

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
September 24, 2015

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 24, 2015, at 6:30 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member (arr. 7:30 PM)
James Lander, Member (arr. 6:32 PM)
Abby Raphael, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
John Cafferky, Attorney

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting for consultation with legal counsel regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7), seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 - 0, with Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively, and the Board convened in a closed meeting. Mr. Lander and Dr. Kanninen were not present at the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM and the Board immediately reconvened in an open meeting.

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 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Lander – Aye; Ms. Raphael – Aye; Ms. Van Doren – Aye and Dr. Violand-Sánchez – Aye.

B. BOARD MEETING OPENING

Also present were:

Terance Proctor, Director, Service Support Center, 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
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education
Ellen Kennedy, Director, Employee Relations
David Webb, Director, Purchasing

1. Call to Order

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

2. Announcements: (7:30 PM)

MEETINGS:

- September 29, 2015 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session, Room 118, Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. 22206, 7-9 PM
- October 6, 2015 Work Session on Wilson and Stratford Options, Little Theater, Washington-Lee High School, 7 – 9:30 PM

Dr. Murphy shared updated enrollment information, confirming that enrollment is tracking close to Spring projections. He announced upcoming Back to School events, activities for Hispanic Heritage Month, and Walk and Bike to School Day. He also announced digital learning parent nights and other dates in October.

3. RECOGNITION (7:37 PM)

Dr. Murphy recognized students in the Washington-Lee High School Best Buddies program.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:48 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 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:

- August 12, 2015 School Board and Executive Leadership Retreat
- September 3, 2015 Closed Meeting and School Board Retreat
- September 16, 2015 Advisory Council on Instruction Meeting
- September 16, 2016 Budget Advisory Council Meeting

2. Personnel actions

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

3 Resignations

- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 2 Resignations
 - 2 Resignations With Prejudice
 - 3 Retirements
- 3. ACI Appointments
 - 4. ~~School Plan Advisory Committee Appointments~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
 - 5. Wilson CM-at-Risk Contract Award
 - 6. Parking License Agreement with Fairlington Villages for Abingdon School
 - 7. FY 2015 Appropriation and Allocation
 - 8. Request for Attorney General Opinion

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:48 PM)

There were no speakers.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:49 PM)

1. South Arlington Working Group Update

Dr. Kanninen provided an overview of the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG), reviewing the charge, membership, process, and schedule. Chair Greg Greeley then presented the update, confirming that the group was formed to support the Board's goal of opening a new 725 seat neighborhood school in South Arlington by 2019. Noting a focus on community engagement, Mr. Greeley reviewed SAWG membership and outreach, which included a bus tour, Community Forums, and bilingual outreach. SAWG reviewed data on areas of greatest need and demographic data by planning unit in south Arlington, and also considered site requirements for a school building, parking and playground. Site considerations were diversity, area of greatest need, time constraints, programs, green space, and flexible use of space. Mr. Greeley appreciated County Board member John Vihstadt and County staff who supported the process, and he confirmed that the group looked at all School and County owned sites as well as some non-public sites in South Arlington. The group identified eleven sites for further consideration, and after review, identified three preferred sites for opening a school in 2019: Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Drew Model School, and Gunston Middle School/Oakridge Elementary School. In addition, the group considered a site for another elementary school after 2019, which is the area encompassing the Aurora Hills Community Center, Virginia Highlands Park and the River House property. Mr.

Greeley shared additional comments from SAWG on how each site could provide relief to crowding at the current elementary schools. In closing, he reviewed next steps, confirming that a final report will be provided to the Board on November 5.

Board members appreciated the group's efforts and Mr. Greeley's leadership, recognizing their many accomplishments in such a short time. Ms. Raphael commented on the group's consideration of an additional school after 2019, but noted that this is not part of the current CIP. Mr. Lander ask how much of a factor opening a school by 2019 was in SAWG's considerations. Mr. Greeley noted while they were focused on 2019, SAWG was willing to consider a substantially better site even if it would take longer to develop; he confirmed that the group did not identify any such site. Dr. Kanninen echoed Mr. Greeley's appreciation for County staff and Mr. Vihstadt, and also appreciated APS staff support. The Board discussed suggestions for parking at the preferred sites, and Mr. Greeley shared some of SAWG's thoughts on siting two elementary schools at one site. Staff also appreciated the participation of bilingual resource assistants in support of the community outreach efforts Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked the Working Group and staff for their work on this effort.

2. Social Studies Program Evaluation Summary Report (8:10 PM)

Cathy Hix, Social Studies Supervisor, presented the summary report, thanking Social Studies staff and Regina Van Horne from Planning and Evaluation, for their efforts. Ms. Hix highlighted evaluation methodologies used, which looked at implementation and outcomes of social studies instruction. She outlined department goals and shared evaluation findings. Strengths include strong emotional support, organization and engagement in the classroom; strong use of technology; increased enrollment in advanced courses; and high implementation of History Alive! Additional strengths were satisfaction with instruction expressed by students, parents, teachers and principals. Recommendations were made in five areas, and Ms. Hix confirmed that many will involve collaboration with other stakeholders. The first recommendation is to use effective differentiation strategies, and Ms. Hix confirmed plans to integrate local history into the curriculum as part of the response to this recommendation. Additional recommendations relate to supporting teachers, increasing the level of rigorous instruction, and expanding communication with ESOL/HILT and Special Education teachers. Additional recommendations are to increase support for teachers in the use of interactive technology and to strengthen elementary instruction through literacy integration and departmentalized instruction in the upper grades. In closing, Ms. Hix thanked APS staff for their support of this evaluation.

Board members appreciated the thorough report and efforts of the Social Studies and other staff. They also appreciated efforts for continuous improvement, and recognized the Social Studies authentic assessment initiative, which responds to elimination of third grade SOLs. The group discussed suggestions and current efforts to incorporate local history into the curriculum. Ms. Hix confirmed an interest in adding a special projects coordinator to implement integration of local history as well as to strengthen cross-curricular efforts. Board members were generally supportive, however Mr. Lander expressed concern whether funding is available for a position. Responding to

questions, Ms. Skelton spoke to options for dual enrollment, reviewed the process for identifying courses that qualify for dual enrollment, and commented on efforts to expand these opportunities in APS. The group also discussed student enrollment in online courses or on college campuses, and Ms. Hix confirmed that students can take online courses during the regular school day. Dr. Murphy noted that the Virginia Board of Education is looking to adjust accreditation standards and expand opportunities for students to earn credits towards graduation. Staff confirmed efforts in place to ensure that needed technology is available for students with special needs. The Board was especially supportive of efforts to improve communication with ESOL/HILT and Special Education teachers, as these are gap groups, and Ms. Hix shared examples of how Social Studies staff are working to support these teachers. Dr. Violand-Sánchez was concerned about the low pass rate for Hispanic students in high school World Geography, and Ms. Hix spoke to factors that contribute to this situation as well as efforts to address this concern. Dr. Violand-Sánchez appreciated very much the work of the Social Studies staff to improve instruction.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (9:00 PM)

1. School Board FY 2016 Priorities

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, Arlington Education Association (AEA): congratulating the Board on developing thoughtful, meaningful priorities, and particularly recognized that these priorities include efforts to address Strategic Plan Goals.

Ms. Van Doren appreciated the AEA's support for retaining highly qualified teachers and confirmed that this is a priority of the Board. Dr. Violand-Sánchez appreciated the work of all of the Board members in developing these priorities and looked forward to working as a Board to address these areas.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote. *Mr. Lander moved that the Board adopt the 2016 School Board Priorities*, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. 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.

G. NEW BUSINESS: none

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board