

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and
Public Hearing on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2017 Budget
March 17, 2016

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 7:30 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
Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

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
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 at 7:30 PM.

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

In recognition of Visual and Performing Arts month, Wakefield student Anise Dorsey performed "An Cailin Alain," an Irish Folk Song in honor of St Patrick's Day, followed

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.

by performances by the Washington-Lee High School Wind ensemble and the Washington-Lee Guitar Ensemble.

Ms. Van Doren introduced State Delegate Alfonso Lopez, who presented Dr. Violand-Sánchez with a commendation from the Virginia Commonwealth Senate and House of Representatives, recognizing her work on behalf of children and the community.

4. Announcements: (7:57 PM)

Events:

- *Spring Break - March 21-25, 2016*

Dr. Murphy shared highlights of the regional Science Fair and the Northern Virginia SkillsUSA Competition and recognized students who received awards at these events. He encouraged families to enroll in summer school, shared the Budget calendar and the Capital Improvement Plan schedule. In closing, he presented a video clip about Digital Learning at Abingdon Elementary School.

C. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED FY 2017 BUDGET: (8:04 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board, supporting funding for a Community in Schools site coordinator at Barcroft Elementary School, describing how the program supports students and families. Three Arlington Mill High School students described how it helped them in their studies and Mr. Brennan shared general information about Community in Schools:

Robert Woody, Board Chair, Community in Schools of NOVA

Corine Ndomera, Rosa Sntiz, and Abudula Abulsiti, Arlington Mill High School students

Patrick Brennan, Community in Schools of NOVA

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, Arlington Education Association (AEA): sharing comments from the AEA compensation committee, asking that, in addition to a step for eligible employees, a compensation adjustment be included for employees on longevity steps. He also suggested adding a step at the top of the scale for select support staff.

Michael Beer, parent: appreciating the proposed budget, recognizing the growing enrollment, supporting the proposed additional staffing in the central office and compensation for all employees. He also encouraged asking the County for additional funding for the schools.

D. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:18 PM)

Dr. Violand-Sánchez announced that item D-7, Fenwick Budget, is being pulled from consent and will be discussed under Information.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda as amended, 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: REMOVED FROM AGENDA

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment
1 Change In Position/Salary
17 Resignations
1 Resignation With Prejudice
7 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

7 Appointments
3 Changes In Position/Salary
2 Retirements

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

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

3 ACI Appointments

4. Appointments to the New Elementary School at Jefferson Building Level Planning Committee

5. ~~Powhatan Park Parking Agreement~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA

6. ~~Washington Lee High School Phase 2 Budget Adjustments and Contract Award~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA

7. ~~Fenwick Budget~~ REMOVED FROM CONSENT

8. McKinley Elementary School Addition/Renovation Project Deed of Dedication for Public Street and Utilities Purposes.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez announced that as a part of consent, the Board appointed members to the Building Level Planning Committee for the new elementary school at Jefferson, and introduced Megan Haydayz who was appointed Chair.

E. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

F. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:19 PM)

1. ACI Committee Report: Early Childhood

Kate Graham, Early Child Coordinator introduced committee co-chair Kat Godesky, who presented the report. Ms. Godesky explained that the group identified three topics for their work: Time for unstructured physical activity, the school registration process, and use of technology. She shared the committee's focus on supporting opportunities for unstructured play, which supports development of the whole child. She also spoke to work to encourage efforts to improve registration, and the need to ensure that technology is being well used in the classrooms. The committee will continue to look at these three areas.

Responding to questions, Ms. Godesky agreed that technology is a useful educational tool, and stated that the committee recommends implementing a structured plan for its use. Dr. Kanninen appreciated the group's work and appreciated their plans to look at Montessori. Ms. Graham confirmed that the program evaluation of early childhood education, including Montessori, VPI and special education pre-Kindergarten is underway, and the results will be shared with the Board. Noting the importance of learning through play, particularly for second language learners, Dr. Violand-Sánchez asked about opportunities available to students. Dr. Donna Snyder, Director, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, and Ms. Graham described models used in the early grades that support learning through play. The group discussed how play is incorporated into the school day and how play strengthens language and social skills.

