

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
August 13, 2015

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, August 13, 2015, at 6:32 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Abby Raphael, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING:

Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the salary of a public school official and to consider personnel appointments of Assistant Principal, Tuckahoe Elementary School; Assistant Principal, Wakefield High School; and 0.5 FTE Assistant Principal and 0.5 FTE teacher, Wakefield High School, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Lander and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Ellen Kennedy, Director, Employee Relations, Human Resources

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved move 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 just held, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening this closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Mr. Lander – Aye; Ms. Raphael – Aye; Ms. Van Doren – Aye and Dr. Violand-Sánchez – Aye.

The Board took a brief recess and reconvened at 7:31 PM.

Also present were:

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.

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
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education
Leslie Peterson, Budget Director

B. BOARD MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

2. Announcements: (7:31 PM)

MEETINGS:

- September 3, 2015 School Board Retreat, Time and Location TBD

Dr. Murphy announced Barcroft Elementary School's first day of school and shared highlights of summer activities. He encouraged rising 6th graders to get their Tdap immunizations, presented some preliminary SOL results, and reviewed dates for various events in preparation for the upcoming school year.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:38 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- April 10, 2015 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session
- April 28, 2105 Literacy Work Session
- May 7, 2015 School Board Meeting
- May 21, 2015 School Board Meeting
- June 4, 2015 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- June 11, 2015 School Board Meeting
- June 16, 2015 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- June 30, 2015 Closed Meeting
- July 1, 2015 Closed Meeting
- July 1, 2015 School Board Meeting

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

3 Changes In Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

181 Appointments
2 Resignations
1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Resignation
1 Retirement

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:

Special Project #1 – SOL Web-Based Technology Initiative, Series XV
Special Project #2 – CTE State Equipment Entitlement Funds
Special Project #3 – GED Program at Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF)
Special Project #4 – Carl D. Perkins Grant

4. School Plan Advisory Committee Appointments
5. Appointment to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs
6. ESEA Consolidated Application
7. Appointment to South Arlington Elementary Working Group
8. FY 2015-16 School Board-Civic Association Liaison Assignments
9. Appointment of ACI Co-Chair
10. Appointment of Audit Committee Chair
11. Superintendent's Contract Amendment

Dr. Violand-Sánchez announced that as part of consent, Dr. Francis Legagneur was appointed Assistant Principal, Tuckahoe Elementary School; Mr. Jonathan Turrisi Assistant Principal, Wakefield High School; and Ms. Frances Lee as 0.5 FTE Assistant Principal, also at Wakefield High School.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:42 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Nancy Carol James, Yorktown parent: encouraging the teaching of philosophy in the schools, recommending the Philosophy for Thinking approach, and stating her belief that this approach supports higher student achievement.

Jim Hurysz, resident: stating concerns with the Abingdon design planning process, stating his beliefs that residents were excluded from the process and that the Fairlington Citizens Association did not represent views of the community.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:48 PM)

1 Academic Performance Update:

Dr. Violand-Sánchez stated that the Arlington Public Schools' Mission, Vision and Core Values affirm the Board's commitment to educating every child and ensuring their success. The Board continually evaluates, analyzes and focuses staff and resources to provide the best learning environment for all students in all schools, and supports the superintendent and school and program leaders to meet the needs of each child. Arlington's overall student performance is measured through many lenses and the Board takes responsibility for student progress through a system of continuous and transparent evaluation. The Board uses data to look at student success, staff quality, and system management, and receives in-depth reports from instructional leaders to help determine next steps towards continuous improvement. The Board is committed to transparency so all reports are available online. The website contains links to a wide range of data on academic achievement and student outcomes. APS will look back at what has been accomplished in order to adjust plans moving forward. Students are making significant progress, and APS will continue to close achievement gaps. As the 2016 school year approaches, APS is committed to addressing the educational, social and emotional needs of the whole child with support of families and community. APS is an excellent school system and the Board is proud of all students.

