviewed the process for Board members to propose changes to the Superintendent's proposed budget.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

#### **ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair  
Arlington School Board