2. Extended Day Update: REMOVED FROM AGENDA

3. Annual Mathematics Update: (8:39 PM)

Sarah Minervino, Supervisor, presented the update, supported by Specialists Mariola Aguilar, Michael Frickel, and Christine Hufnagel. Ms. Minervino provided a program overview and highlighted improving achievement at all levels, including increasing SOL pass rates and enrollment in more rigorous courses. She outlined efforts in place to improve student learning as well as highlighting key takeaways such as the primary focus on teaching and learning, articulation of content, and increasing the rigor of instruction. Ms. Minervino then described recommendations and strategies staff is implementing to improve mathematics instruction: Continued support the Arlington Tiered System of Support, refining professional learning for teachers of special populations, and continuing to provide differentiated learning opportunities. In closing, Ms. Minervino shared a video showing differentiated learning in a classroom.

Responding to questions, Ms. Minervino confirmed that APS offers the two-year algebra class in all high schools, and explained that the mathematics strategy class allows teachers to focus on student needs. She spoke to efforts to strengthen the focus on decreasing the gap for students with disabilities, and she described new instructional materials which include many digital resources. Ms. Aguilar described

supports to help ESOL students learn to use digital devices, and how staff adapts instruction for these students. Staff also described the flipped classroom, which is supported through the use of digital texts. It was confirmed that APS ensures that all students can access instructional materials from home, even without internet access.

G. ACTION ITEMS: (9:06 PM)

1. School Calendars

Superintendent Murphy briefly reviewed the calendar development process and adjustments made to the proposed calendar in response to feedback received. Dr. K. Murphy then reviewed in detail these adjustments, such as adding more time for teacher conferences, making a slight change to winter break, and changing the last day of school for high school students. She also spoke to plans to consider providing more flexible professional development options to staff.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, AEA: supporting the revisions, suggesting staff look at constraints particularly related professional learning, holidays, and start and end dates, and looking at the calendar for multiple years to smooth the process.

Josh Folb, teacher: encouraging taking a more flexible approach to identifying and providing opportunities for professional development, and suggesting Inauguration Day as a possible date for flexible professional learning.

Board members encouraged better communication and more outreach to parents and staff to enhance participation in the calendar planning process, and some appreciated the suggestion to look at calendars in terms of multiple years. Dr. K. Murphy briefly reviewed the calendar development process and outreach.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved that the School Board approve the following calendars for the 2016-17 School year:

- *Proposed 2016-17 School Calendar Option 2*
- *Proposed 2016-17 H-B Woodlawn/Stratford School Calendar*
- *Proposed 2017 Summer School Calendar*
- *Proposed 2016-17 Barcroft Modified School Year Calendar*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen and adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:28 PM)

1. Superintendent's Recommendation on Preferences 1 through 3 of the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG) Report

Dr. Murphy introduced the item and Mr. Zach Larnard, Facilities Planner, presented recommendations based on the first three preferences identified by SAWG. These are to build a new school for the Henry Elementary population at the Jefferson site and move the Montessori Program from Drew Model School to the Henry building, to begin a visioning process for Drew as it transitions to a stand-alone school, and to begin a review of the Montessori program to determine cost efficiencies. He then reviewed next steps to implement the recommendations.

The following speakers addressed the Board, supporting the move of the Montessori program to a new facility, appreciating the work of the Board and SAWG, and commenting that this move will strengthen both programs currently housed at Drew Model School:

Wendy Dean, Drew Model School PTA Executive Board
Kathleen Trainor, Arlington Montessori Action Committee

The Board appreciated SAWG's efforts and the speakers' comments. Responding to comments, Dr. Murphy and Mr. Chadwick spoke to planned outreach to share progress on these recommendations with the Board and community. Dr. Kanninen confirmed that there is funding for the visioning process to move forward, and recognized the Board's interest looking for cost efficiencies. Dr. Murphy confirmed this approach will be taken, and spoke to the timeline. Mr. Lander reiterated that these recommendations are not just focused on Montessori, but on providing needed support to all children in all programs, and recognized this is part of the division's efforts to address capacity needs. Board members agreed this is part of a comprehensive plan to support achievement by all students, and looked forward to moving forward.

