

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
November 5, 2015

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 5, 2015, at 7:11 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹ Prior to the meeting, the School Board attended the Student Advisory Board meeting in Room 101.

Present were:

Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Abby Raphael, Member (arr. 7:28 PM)
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 Assistant Principal, Barrett Elementary School, and Interim Assistant Principal, Williamsburg Middle 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 4 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. Ms. Raphael was not present at the vote.

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM and the Board immediately reconvened in an open meeting.

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 4 – 0 with 1 abstention. The voting record is as follows: Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Mr. Lander – Aye; Ms. Raphael – Abstain; Ms. Van Doren – Aye and Dr. Violand-Sánchez – Aye.

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.

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
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.

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

3. RECOGNITIONS (7:34 PM)

Noah Robertson of the Teen Network recognized two APS employees who were chosen as Connect with Kids Champions by the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families.

4. Announcements: (7:41 PM)

- November 10, 2015 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session on the Capital Improvement Plan, County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, 6-9 PM
- November 11, 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Meeting, Wakefield High School Room A134, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- November 12, 2015 Closed Meeting, Board Conference Room, 5:00 PM

Dr. Murphy announced upcoming events and activities, including activities related to Veterans Day, and encouraged students to enter the Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Visual Arts Contest. In closing, he shared a digital update. Ms. Van Doren wished Dr. Violand-Sánchez a happy birthday.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:50 PM)

Mr. Lander 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 11, 2015 Work Session on Stratford
- b. September 10, 2015 School Board Meeting
- c. October 28, 2015 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes in Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Resignation

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Resignation

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 9 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:

Special Project #10 – Security Work at Swanson and Williamsburg SNAP State Funding

- 4. ACI Appointments
- 5. Authorization of Signatures in the Absence of Division Superintendent
- 6. School Plan Advisory Committee Appointments

Dr. Violand-Sánchez announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Jessica Kingsley Interim Assistant Principal at Barrett Elementary School and Dante Hicks Interim Assistant Principal at Williamsburg Middle School.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:51 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking for action to prohibit negative native stereotypes such as mascots and logos, in schools and encouraging teaching students to be respectful of Native Americans and other minorities. Speakers commended staff at Campbell for their efforts to eliminate racist practice:

Tusweca Mendoza, Campbell Elementary School student
Shelly Carter, Ashlawn and Swanson parent
William Mendoza, Campbell Elementary School
Heather Wood-Mendoza, Campbell Elementary School

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Bernadette Ortiz, Oakridge parent: stating that she has concerns about bullying at her child's school.

Lois Koontz, APS parent: sharing concerns about the projected seat deficit at Washington-Lee and suggesting using the Education Center for students and leasing other space for the administrative offices.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:09 PM)

1. South Arlington Working Group Report

Chair Greg Greeley presented the final report of the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG). Mr. Greeley reviewed the charge, to identify a site for a new elementary school in south Arlington opening in 2019. After summarizing the membership, meeting schedule, and community engagement, Mr. Greeley reviewed SAWG findings. The group examined every APS site and County site in south Arlington, and also looked at private sites suggested by the community. After analysis, SAWG identified three potential locations for a school, the Thomas Jefferson site, the Drew Model School site, and the Gunston Middle School site. SAWG also identified a few sites near Pentagon City that can be considered for future capacity, and Mr. Greeley briefly reviewed the private proposal to possibly donate land near Jefferson for County use. In closing, Mr. Greeley confirmed that a substantial majority of SAWG preferred building at Jefferson. In addition, they recommended moving students currently at Henry Elementary School to the new building and moving the Montessori Program from Drew Model School to Henry, as that opens seats at Drew to help relieve crowding at nearby schools. The final action supported by SAWG is to begin planning for a second elementary school in the Pentagon City area after 2019.

The following speakers addressed the Board, sharing concerns about how an additional school at the Jefferson site would impact traffic and congestion in the neighborhood, as well as safety concerns caused by the increased traffic:

Phillip Rotondi, Dominion Square Home Owners Association

Jordan Cross, Dominion Square Home Owners Association

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

Sarah McKinley, Columbia Heights Civic Association, SAWG member: presenting a report opposing the recommendation of the SAWG, and requesting that the Board consider the financial aspect of the option recommended by SAWG.

