

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
November 16, 2015

Item D-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 16, 2015, at 7:30 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:

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Abby Raphael, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent

Also present were:

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
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education
Kathleen Meagher, Director, Secondary Education

B. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order and made the following statement:

Last Friday, the people in the city of Paris, France were attacked by a series of senseless acts of violence that caused the tragic death of 129 innocent victims. Like many throughout the Arlington community, our nation and the world, we mourn the tragic loss of lives and injuries, and our deepest sympathies go out to the victims, their families and friends. Before we begin our meeting this evening, I would like to ask all of us to pause for a moment of silence to remember those whose lives have been touched by this tragedy, and to think about of the contribution each of us can make to our nation and to peace throughout the world.

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.

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

3. RECOGNITIONS (7:34 PM)

Mary Beth McCormac was recognized as Virginia School Counselor of the Year, and Patricia Carlson was congratulated for recognition as the Virginia Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

3. Announcements: (7:41 PM)

- November 17, 2015 Career, Technical and Adult Education Advisory Committee Meeting, Arlington Economic Development, 1100 N. Glebe Rd., Ste. 1500, 8 AM
- November 18-20, 2015 Virginia School Boards Association Annual Convention, Williamsburg, VA

Dr. Murphy shared information about upcoming budget meetings and noted that November is Family Involvement Month. He announced the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Visual Arts Contest and awards earned by the School and Community Resources Department. Dr. Murphy then shared highlights of several recent school events and activities, and wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Lander announced the “Men of Drew” community leadership meeting that will be held on Nov. 19 at Drew Model School, led by Assistant Principal Robert Hanson. Dr. Violand-Sánchez announced the Latino Leadership Conference which will also occur on Nov. 19.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:47 PM)

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, Arlington Education Association: appreciating the efforts to address staff concerns related to the change to the policy on admission of non-resident employees’ children.

Mr. Lander moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, 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. September 15, 2015 Closed Meeting and Work Session on Social Studies Program Evaluation
 - b. November 11, 2015 Washington Area Boards of Education Meeting
 - c. November 12, 2015 Closed Meeting
2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

1 Change In Position/Salary

1 Resignation

3. ~~Grants and Restricted Programs:~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
4. ACI Appointments
5. Washington-Lee BikeShare Agreement
6. Budget Reallocation to cover Construction Management Fee for Discovery Elementary School
7. Budget Reallocation to cover A/E Fee for Washington-Lee High School
8. ~~Stratford CM at Risk Contract Award~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
9. ~~Trapeze Transportation Software Contract~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
10. Stratford Middle School Building Level Planning Committee appointment
11. Revision of School Board Policy 25-2.1 Admissions and Placement

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

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, AEA: announcing American Education Week and highlighting special events planned that will show support for staff in Arlington schools.

Stacy Snyder, APS parent: encouraging the Board to redefine and update the education specifications (ed specs); noting that ed specs establish a framework for the spaces in schools, by defining values and highlighting goals of APS, and provide equitable learning opportunities in all facilities.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:54 PM)

1. Fall 2015 Enrollment Projections Update

Lionel White, Director, Facilities Planning, presented historical enrollment information as well as the annual historical enrollment change since 2001. He confirmed that APS has seen high enrollment growth over the past several years. Reviewing data used in developing enrollment projections, such as the official

September 30 count, a cohort progression ratio and student generation factors. He then outlined the method used by APS and shared actual versus projected enrollments for the past three years, confirming that projections have been over 98% accurate. Projections for enrollment growth through 2025 indicate an additional 6,655 students are anticipated. Mr. White then reviewed enrollment projection validation methods, which included an independent analysis. In closing, he shared key takeaways, including the projection that APS will reach 30,000 in the fall of 2021, and growth will continue at all levels through 2025.

Board members appreciated the thorough and detailed information. Dr. Kanninen encouraged the community to review the updated capacity utilization chart which reflects new capacity coming online. She reviewed some highlights of the data, recognizing that farther out projections are less accurate. Looking at historical data on annual enrollment, Mr. Lander pointed out that APS has been in a high growth pattern for the last nine or ten years. The group recognized that while in some years the projections show excess middle school seats, those seats are likely scattered across the county, so the excess is not as significant as it may seem. The group also recognized that these numbers will change once the boundaries for the new middle school are determined. Ms. Raphael noted that the projections include additional seats that have been found or are anticipated to be added in current facilities. Mr. White confirmed this and provided more explanation of factors that resulted in the revised projections.