Dr. Murphy affirmed that, based on preliminary information, all APS schools are expected to be fully accredited, and he also announced the graduation rate at the three comprehensive high schools was 98.7% for 2015. He recognized there are still challenges and confirmed he will work with the Board and instructional leaders to set priorities and identify key areas of focus in the coming year. Reflecting the Strategic Plan, he stated that APS will work to further strengthen and improve the educational achievement of all students, and will include an emphasis on the whole child. Each school sets goals and develops school management plans to be sure that they address the needs of each child, and Dr. Murphy encouraged parents to work with the schools and principals to support their child's progress. Arlington is committed to public education, and APS will work with the County and the community to ensure that students are supported. In closing, he confirmed that APS will continue to update the community as the work of APS continues.

Ms. Skelton provided the update on student achievement, stressing the combined effort of the schools and the community in supporting students. She reviewed how APS works to ensure success for all students and shared data enrollment growth over the last decade. She also presented demographic information on race/ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient (LEP), and students with disabilities (SWD) in the 2015 school year. While the percentage of students identified as economically disadvantaged has remained relatively steady in recent years, because the overall enrollment has increased, the total number of students in this group has

increased. Ms. Skelton then reviewed additional demographic data on students with all three of these identifications. Noting that the majority of LEP students are U.S. citizens, Ms. Skelton explained that these students receive services based on their level of language proficiency, ranging from ELP 1 to ELP 6.

Ms. Skelton next described how APS exhibits and monitors progress and performance. She shared disaggregated reading and math SOL pass rates, and data on enrollment in advanced courses. Focusing on accountability, she described the APS Executive Leadership Cohort implemented in schools that will benefit from additional support. Performance data is available on the APS Web site and the Virginia Department of Education site, and is updated regularly. APS focuses on hiring and retaining highly qualified teachers, and allocates resources as needed to support all students. Student learning is enhanced through early childhood education, personalized learning and drop-out prevention, and student and family engagement. APS also collaborates with the County and community to provide wrap-around support to students and families. Ms. Skelton described the Aspire2Excellence initiative and other options that help students succeed. In closing, she reaffirmed that APS continuously monitors student progress, provides resources to meet needs, and focuses on the whole child.

Board members appreciated the presentation, and Mr. Lander commented on achievement gaps that persist. He asked how parents can learn about opportunities and programs for their children. Ms. Skelton encouraged parents to use their home schools and principals as resources, and she highlighted supports throughout APS for all families. The group discussed additional data on student performance and how it can be accessed. Mr. Lander reaffirmed that staff are here to support families when they need assistance, and Board members recognized the positive trends in student success and the commitment that APS has made to every student. They also noted that this report reinforces and supports the Board's focus on the whole child. Recognizing community leaders in the audience, Dr. Violand-Sánchez appreciated their commitment and the importance of community engagement.

2. Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP) (8:39 PM)

Dr. Murphy introduced the presentation, explaining that the AFSAP is presented alternately with the biannual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Mr. Chadwick provided an overview, noting that the AFSAP provides data about student enrollment and building capacity, and informs the CIP and other decision making processes, including plans to accommodate the growing school population. He reviewed district-wide historic school enrollment growth, as well as growth by school level over the past 5 years. Arlington resident birth data and kindergarten capture rates were also presented. Mr. Chadwick confirmed that the trend in recent years has been for more children born in Arlington to remain and enter school here. He also shared projections for the next 10 years, and compared capacity utilization at all school levels for Fall 2014 and projections for Fall 2019 and Fall 2024. Recognizing that data tends to be less accurate for farther out projections, he confirmed that the data show that all schools will be at or above maximum capacity at these three time points. Data on relocatables was also presented, and Mr. Chadwick reviewed the progressive planning

model implemented to address capacity needs. He outlined next steps to add capacity at each school level, including construction and renovation as well as other creative approaches. Boundary changes will be needed as new facilities open, and community engagement processes will be implemented. Collaboration with the County on growth management will help inform projections and plans to address capacity needs. In closing, Mr. Chadwick shared next steps for the upcoming CIP process, which will occur over the next several months. These include timelines for the capital projects in the current CIP, consideration of new projects for the FY 2017-26 CIP, interim solutions pending completion of the projects, and boundary changes.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Jim Hurysz, resident: highlighting County population growth projections, encouraging APS and the County to focus only on classrooms and eliminate costly amenities being included in school renovations.