2. Stratford Schematic Design: (9:43 PM)

Mr. Chadwick reviewed information about the original Stratford school, spoke to the complexity of the site, and reviewed the process to develop the schematic design. He thanked Chair Susan Cunningham and the BLPC for their efforts. Architect Carl Elephante then presented the schematic design, first reviewing the concept design adopted by the Board. He then reviewed the approved project cost and funding, and described features of the building that have been detailed in the schematic design. He also provided information about the integration of the existing school and the 40,000 square foot addition. He noted the field is maintained and the accessibility improved, and includes opportunities to incorporate recognition of the historical events that took place at the school. The plan also includes two alternatives, with and without a driveway connection to Old Dominion Drive. Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, presented the schematic design cost estimate, explaining changes made between concept and schematic design which add approximately \$4.7 million to the cost. He also reviewed potential deduct alternates that can be considered to reduce the cost, as well as potential add alternates that could be considered.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Susan Cunningham, Chair, Stratford BLPC: sharing the BLPC's recommendations, noting features they support such as universal access and the lighting upgrade add alternate. She confirmed the group's recommendation to ensure pedestrian safety and to implement transportation management. The BLPC also looks forward to efforts to commemorate the historic significance of this site, and suggested looking back to identify lessons learned, and continued collaboration with the County.

Chris Forinash, Chair, Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC): thanking APS and the County for the process which enables citizen input and agreed with Ms. Cunningham's suggestion for both the BLPC and PFRC to debrief as projects move forward. Noting that two options are still on the table, he confirmed the PFRC will continue to provide any input desired. He spoke to the driveway, and confirmed that the PFRC opposed this option.

Joan Lawence, Chair, Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB): Confirming HALRB's interest in preserving the historic aspects, asking for historic commemoration, and recommending that a committee be formed to determine how this commemoration will be made. The HALRB supports the proposed driveway, ADA access, and encouraged restoration of the glass block, elevator and lighting that have been recommended, and confirming their interest in continuing to work with APS on this project.

Doug Taylor, Woodmont Civic Association: stating his support for the proposed driveway, which he believes will result in a safer environment and will mitigate traffic issues; and will provide better access to the school.

Responding to questions, Mr. Elephante provided additional information about the fire road design and estimated costs for access to the site, as well as access issues for fire vehicles that were considered in developing the design. Mr. Chadwick reviewed the process for project approval, noting that the County must issue a use permit before it can be completed, and he confirmed that the two entities will continue to work to find a consensus on the design. Dr. Kanninen appreciated the BLPC's efforts, particularly their support for the additional funding for amenities that will make the project more attractive. She continued to be concerned that the field is not appropriate for high school or adult soccer play. Other topics discussed briefly were negotiating for offsite parking, the importance of complete sidewalks at the site, and whether the CIP can accommodate the add alternates. Responding to a question, Mr. Forinash shared comments from the PFRC on their opposition to the driveway off of Old Dominion Drive. Ms. Van Doren appreciated the opportunity to participate as the Board liaison to the BLPC, and noted the importance of completing this project on time. She commented on the importance of universal design to ensure access for all, encouraged continued efforts to look for alternate options to control traffic at the site, and appreciated the efforts to retain green space. Dr. Violand-Sánchez and the other Board members thanked the citizens who participated in the presentation and process, and looked forward to preserving the history of the school, which will be an asset to the community.

3. Fenwick Budget: (11:05 PM)

Mr. Chadwick briefly reviewed the work planned for this project, and confirmed it will open up space for Arlington Tech at Career Center and help address capacity needs. He commented briefly on the challenges of the current space, and looked forward to completing this project. Responding to questions, he confirmed that not voting on this item will delay the project by three weeks. Ms. Van Doren was concerned that this item had been brought forward for action under consent, without any opportunity for review, and suggested that it, and similar items, should be heard for information first, then for action at a subsequent meeting.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote, and *Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the Fenwick project*, seconded by Mr. Lander.

Mr. Goldstein agreed with Ms. Van Doren's comments about process. Ms. Van Doren thanked the County and APS staff for working together on this facility.

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 Mr. Goldstein opposing.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Kanninen spoke to her plans to present a motion at the April 7 Board meeting which responds to a concern that the English/Language Arts textbook adoption process may be delayed. If necessary, she intends to ask the Board to direct the Superintendent to prioritize and ensure that this textbook adoption process stays on track, so that textbooks will be purchased and in teachers' and students' hands by Fall 2016. She stated her hope that the process will continue on track, so that it is not necessary for the Board to adopt such a motion.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board