

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
October 22, 2015

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, October 22, 2015, at 7:05 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

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 appointment of Interim, Interim Minority Achievement Supervisor, and Deputy Clerk/Communications Liaison as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), and to consider the petition for readmission in School Board Disciplinary Action 1415-01, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(2). The motion was seconded by Ms. Raphael 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
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM and the Board immediately reconvened in an open meeting at 7:34 PM.

Also present were:

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

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.

B. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lander 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.

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

3. RECOGNITIONS (7:37 PM)

High School students were recognized as National Merit Semifinalists and as Hispanic Scholars. Patrick Henry Elementary School was recognized for being designated a Blue Ribbon School. Principal Annie Frye thanked the students, families, staff and community for supporting the school.

3. Announcements: (7:50 PM)

MEETINGS:

- October 28, 2015 Closed Meeting, School Board Conference Room, 5:30 – 7 PM
- November 2, 2015 Work Session on the Capital Improvement Plan and AFSAP, Room 101 a/b, 7 – 9 PM

EVENTS:

- October 24, 2015 Discovery Elementary School Dedication, 10 AM
- October 24, 2015 NAACP 69th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, Fort Myer's Officers Club, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort Myer, 6 PM
- October 26, 2015 Middle School Information Night Washington-Lee, 7-9 PM

Dr. Murphy highlighted activities commemorating Hispanic Heritage month, and announced events such as National Bus Safety Week, Disability Awareness Month, Discovery Elementary School Ribbon Cutting, and Montessori Information Night. He recognized and thanked staff for their commitment over the past few months, and shared highlights of school visits and a video on activities at the Career Center.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (8:00 PM)

Mr. Lander requested that the appointment of the Supervisor, Minority Achievement, be removed from Consent. Dr. Violand-Sánchez stated that this appointment will be considered under New Business.

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 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:
 - a. August 13, 2015 School Board Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

3 Retirements

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

2 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

74 Appointments
4 Changes In Position/Salary
1 Resignation
1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

5 Appointments
2 Changes In Position/Salary

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:

Special Project #7 – General Adult Education (GAE)
Special Project #8 – Outdoor Lab Summer Camp Program
Special Project #9 – Limited English Speaking/English as a Second Language (ESL)

4. ACI Appointments
5. Appointments to the Wilson Building Level Planning Committee
6. Capital BikeShare Agreement
7. ~~Trapeze Contract~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
8. ~~Fenwick Building Acquisition~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
9. School Plan Advisory Committee Appointments

Dr. Violand-Sánchez announced that as part of consent, the Board has appointed Claudia Mercado as Deputy Clerk/Communications Liaison for the School Board

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:05 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Kathleen McSweeney, Wakefield, Washington-Lee High Schools: commenting on plans to open 3 schools in 2019, encouraging the Board and staff to work to streamline efforts to minimize issues and ensure that all three projects are completed in a timely manner.

Jena Kotler, parent: sharing her children's experiences as students at the Children's School, appreciating the Integration Station program available there, and encouraging the Board to continue to support the school and keep it at the Reed facility.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:09 PM)

1. Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families (APCYF) Assets Report

Partnership Chair Devanshi Patel presented results of the APCYF 2015 assets survey, noting that this survey is given to students in grades six, eight, ten and twelve. Noting that school specific data has been shared with administrators, Ms. Patel confirmed that the data collected directly relates to the School Board Goal Five, meeting the needs of the whole child. Ms. Patel reviewed data gathered through the survey on healthy relationships, mental well-being, and positive family communication. In terms of healthy relationships, she shared findings related to bullying, and recommendations to address concerns. Issues identified under mental well-being include that significantly more female students than males feel depressed. Recommendations include mental health first aid training for staff, lowering the ratio of students to mental health professionals, and surveying students to determine specific stressors. The Partnership has identified positive family communication as a super-asset, and Ms. Patel shared data and recommendations to strengthen this communication. Upcoming community events to help build assets include community conversations, the 'Arlington All In Conference' and meetings of the out-of-school time working group. Summarizing the report, Ms. Patel confirmed efforts to work with APS to meet the needs of the whole child, and she Partnership staff and committee members for their work.

Ms. Raphael appreciated the presentation and the Partnership's work. She asked about an assets survey for elementary students, and Ms. Patel confirmed that the Partnership is exploring a survey for younger students and will share information as it becomes available. Ms. Raphael recognized areas of concern which need to be addressed, and asked what professional development is available for APS staff on developmental assets. Dr. Wilks described current training and agreed to work with the Partnership to plan for additional opportunities. Ms. Kim Durand, Partnership coordinator, described efforts to provide training to individual schools to help them focus on areas of concern, as well as how to address those concerns. Ms. Patel, Dr. Wilks and Dr. Murphy spoke to ways that APS can implement the recommendations from the report. The group agreed with the importance of coordinating with other services throughout the county, and how to improve this collaboration, as well as broadening communication efforts to ensure that information is available to all students and families. Dr. Violand-Sánchez reiterated the Board's focus on meeting the needs of

the whole child, and looked forward to collaborating with the Partnership. The group agreed that these efforts should include family engagement and collaboration with APS programs as well as with the Student Advisory Board. In closing, the group how the Board can support efforts to help students address stress, to improve student empowerment, and to strengthen communications throughout the community.