Dr. Kanninen, School Board liaison to SAWG, appreciated the dedication of the members, particularly Mr. Greeley. She affirmed that the group looked at many options, and appreciated that additional sites were identified for possible future capacity. While recognizing Ms. McKinley's concerns, Dr. Kanninen stated her full support for SAWG's recommendations. Mr. Lander commented on the need to consider the instructional impact of the recommendations, particularly how they will affect Drew Model School. Noting boundary changes will be needed, he confirmed there are many considerations when determining next steps. Ms. Van Doren also appreciated the group's work and recommendations, stating the Board will carefully

consider the information provided. Ms. Raphael spoke to County Board guidance to look at alternate sites in south Arlington and to consider non-construction options to provide seats. Mr. Greeley confirmed that SAWG examined non-public sites for purchase or lease, and detailed analysis of these options is in their report. SAWG also reviewed the Thomas Jefferson Working Group's report to ensure that County concerns and specifications about the Jefferson site were considered. Ms. Raphael recognized the importance of updating cost estimates, so that if the School Board decides to request County approval for a school at Jefferson, the most accurate information is provided. Dr. Violand-Sánchez joined all in thanking SAWG.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:48 PM)

1. Legislative Package

Ms. Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, presented the proposed package, first summarizing actions of the General Assembly that addresses previous concerns of the Board. This included allowing expedited retakes, reducing the number of SOLs and changes to accreditation standards. The proposed package includes a request for flexibility, a Poverty ELL Add On funding initiative, full funding for the cost of competing, and continuation of full funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative. The other major issue is legislation to allow jurisdictions to mail summons to drivers who do not obey bus stop signs. Additional items in the package are support for legislation establishing School Health Advisory Boards and community college credit coordination. In closing, Ms. Wise reviewed continuing issues including public school calendars, virtual school funding, and vouchers and tax credits.

Ms. Van Doren noted the gap in funding for students with disabilities, and the group agreed it would be good to consider this for the legislative package. Ms. Wise confirmed that the Governor's budget will be presented in mid-December, and he has indicated that he intends to provide additional funding for education. Ms. Wise also shared information about the proposal for a School Health Advisory Board. The group briefly discussed other potential items for the package, such as funding for mental health support, keeping guns away from schools, and School Board salaries. Mr. Lander recognized the challenges before the legislators from Arlington in the General Assembly, and appreciated their work as well as Ms. Wise's efforts on behalf of APS, and announced the upcoming Legislative Breakfast.

2. Wilson Concept Design: (9:09 PM)

Sean Franklin of Bjarke Ingels Group presented the proposed concept design, recognizing the unique needs of the H-B Woodlawn and Stratford Programs. Noting that this is a small urban site, Mr. Franklin described the fanning arrangement proposed for the structure, which creates contained outdoor spaces at each level. He stressed efforts to create an inviting facility which will be used for community activities as well as for school programs. He also described design features such as daylighting, the open stairwell throughout the building, and entrances adapted to the sloped site. Responding to feedback from the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) and the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC), Mr. Franklin shared

options developed to reduce costs. These options include reducing the size of the building; three options for parking; and building a simple stack instead of the fanning bars. Mr. Franklin then summarized the next steps in the design process. Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, reviewed the project costs and funding for the reduced square footage options, as well as for the option preferred by the BLPC and PFRC. He shared a comparison of gross square foot per student for middle and high schools and the proposed Wilson facility. In closing, Mr. Burgin reviewed the project schedule.

Melissa McCracken, Wilson BLPC Chair, appreciated the work of the BLPC, which includes parents, community members, County representatives, and staff, and she briefly reviewed the group's recommendations. She shared concerns about the smaller square footage that was presented, and stated that the BLPC has not had the opportunity to review this option. She encouraged the Board to focus this process on students and instruction, not on square footage.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Laura Saul-Edwards, H-B Woodlawn PAC Co-chair and BLPC member: opposing the smaller option, endorsing Ms. McCracken's comments, especially on the need to focus on instruction; outlining concerns and stressing the importance optimal learning spaces that support the whole child.