Dr. Kanninen spoke briefly on the work of the South Arlington Working Group, recognizing the value of including a look at future capacity needs and options. She asked for clarification that no decisions have been made and Mr. Chadwick confirmed that the possible next steps presented are considerations that will be explored. The group recognized that robust community engagement will be incorporated into this process. Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked Mr. Chadwick for the presentation.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:15 PM)

1. Stratford Historic Designation

Dr. Murphy reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between APS and the County, determining the process for considering historic designation when recommended by the County Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB). He confirmed that the HALRB has recommended historic designation of the Stratford site, and this presentation is the next step in that process.

After recognizing the historic significance of the Stratford site and noting Quinn Evans Architects expertise on historic buildings, Mr. Chadwick introduced architect Carl Elephante, who described the proposed project. He reviewed the historic significance of the site, confirming that it is on the National Register for Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. In considering if the site should be given local historic district designation, Mr. Elephante described how the property would be affected, noting that the HALRB would have authority to determine the appropriateness of any external modifications and repairs. Mr. Elephante reviewed the 2004 MOU outlining the process for determining if a site should be identified for local historic designation. He then described the historic features of the Stratford facility, including the fabric of the original building as well as the significance of the building in terms of integration. Previous alterations and additions made to the building were described and Mr. Elephante noted existing deficiencies and opportunities a new addition would address. Noting the proposed design retains the historic fabric of the building, Mr. Elephante then summarized the discussions that

have taken place with the HALRB about the site. Several project schemes were developed and shared, and then refined. After reviewing HALRB concerns, Mr. Elephante shared the BLPC (Building Level Planning Committee) preferred schemes, the “Terrace” scheme and the “Link” scheme. Mr. Chadwick then presented the staff recommendation, which is to defer action on this item until issues that have been identified at the recent work session on this site have been resolved.

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting the historic designation for the Stratford site. Several speakers shared personal experiences at the school and the importance of preserving its history. Some of the speakers were HALRB members and shared feedback from that group, noting in particular concerns about obstruction of the entry-way to the building. Speakers also presented statements on behalf of Calloway United Methodist Church and the Black Heritage Museum in support of historic designation. One speaker also commented on grant funding that may be available for historic renovation..

Gerald LaPorte, resident
Cassandra Winger, resident
Drew Costley, H-B Woodlawn graduate
Saundra Green, resident
Carmela Hamm, resident
Sharon Mondé, resident
Craig Syphax, President, Black Heritage Museum
Michael Jones, resident
Tova Solo, HALRB member
Maria Turner, on behalf of Zachary Best, H-B Woodlawn graduate
Joan Lawrence, HALRB Chair
Frank K. Wilson, resident
Eric Dobson, resident

All Board members thanked the speakers and appreciated their commitment to commemorating the historic significance of the site, and for sharing their experiences and the history of Stratford. The Board affirmed the importance of ensuring that broader community understands the historic significance of the events that took place at the Stratford School, and agreed with the need to preserve that history. Mr. Lander spoke to the process of considering designation, recognizing that this is a County Board decision. Responding to a question, Dr. Violand-Sánchez stated her support for historic designation, appreciating in particular the dedication of the community to preserving its history. She clarified that although the County makes the final decision, the School Board does decide whether to support historic designation. Responding to a questions, Mr. Chadwick confirmed that there is one sign on the exterior of the building that explains its historic designation, and he provided more information on why staff is recommending the delay in deciding. He also confirmed that members of the Halls Hill community will be part of the process as a design for the renovation/addition is developed.