F. ACTION ITEM: (8:21 PM)

1. Stratford Concept Design

Dr. Murphy appreciated the work of staff and community advisory groups in supporting the development of this Stratford Concept design. He noted that this is the just first stage, and confirmed that plans for the building will be refined as the project proceeds. Mr. Ben Burgin, Acting Director, Design and Development, then briefly presented the concept design. He shared the design scope overview, highlighting aspects including the strong focus on traffic and safety improvements. The proposed design includes a driveway connection between Vacation Land and Old Dominion Drive and an alternative layout without the driveway, in the event that VDOT does not approve the drive. Drawings of the proposed site plan and alternate plan, as well as design changes along Vacation Lane to improve safety and accommodate traffic were reviewed. Mr. Burgin then shared concept massing drawings. He confirmed that the design maintains the visual connection of the south façade, which will allow memorialization of the events at the school related to integration. The project cost and funding sources were reviewed, and Mr. Burgin noted that the plan includes a project cost range to accommodate the BLPC recommendation for \$5 million additional funding to provide the flexibility to create an optimal project at the site. In closing, Mr. Burgin reviewed the milestone schedule for project.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Kelly King, Chair of Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC): Recognizing Board concerns about this project's cost as well as other

capacity projects, Ms. King noted that the FAC felt limited by several unknowns as they considered this project. She confirmed the FAC supports the hard work of the BLPC, which identified the goal of a concept design for 1000 to 1300 students. The FAC voted in favor of the Stratford BLPC recommendation to build the west design at 35,000 square feet with an additional \$5 million in the budget for issues or needs identified during schematic design.

Susan Cunningham, Chair, Stratford Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC): summarizing the group's recommendations and additional information the BLPC provided to respond to Board questions. She confirmed the BLPC recommends the West addition and a dedicated fund for interpretation of the 1959 integration of the School. She also confirmed the BLPC responded to questions on the project cost, concerns about the size of this building as compared to other middle schools, and concerns about circulation within the building as well as overall accessibility at the site.

Recognizing growing enrollment and sharing concerns about crowding in Arlington, the following speakers encouraged the Board to move forward with adding capacity, specifically the proposed 1000 middle school seats at Stratford. Some speakers noted their support of the Wilson facility, and some also noted the importance of recognizing the historical significance of the Stratford site:

Mary Kusler, parent

Maureen Fanguy, Jamestown/Williamsburg parent

Peter Fallon, Taylor parent

Susan Newton, resident

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Richard Giza, neighbor: opposing the proposed high road at the site, particularly in terms of the cost as well as for safety and traffic issues.

Stephen Gell, Donaldson Run Neighborhood Association: presenting a statement for Ann Wilson, favoring the high road option.

Joan Lawrence, neighbor and Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board: supporting the importance of the proposed access road, stating that the West option and the access road can be accomplished without negatively impacting the historic significance of the site. She also reiterated her support for commemorating this historic site.

William Gillen, resident: encouraging judicious and effective spending to support all APS children; suggesting that Stratford be simply renovated so the additional funding not spent on the project can be used to add capacity at other schools.

Michael Beer, parent: sharing concerns about the updated enrollment projections and how they affect the need for capacity, and asking for a delay in the decision on Stratford until capacity needs can be reviewed in terms of these new numbers.

Ms. Raphael moved the following:

To allow consideration of the enrollment projections presented today, and to evaluate the capacity of the existing Stratford building at 835 students with a renovation, as recently presented by APS staff, providing possible cost savings of \$25-30 million, I move to postpone the vote on the Stratford Concept design until the School Board's Dec. 3 meeting, seconded by Dr. Kanninen.