Kristin Colston, H-B Woodlawn parent and BLPC member: sharing feedback from BLPC, supporting the fanning design instead of a box design, and describing the benefits of the fanning design as well as the drawbacks of a stacked structure.

Dr. Kanninen reviewed the discussion at the recent work session and confirmed that the Board agreed to maintain the current instructional model and generally supports the fanning bar design. She had concerns about maintaining funding for all of the current and proposed capital projects, and encouraged appropriate use of reserves. She asked why the presented option differs from the option discussed at the work session. Mr. Chadwick explained the changes respond to Board feedback for a building at the funding proposed in the CIP. Dr. Murphy reiterated that Board guidance to staff was to bring the project in at the original budget, and recognized that APS will continue to see increasing demands for bond funding. He stated his belief that it was prudent to bring to this proposal forward as a fiscally responsible approach at concept design, and confirmed these options are within the square footage range of other facilities. Dr. Kanninen appreciated this approach and stated her belief that this is a good use of the site. Ms. Van Doren thanked staff for their work to bring in a proposal as close to the original budget as possible, and looked forward to further review, recognizing growing seat shortfalls at the secondary level. Mr. Lander also appreciated efforts to reduce costs and recognized that several recent projects have come in over the initial budget. He commented on the Board's role as stewards of public funds and the need to ensure that all communities are represented in planning processes. He reiterated that the Board recognizes the importance of instruction as well as fiscally prudent decisions.

Responding to a question, Mr. Chadwick confirmed that bringing forward an additional option would add a month or two to the construction timeline. Ms. McCracken spoke to the BLPC's consideration of shared space, confirming this was discussed with the instructional teams. She stated the BLPC could not comment on the impact a smaller facility would have on instruction without additional feedback from staff. Ms. Raphael supported the fanning bar design and the black box, and encouraged looking more closely at shared space. She also was in favor of working with Penzance on parking. She commented that the Board could use funding from the capital reserves and may also be able to use one-time or closeout funds. She did not support significantly reducing the square footage, as that would affect the program and timeline, but was willing to have staff look for other cost saving options. Dr. Violand-Sánchez stressed that the Board must keep in mind the parking cost for this project. Dr. Murphy confirmed that staff will need some additional time to address the Board's comments and for additional discussion with the BLPC and PFRC before bringing this item to the Board for action.

3. Stratford Concept Design: (10:12 PM)

Architect Julia Siple from Quinn Evans presented the concept design for Stratford, reviewing the stakeholder collaboration and project development. Based on feedback from the Board, the BLPC and the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), the design team refined the scope of the project to meet the \$29.2 million budget, limiting design considerations to a 1000 student facility to open in Spring 2019. She highlighted site features, recognizing the importance of the history of Stratford. She then reviewed design parameters of the BLPC preferred option, the West option with a high road connection to Old Dominion which includes traffic and safety improvements. After outlining the proposed massing, Ms. Siple then reviewed program features and highlights of this option, noting it leaves the historic building intact and preserves the view of the building's south facades. She also described the high road option, which requires VDOT approval, as well as Vacation Lane improvements and a safe crossing at Old Dominion.

Mr. Burgin reviewed traffic analysis done by Toole Design Group and also by the Coalition for a Safe Stratford, highlighting differences between their findings. Toole and County staff do not consider a driveway connection to Old Dominion a necessity, but the Coalition for a Safe Stratford believes it should be built. Mr. Burgin confirmed that APS supports the driveway connection to lessen traffic on Vacation Lane, but reiterated that VDOT must approve this connection. He then reviewed the project cost and funding, and shared BLPC recommended adjustments, which include adding \$5 million to accommodate additional square footage and a set-aside for historic interpretation. In closing, he outlined the preliminary milestone schedule.