F. ACTION ITEM: (8:49 PM)

1. Internal Audit Work Plan

Dr. Violand-Sánchez confirmed that no changes have been made to the plan since it was presented for information on October 8. Dr. Kanninen thanked Mr. Mickevics for his work on this plan.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve the Internal Audit Work Plan, 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.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:50 PM)

1. Proposed Changes to the Middle and High School Program of Studies for 2016-17

Ms. Kathleen Meagher, Director, Secondary Education, made the presentation, confirming that the full Program of Studies document describes all courses available to middle and high school students. She reviewed proposed course additions at the high school level, noting that many fall within the Career and Technical Education program, both at the Career Center and at the comprehensive high schools. In addition to the CTE courses, other additions include an online Economic and Personal Finance course, two HILT A accelerated courses, a Latin I/II accelerated course, and an IB Film and IB Design Technology course. She then described the proposed courses in more detail and explained the rationale for the courses. Deletions from the high school program of studies were reviewed, and Ms. Meagher explained why deletion of these classes is being recommended. Generally, changes have been proposed due to low enrollment or because the courses are being offered in a different format, for example, being expanded from a semester to a full year course. High school revisions include a title change to one course, three courses being altered to include an online component, and a description change for two courses to better describe the content. In the middle school, additions are related to formalizing and clarifying the World Languages options for grades 6 and 7. Proposed middle school additions include a computer science course, additional world language electives at Swanson, and an IB-Middle Years Program elective at Jefferson.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Gabriela Uro, APS parent: speaking to educating English Language Learners (ELLs), and sharing concerns about secondary HILT courses, specifically urging that students not be limited to self-contained classrooms for long periods of time

while learning content, and stressing the importance of exposure to different levels of ability for language acquisition.

The following speakers also addressed the Board, sharing concerns about limited options for high school students in English, noting that having just two levels are not sufficient and suggesting adding an intensified level to better meet student need. One speaker noted that there are more options in the Science courses, and suggested that similar options be made available in English:

Avery Hiskey, student, Washington-Lee High School

Caroline Raphael, student, Washington-Lee High School

Dr. Kanninen appreciated the speakers' concerns and agreed that it is important to target courses to meet students' skill levels. She had concerns about eliminating courses in world languages in the Teen Parenting program, and suggested offering fewer but stronger options might encourage more student participation in these areas. Ms. Skelton agreed to consider these suggestions. Ms. Van Doren was concerned about giving advisory committees adequate opportunities to provide feedback on proposed changes. Ms. Skelton spoke to the process in place and agreed that this practice should be formalized. The group also discussed how to ensure that students have options to take four years of a language, in spite of low enrollment in higher level courses, with alternatives such as online options. The group briefly discussed the costs of the courses being proposed at the Career Center, whether families are aware of opportunities for HILT students to opt out of certain classes, and how to ensure that special needs students have adequate options to complete courses required for a diploma. Dr. Murphy reiterated that APS is focused on making sure that families are educated about all options and are supported in taking the steps needed to reach their goals. Mr. Lander commented on the challenge of balancing course offerings so that that there is both high quality and adequate quantity, and noted his belief that quality should come first. He also encouraged having a plan for growing the Arlington Tech program, as well as in other areas to ensure that students can pursue their career goals. The group recognized that costs need to be identified for the Arlington Tech program, and staff is preparing this information to share with the Board.

Ms. Raphael agreed with the suggestion of the speakers about adding an intermediate level of English. Dr. Murphy spoke to this possibility, confirming that it is worth exploring, but should be considered with caution to ensure that it does not result in students being limited in their options. Ms. Meagher agreed that this is an area for staff to look at while maintaining a focus on providing students with options that meet their needs. Dr. Violand-Sánchez shared her concerns about the options available to HILT students and whether the levels of HILT available to them supports efforts to graduate on time. She also shared the concerns expressed by Ms. Uro about HILT students being in self-contained classes for an extended amount of time. Ms. Meagher agreed to bring back information on these issues, as well as information on opportunities for students at the Career Center to take World Languages and health/PE classes.

H NEW BUSINESS:

1. School Board Disciplinary Action 1415-01

Dr. Violand-Sánchez moved in the matter of School Board Disciplinary Action 1415-01 that the Board approve the request for readmission, 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.

2. Personnel Action: Supervisor, Minority Achievement

Ms. Raphael moved appointment of Dr. Theresa Adkins as Interim Supervisor, Office of Minority Achievement, seconded by Dr. Kanninen.

Mr. Lander explained that he requested to have this appointment removed from consent so he could share his concerns about the lack of progress on an evaluation of the Minority Achievement office and on providing staffing at the elementary level for minority achievement. He shared his personal experiences in APS with minority achievement, and reiterated his frustration that he has not received a response to his requests for the program evaluation. While stressing that he does not question Dr. Adkins' abilities, he stated his belief that this position should be filled with a staff member who has already been involved in the Minority Achievement program. He also recognized the importance of having men of color as role models for students, and was concerned about the lack of role models currently employed by APS. Dr. Murphy confirmed that the evaluation of the Minority Achievement program has been underway and is slated to be brought to the Board in the late winter. He also explained that this is an interim appointment so that staff can take time to look at the results of the program evaluation to determine if changes are needed to strengthen the program. Ms. Raphael appreciated this approach and commented on Dr. Adkin's strengths and experiences related to minority achievement, and stated her support for this recommendation. Mr. Adusumilli and Dr. Murphy provided additional information about the program evaluation process, confirming that it is a three year process from beginning to end. Ms. Van Doren appreciated this discussion as an opportunity to address concerns that Board members have.

The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 1 with 1 abstention. Dr. Kanninen, Ms. Raphael, and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively, Mr. Lander opposing, and Ms. Van Doren abstaining.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board