As the Board has received new projections and other new information related to this project, Dr. Kanninen explained that she felt it was important for the Board to take the time to review this information, think about options, and hear from the community before taking action. Noting the change in the number of seats proposed for this project, she asked Mr. Chadwick to clarify what is included in the proposal. Mr. Chadwick explained the how changes to the proposal were identified, which included looking at just renovation as well as a renovation and addition, and also considered keeping the Stratford program at the site. He also confirmed that there are instructional considerations that need to be pursued with this project.

Ms. Raphael recognized the work of the advisory committees and the community in this process, and appreciated the work of staff and the flexibility of the community in adapting to relocatables as this process moves forward. She reviewed capacity that staff has identified to be added at various locations, as well as the adjusted enrollment figures, and spoke to the cost of this proposal. She stated her belief that this decision should be postponed until this new information is assessed.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote and the motion was defeated in a vote of 2 – 3, with Dr. Kanninen and Ms. Raphael voting affirmatively, and Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez opposing.

Ms. Van Doren made the following motion:

The Arlington School Board's adopted 2015-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) addressed the continued increase in enrollment throughout Arlington County at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The CIP included a process to determine by December 31, 2014 the location or locations of an additional 1,300 secondary school seats to be located largely in the northern part of the County and to be completed in time for the start of school in September 2019. The CIP set the maximum funding available for these seats at \$126.00 million, comprising:

- *\$5.00 million in current revenue for planning and design;*
- *\$4.00 million in 2014 bond funding for planning and design; and*
- *\$122.2 million, primarily for construction, to be included in the 2016 bond referendum.*

As part of its December 18, 2014 amendment to the 2015-24 CIP, the School Board approved an Addition/Renovation to the historic Stratford Building (the Project) to return it to use as a middle school. The Project was approved to create an estimated 1,000 seats, with a maximum of \$29.2 million funding available for the total project cost.

Since December 2014, the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC), appointed by the School Board, has met fourteen times to consider the Project. The Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC), appointed by the County Board, has met six times to consider the project. The Advisory Council on Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC) has considered the project at several of its regular meetings. Concerted attention has been paid to the historic nature of the Stratford Building and site through close collaboration with community leaders, four work sessions with the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and several meetings between Historic Preservation Program (HPP) and Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff. Additional meetings held on the project leading up to the Concept Design proposed for School Board action include a joint kickoff work session between the School and County Boards, two School Board work sessions, a community gallery walk, a meeting with the Donaldson Run Civic Association and a meeting with the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC).

The BLPC and PFRC provided letters to the School Board endorsing the proposed Concept Design dated November 3, 2015 and October 26, 2015, respectively. The FAC also provided a letter dated November 11, 2015 endorsing the proposed Concept Design. The Concept Design was presented by APS staff and the Project design team to the School Board for Information on November 5, 2015.

During the Concept Design phase several design options were considered, ranging in cost from \$31.3 to \$47.5 million. The proposed Concept Design presented to the School Board for Information on November 5, 2015 included an estimated project cost of \$31.3 million. The BLPC recommended that \$5 million additional funding be made available to the Project to ensure that instructional, safety, historic, recreational, community and environmental needs are balanced effectively during the schematic design process. The FAC has supported the BLPC's recommendation for this additional funding in its letter of November 11.

The estimated project cost of \$31.3 million includes \$3.7 million for site related community improvements that would be funded by the County/School Board Joint Fund, including a driveway connection between Vacation Lane and Old Dominion Drive, Vacation Lane traffic and safety improvements, and a signal at Old Dominion Drive. It is anticipated that other community improvements may be required as the design develops to comply with conditions of the Arlington County Use Permit. APS and County staff will continue collaborating to finalize the scope of work for site related community improvements through the remainder of the design process. Having carefully reviewed the extensive input from the BLPC, PFRC, FAC and various community groups and leaders as well as the Superintendent's recommendation, I move that the School Board approve the Concept Design for the

Stratford Middle School Addition/Renovation Project as generally described in Exhibits A through H of the presentation made at the November 16, 2015 School Board meeting. By approving Exhibits A through H the School Board approves the following aspects of the Concept Design:

- *West addition and interior renovation of the existing Stratford Building;*
- *General site layout and circulation, including the driveway connection between Vacation Lane and Old Dominion Drive and traffic and safety improvements on Vacation Lane;*
- *An alternative site layout without a driveway connection in the event that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and/or the County does not approve a vehicular exit to Old Dominion Drive;*
- *Minimum seating capacity of 1,000 students;*
- *Projected completion date to be in time for the start of school in September 2019;*
- *Total funding available for the Project to range from a minimum of \$31.26 million to a maximum of \$36.3 million;*
- *Up to \$250,000 additional funding to be made available to provide commemorative artwork/interpretation and signage regarding the historic significance of the Stratford Building; such commemorative artwork/interpretation and signage to be developed in collaboration with senior community leaders; and*
- *The process to determine the boundary for the new neighborhood middle school to include all stakeholders.*

As the Superintendent and staff enter the Schematic Design phase of this project, the School Board requests that every effort be made to complete the project for a total project cost as close as possible to the \$31.26 million minimum funding available. When the Schematic Design is presented to the School Board for consideration and approval, any additional costs must be justified by the BLPC and staff and may not exceed the \$36.3 million maximum funding available. The \$250,000 for commemorative artwork/interpretation and signage shall be in addition to the \$31.26 million to \$36.3 million funding available for the remainder of the project.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Lander.

Mr. Lander recognized the new information recently received, and spoke to the updated projections, noting they show continued growth throughout APS. He also spoke to the importance of considering the risks of decisions before the Board. He confirmed his belief that enrollment growth will continue, and stated his belief that the project should move forward to help address this growth. Dr. Kanninen expressed concern about crowding and the Board's responsibility for addressing this issue and providing all students with an optimal learning environment. While she recognized the strength of the programs at Stratford and the historic significance of the site, she looked to improve the process going forward. Ms. Van Doren noted the excellent job APS does on projections, stressing that the updated projections have not changed much from the previous figures. She appreciated Mr. Chadwick and the Facilities,

staff as well as the community, the BLPC and the PFRC for their efforts. She recognized the importance of adding middle school seats and providing relief to Williamsburg and Swanson, and also supported using the Stratford building for a middle school again, as well as this opportunity to commemorate the historic significance of the site. She confirmed the need for an ongoing focus on minimizing costs and stated that she is ready to move forward on this project.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez confirmed this has been a long process, spoke to feedback from the community about the site, and recognized the extensive community engagement that has occurred. Affirming the challenge of growing enrollment, she stated that approval of this motion will help address that need. She also appreciated the funding for recognition of the historic significance of the site, and confirmed that this history must also be incorporated into the APS instructional program.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 2, with, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively, and Dr. Kanninen and Ms. Raphael opposing.

The Board took a brief recess and reconvened at 9:53 PM.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:53 PM)

1. Staff Response to South Arlington working Group and Recommended Site for New Neighborhood Elementary School in South Arlington

Dr. Murphy thanked the members of the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG) and their chair, Greg Greeley. Mr. Chadwick also appreciated the participation of the SAWG members and the community in the thorough process undertaken. Mr. Zach Larnard, Facilities Planner, then summarized the work of the SAWG and their recommendations for a site for a new neighborhood elementary school in south Arlington. After reviewing the Charge, membership and meeting schedule, he outlined the three preferences identified by the group. These were to build a new school at the Jefferson site for the current Henry Elementary School, to move the Montessori Program from Drew to the current Henry building, which will help relieve crowding, particularly at Oakridge, and to plan for a second new elementary school in south Arlington after 2019. Mr. Larnard then reviewed requests for additional information about this proposal, which were included in the County Board January 2015 motion responding to the earlier APS request, recommended by the earlier established Thomas Jefferson Working Group, to build at the Jefferson site. He then shared staff comments and feedback responding to these County concerns and restrictions, confirming that SAWG did an analysis of a significant number of other APS and County sites that might be considered for a school. He then reviewed costs and amenities that would be paid for using joint contingency funds. He also shared a list of guidelines, conditions and design principles that the Thomas Jefferson Working Group had identified which were taken into consideration during the SAWG process. In closing he confirmed that the Superintendent recommends selection of Thomas Jefferson as the site for a new elementary school, and reviewed next steps, should the Board support the recommendation.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Shona Colglazier, Oakridge PTA Rep to SAWG: sharing additional information about the SAWG process, particularly in terms of relieving crowding in other south Arlington schools, and emphasizing the third recommendation, for an additional elementary school after 2019.