Ms. Raphael confirmed that community involvement is a part of all facilities planning processes. She shared concerns about how historic designation would affect making any future change to historic sites, recognizing that a complex process is required when considering any changes. She wanted to ensure that the Board understand this the impact of such designation on future improvements or renovations before making a decision. She also commented on work that still needs to be done in selecting a design that is acceptable to all groups and communities. The Board further discussed the steps in the project development process, and the effects of historic designation on the process. The Board agreed further information is needed to inform their decision, and Dr. Kanninen stressed that the goal is to work together to determine how best to commemorate and honor the history of this site. Dr. Violand-Sánchez confirmed that this is an information item, and looked forward to additional information from staff, and continued collaboration with the community, as this project moves forward.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a brief recess at 10:30 PM.

2. Wilson Concept Design: (10:38 PM)

Mr. Scott Prisco, Director, Design and Construction, thanked Jennifer Xu, Project Manager, members of the architectural firms, and members of the Wilson BLPC and the PFRC (Public Facilities Review Committee). He introduced the concept design, highlighting meetings and the gallery walk that have been held. Karen Gerry, Principal, Stratford Program, spoke to specific design features that will enhance instruction for the program, as well as features that will be shared resources for both programs. Dr. Casey Robinson, Principal, H-B Woodlawn Program, spoke to features of the proposed design that will support the instructional needs of the H-B Woodlawn program. Examples include hallways and open spaces that can be used instructionally, and spaces such as indoor exercise facilities that will be available for community use.

Sean Franklin of Bjarke Ingels Group then described the development of the concept design, acknowledging the participation of the PFRC and BLPC, as well as County staff such as the Department of Parks and Recreation. He explained that five schemes were developed and shared, and based on feedback, a preferred scheme was identified. Mr. Franklin then described program considerations that informed the design development, and stressed the focus on more interaction between the two programs to be housed there. Recognizing the small size of the site, the proposed design is for a five-story, tiered facility with green roofs/outdoor spaces that support programmatic needs. Mr. Franklin described features that accommodate community use of the site as well. He then shared various views of the proposed building, confirming that structured parking will be below the building. He also reviewed building access for students and for the public, confirming that the Stratford program will be on the same level as the bus drop off to ensure easy access. He presented floor plans for each level and described circulation through the building. He also highlighted efforts to ensure daylight throughout the building, and sustainable features that will be incorporated.

Mr. Prisco then reviewed project cost information, comparing the CIP funding identified for the project and the current estimate for the concept design as presented.

He detailed the variances that resulted in the increased cost, including floor area increase, parking needs, and community improvements. Additional variances are the impact of escalation on construction costs, as well as increased soft costs, which are calculated as a percentage of project hard costs. Mr. Prisco then presented a budget summary, and shared possible cost modifications that will result in some savings. He also outlined funding available and funding required, and reviewed next steps.

Board members appreciated the creative design for the school and as a community facility, but were concerned that the costs exceed the CIP estimate for the project. Some members asked for a modified proposal totaling the \$80 million identified for this project. Mr. Prisco agreed to bring forward an option at that price, noting that it would provide fewer seats. Responding to a question, Mr. Prisco confirmed that the field in the presented design not be a regulation size field. Ms. Raphael appreciated that the proposed facility is proposed along Wilson Boulevard as supported by the Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study, and also appreciated that the field is adjacent to the proposed field on the adjacent County property. Responding to questions, Dr. Robinson confirmed that H-B Woodlawn middle and high school students will be integrated throughout the building, and the next design phase will address and facilitate student movement through the building. Ms. Raphael also encouraged the group to look closely at floor space and square footages to ensure that costs are minimized, and she cautioned that APS needs to consider debt capacity in this decision process. Mr. Prisco agreed, and confirmed staff will bring back options for Board consideration. Dr. Violand-Sánchez commented on the need to consider a name for the new facility that preserves the identity of the programs to be located there. She thanked staff and the architects for the design.

G. NEW BUSINESS: none

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board