Chair Susan Cunningham summarized the BLPC's recommendation, recognizing the complexity of the site. Challenges include three prior additions, historic protections, safety and vehicular access concerns, landscape protection areas, and proximity to residences. Considering these concerns, and feedback from stakeholders and the HALRB, the BLPC's priority recommendation is to build only one more time at the

site. The BLPC supports the West high road option as a bare bones recommendation, but also supports allocating \$5 million more during schematic to ensure a manageable design. Ms. Cunningham recognized concerns about access and safety, and spoke to the analyses performed, noting the impact that building a walk zone school will have on traffic. In closing, she reiterated that the BLPC recommends specific funds be set aside in the design process to commemorate the historic site.

Dr. Violand-Sanchez called for a brief recess. The Board reconvened at 10:40 PM.

The following speakers addressed the Board, supporting the BLPC recommended West with high road option, commenting on traffic challenges and safety concerns at the site, and stating that this option is the safest. Speakers also appreciated that this option respects the historical significance of the site, and also supports the strategic goal to meet the need of the whole child.

Laura Saul-Edwards, H-B Woodlawn parent, Stratford BLPC member
Al Campos on behalf of Joan Perry, neighbor
Barbara Jazzo, Donaldson Run Civic Association
Dana Milburn, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Michael Beer, parent: appreciating the work of the BLPCs, but sharing concerns about future middle school capacity needs, and asking that the Board not limit the size of the facility at this and all APS school sites.

Emily Schlesinger, resident, parent: sharing concerns about capacity needs and encouraging the Board to approach all projects carefully.

Chris Forinash, Planning Commissioner and PFRC member: sharing feedback from the PFRC, and appreciating the BLPC, County and APS staff efforts. He confirmed the PFRC supports the BLPC's conclusions on the importance of historic recognition, the need for improvements to Vacation Lane, and the decision by APS to not increase parking on the site. He confirmed that an informal poll of the PFRC members resulted in support for the West option, and there were mixed feelings about the possible access off of Old Dominion; however, the PFRC encourages APS to keep this option on the table.

Board members appreciated the efforts to bring down the scope and cost of the facility, and asked for feedback from the BLPC on where they would like to see additional funding allocated. Ms. Cunningham stated the importance of ensuring adequate common areas for student and community use; full ADA accessibility, including vehicular accessibility; and environmental sustainability and efforts to preserving as much of the green space as possible. Mr. Chadwick confirmed that even with the originally proposed renovation, the gymnasium cannot be enlarged. In terms of accessibility, Mr. Chadwick confirmed that APS incorporates universal design in all projects and makes every effort to make all facilities accessible to all students.

Recognizing the need for seats in the coming years, particularly at the secondary level, Dr. Kanninen expressed concerns about the cost per seat for Stratford. She suggested the Board take this opportunity to identify a preferred school size, and stated her belief that 850 seats is an appropriate size for middle schools. She also commented on additional sites for schools identified by SAWG, and based on these considerations, she suggested reprioritizing upcoming projects and not undertaking an addition at Stratford this time. She was also concerned about conflicting recommendations and predictions related to adding the high road and access to the site, and recognized concerns from the community about the loss of green space.

In terms of budget, the group discussed that information at the concept design stage is not detailed enough to support rigorous comparison to other facilities, and additional information is needed to better inform decisions. Mr. Chadwick stated that staff is comfortable moving to the next phase, being mindful of costs, and working through the process to identify tradeoffs to be as frugal as possible without impacting the instructional program. Noting that updated projections will be available soon, Ms. Raphael suggested not altering the proposed design until this additional information is available. She also commented that more information is needed to determine how many students can be accommodated with only renovation of the current facility. Ms. Cunningham provided background information on the range of options considered by the BLPC before they recommended the West with high road design. In closing the discussion, Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked the presenters and stated her support for including funding for historic interpretation, for adding an elevator to improve accessibility, and for building a facility for 1000 students.