Beth Hicks, parent and SAWG member: speaking in support of the Jefferson site and the other SAWG recommendations; focusing on the enrollment crowding at Oakridge and emphasizing the need for the additional school after 2019.

Sarah McKinley, SAWG member and resident: concerned about the cost of projects, expressing concern that SAWG did not discuss instructional programs, and suggesting other approaches to address crowding and strengthen instruction.

Juliet Hiznay, Friends of Thomas Jefferson Park: confirming that the Friends still oppose building at Jefferson, but stating that if the project moves forward, stressing the need to minimize impact on the park, focus on minimizing costs, and fully consider instruction as capacity is added.

William Gillen, SAWG member: appreciating work and commitment of the staff and the committee, recognizing the constraints of the options available; and stating that that the recommendation is the best option. He also encouraged involvement of the whole County as future schools are planned.

Evan Thomas, Drew PTA president: Encouraging the Board to move forward with this recommendation, and use this as an opportunity to focus on Drew, address concerns that have been identified, and converting it a neighborhood school.

Mr. Lander appreciated the SAWG membership and staff for their work, and also appreciated the suggestions and ideas from community and groups to look at new and different options. He recognized concerns about crowding at Oakridge and encouraged continued participation and input from the community. While appreciating suggestions and ideas that have been heard, he also commented on the complexity of implementing changes, and encouraged the community to recognize this complexity as the Board moves forward. As Board liaison to SAWG, Dr. Kanninen appreciated the work of SAWG and the staff, and stated that she fully endorses all three recommendations of the group. Responding to a question from Dr. Kanninen, Dr. Murphy spoke to how staff would move forward with these recommendations, confirming that a framework and schedule would be developed to outline community involvement in this decision. Dr. Kanninen appreciated this plan and looked forward to identifying the additional work to be done.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez also appreciated the work of the group and also Dr. Kanninen's leadership. She recognized that there will still be questions as to how to implement these recommendations and looked forward to the next steps in this process.

2. Quality Points for Dual Enrollment Courses: (10:38 PM)

Dr. Murphy briefly reviewed past efforts in awarding quality points for certain advanced courses, and introduced Ms. Meagher to address the Board's interest in revisiting and expanding the number courses that would receive quality points. Ms. Meagher briefly reviewed the current policy and the courses that currently receive quality points, describing the courses receive a full quality point while others only receive a 0.5 quality point. She then presented the Board with two options: to increase to a full quality point all dual-enrolled courses; or to make no changes at this time, but continue to review courses each year to see if change is warranted. In closing, she confirmed that staff recommends the second option, to maintain current policy with annual review to ensure that granting of quality points is consistent based on rigor.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Mary Smaragdis, Washington-Lee parent: sharing her child's experience with quality points and stating concerns about the apparent inequity of awarding points for IB/AP courses but not for college-level dual enrollment courses.

Dr. Kanninen recognized that the ACI supports granting quality points and stated her support for the first option. Ms. Raphael spoke to the Board's consideration of this issue over the past few years, and recognized that other local school jurisdictions take different approaches to this topic. Responding to a question, Ms. Meagher explained in more depth staff reasoning for the two levels of quality points, and confirmed that the intention to be as equitable as possible and to encourage students to take challenging courses. The group briefly discussed how colleges might interpret the award of quality points for dual-enrollment related to the level of rigor for the courses. Ms. Van Doren felt the need to better define rigor, and stated her belief that dual enrollment courses take a multifaceted approach to intelligence, and do reach a level of rigor deserving of a full quality point. She also suggested that the course titles and descriptions be reviewed and updated to better reflect the rigor of the classes, and staff agreed to look at this. Ms. Meagher also provided information about the process students must follow to enroll in dual enrollment courses. Dr. Violand-Sánchez also shared some concerns about students receiving the quality point for advanced courses without regard for how well they do in these classes.

H NEW BUSINESS: none

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board