4. Recommendation for Historic Designation for Stratford: (11:29 PM)

Dr. Murphy recognized the historic significance of Stratford and spoke to the need for capacity. Historic designation of Stratford is focused on the building construction in 1950 and the integration of Arlington Schools in 1959. Dr. Murphy confirmed the importance of respecting the events and individuals who integrated the school in 1959. At the same time, he noted that the Board must be mindful of their fiscal responsibility to the community, to use the tax dollars wisely, and the need to meet timelines and deadlines, and to move forward in a reasonable way to meet the needs of the community. He then spoke to options the Board can consider, ranging from not moving forward with historic designation to pursuing full designation. Another option is to not move forward at this time, but look at historic designation after renovation. A final option is to conditionally support designation based on carefully developed design guidelines, and Dr. Murphy confirmed that staff and the Board are looking closely at this option.

Mr. Chadwick reviewed the historic designation process, confirming the site has state and national historic designation, and pointing out that this decision relates to local designation. After reviewing the April 2004 MOU between the HALRB, County and Schools as well as steps leading up to the current status of this request from the HARLB, Mr. Chadwick then reviewed the designation process going forward. He confirmed that APS staff and the design team have already been working with County

Historic Preservation staff on design guidelines for possible designation of the school. After reviewing work that has been done on the design guidelines, Mr. Chadwick outlined the impact of historic designation on any changes to the facility, based on the County zoning ordinance. Finally, he spoke to additional steps in the designation process, and the potential effect on the timeline for the project that requirements related to historic designation would have. Ms. Skelton then spoke to efforts to integrate the history of the Civil Rights movement and the integration of schools, particularly in Arlington, into the Social Studies curriculum. She shared examples of lessons and projects in place for students in 4th, 7th and 11th grade. She then confirmed plans to expand these and develop additional lessons and incorporate them into a stronger, standardized curriculum on integration to be used in all APS schools.

The following speakers addressed the Board, stressing how important integration of Stratford was historically for Arlington and the country, and recognizing the historic nature of the original building; strongly supporting historic designation for the site. Members of the HALRB described how designation will affect the building process and the benefits of designation. Some speakers shared personal experiences, highlighting the importance of its history and appreciating the diversity of Arlington.

Joan McDermott, resident and former teacher

Tova Solo, HALRB

Willie Jackson-Baker, resident and retired teacher

Joan Lawrence, HALRB

Wilma Jones Killgo, resident

Carol Fontein, resident

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

Michael Beer, parent: recognizing the importance of the Stratford site and honoring its history, but commenting on concerns about the Schools ability to add enough seats to support the growing enrollment; also noting concerns about the costs that would be incurred with historic designation.

Mr. Lander appreciated the comments and recognized the respect shown for all opinions. Confirming that the focus of the Board's work is to serve the children of Arlington, he asked that even more be done to ensure students learn about the contributions of African Americans. He recognized the need to show proper respect to the events that occurred at Stratford, and to celebrate the history of the County, and confirmed that the Board still has work to do. Ms. Van Doren echoed Mr. Lander's comments on the need to teach students about the history of Arlington, and confirmed her commitment to memorializing the historic significance of Stratford. Ms. Raphael recognized the courage of the students, families and school officials in integrating the schools. She confirmed that APS continues that work by providing all students an equal opportunity for a quality education, and she agreed that it is important to honor that history. She commented on the requirements of local historic designation, and supported further exploration of conditional designation. Appreciating the design guidelines being developed, she confirmed the Board's commitment to

commemorating the site's history, at the same time noting the Board's responsibility to provide capacity to meet the needs of all students. She encouraged the Board to recognize the acts of courage that occurred at Stratford, to commit to incorporating local history into the curriculum, and to work with the HALRB and County Historic Preservation Staff to educate the broader community. She also confirmed the Board's duty to demonstrate stewardship for the building, and again stated the Board's ultimate responsibility to provide an equal opportunity to all students to succeed. Dr. Violand-Sánchez stated that as elected officials, the Board demonstrates its commitment through actions and decisions. Acknowledging the long battle to integrate schools, she encouraged APS to teach students the importance of school desegregation. She recognized the heroic actions of former student Michael Jones, noting his support for historic designation. She stated her belief that APS should honor Mr. Jones and the other three students who integrated Stratford, with a site of visible memory so the students and the entire community can appreciate this history. In closing, she encouraged her Board colleagues to make a decision that recognizes and honors this history.

H NEW BUSINESS: none

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board