

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
March 23, 2017

Item D-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at 6:34 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
James Lander, Member
Tannia Talento, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CONVENE IN CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Van Doren called the meeting to order and moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider recipients of the Honored Citizen awards, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(10), seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively, and the Board convened in a closed meeting.

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Van Doren 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, seconded by Mr. Goldstein and adopted in a vote of 5-0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Mr. Lander – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.

Ms. Van Doren called for a brief recess.

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING

Also present were:

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

¹ Video clips of regular School Board meetings can be viewed on the APS Web site at the following link: <https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/view-school-board-meetings/>
DVDs of all regular School Board meetings are also available for viewing in the School Board office.

Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education

1. Call to Order: 7:30 PM
2. Presentation of the Colors
3. Recognitions

Pam Farrell, Supervisor, Visual and Performing Arts, presented a video showcasing student artwork and performances throughout all Arlington Public Schools.

4. Announcements: (7:42 PM)

Meetings:

- March 28, 2017 Work Session on Personalized Learning, 7 PM, Room 101
- March 31, 2017 Closed Meeting, 4:30 PM, School Board Conference Room

School Board Budget Calendar (Rm. 101 A/B at 7 PM unless otherwise indicated):

- April 6, 2017 Board Action Item – School Board’s Proposed FY 2018 Budget
- April 7, 2017 Joint School Board/County Board Budget Work Session, 9 AM, County Board Room
- April 18, 2017 Budget Work Session #5 if needed
- April 20, 2017 Public Hearing on School Board Proposed 2018 Budget
- May 5, 2017 Board Action Item - School Board's Adopted FY 2018 Budget

Ms. Talento congratulated the three comprehensive high schools for superior ratings in the District 12 Band assessment, and announced the Scholastic Arts show. Mr. Lander shared highlights from the Color of Leadership conference, thanking staff and the community for their support and encouraged families to participate next year.

Dr. Murphy appreciated staff work during the recent snow storm and thanked teachers who support students in their artistic endeavors. He announced upcoming events including the recruitment fair, and registration for Extended Day, Pre-K and Summer School. He reviewed the budget calendar and shared messages from students.

C. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED FY 2018 BUDGET: (7:53 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Michael Shea, Chair, Budget Advisory Council (BAC): confirming that the BAC supports the step increase and the compensation increase to bring select employees up to market rate. They also support the one cent tax increase proposed by the County manager, the JFAC planner position and, in general, the tier one cuts.

Joshua Folb, parent, teacher, Arlington Education Association: stating concerns about the budget proposal to reduce staff if needed, and proposing that personalized learning funds be decreased instead. He also shared suggestions to reduce technology costs.

Mike Webb, resident: stating concerns about the cost per pupil in Arlington and sharing some suggestions to reduce costs such as by reducing bus transportation, especially for high school students.

The following speakers also addressed the Board, opposing the proposed delay in adding school psychologists and social workers, speaking to how important they are to student health and success, and sharing personal experiences about support that counselors provide:

Hailey Finlay, Wakefield student

Lauren McCarter, Wakefield student

Katharine Ware, Wakefield student

D. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:14 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 Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. January 19, 2017 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
 - b. February 23, 2017 School Board Meeting/Budget Work Session #1

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Termination

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 4 Resignations
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 7 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 1 Resignation

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Resignation
- 2 Retirements

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:
Special Project #1 – Campbell’s Grand Stand for School Grant Award

4. Receive Briefing Reports
 - a. Visual and Performing Arts Update
5. Change to a Fixed Fee Contract for Architecture and Engineering Services for the Discovery Elementary Project
6. Final Design for Wakefield High School Internal Modifications
7. Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices

E. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:16 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Mike Webb, resident: speaking about special education, suggesting looking at best practices in charter schools to help improve services to special needs students.

The following speakers also addressed the Board in support of the Campbell “Expeditionary Learning” model, describing its implementation and how it strengthens instruction. Speakers supported proposed changes to the enrollment and transfer policy to simplify the lottery process and to allow county-wide access for students to attend Campbell:

Nathan Zee, Campbell Elementary parent

Kimberley Marchant, Campbell Elementary parent

Katherine Novello, Campbell Elementary parent

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:25 PM)

1. APS 3-5 Year Plan Superintendent’s Update

Dr. Murphy presented the update, reviewing the focus of the plan and long term initiatives that support it. He also reviewed the timeline for three initiatives currently underway, and highlighted community engagement opportunities.

Dr. Natrass shared the status of the Drew Visioning process, describing programs at Drew such as the Kennedy Center’s Changing Education Through the Arts Program. She stated that the visioning committee looked at many instructional models and selected STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) as the focus to strengthen literacy, inquiry, problem solving, critical thinking and creativity.

Dr. Murphy updated the Board on the enrollment and transfer policy revision, reviewing goals and next steps. He also reviewed school enrollment projections and County growth estimates for the general population, which both show continued growth. After explaining how APS prepares for growth, Dr. Murphy confirmed that APS projections have been reviewed by an outside authority who will present his findings to the Board. The Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP), the Capital Improvement Plan and the School Bond process also inform

planning processes. APS has plans to add seats needed through 2026, and Dr. Murphy summarized long-term planning efforts to add seats for future needs.

Dr. Natrass presented the draft K-12 instructional alignment model that includes two zones for schools and programs. Each zone has both neighborhood and option schools, and Dr. Natrass explained how the plan provides similar options to all families. The zones also feed in to the additional 1,300 high school seats being added and Dr. Natrass presented an update on that initiative which is comprised of three options being considered. Dr. Natrass reviewed the timeline, instructional options at each site, and community engagement opportunities.

The group recognized that the K-12 instructional alignment model presented is a draft and there will be opportunities for consideration and feedback from the community. Dr. Kanninen spoke to the timeline for the initiatives underway, recognizing that these are complex, overlapping processes. Dr. Murphy described how the initiatives interrelate, and confirmed the overall goal of providing APS and families with equity in their educational opportunities. He agreed to bring back a timeframe for these initiatives, and confirmed that needed changes may be phased in. Families are encouraged to continue to engage and provide feedback. Staff then responded to specific questions on the timelines and projects, recognizing plans may be adjusted as specific needs change. Dr. Natrass also provided additional information about the STEAM focus at Drew. The Board thanked staff for their work on a thoughtful, comprehensive plan and looked forward to continued discussion.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (9:10 PM)

1. School Calendar

In response to discussion of the proposed Calendar, Dr. Murphy provided an overview of plans to strengthen professional learning. He reviewed the purpose, goals and vision of professional learning, and outlined the implementation timeline for a new professional learning approach. He confirmed that the professional development plan does not require Board action, and confirmed more details will be shared in the future. Ms. Talento noted challenges that professional learning can present to some staff.

Dr. K. Murphy then briefly reviewed minor updates made to the calendar documents to correct errors and ensure that dates are accurate.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Joshua Folb, parent, teacher, member Arlington Education Association (AEA): speaking to the need for flexible professional development, and sharing a draft application that could be used to identify and track professional development by staff.

Ingrid Gant, President, AEA: sharing concerns about staff input in calendar process, explaining that participants do not feel they are heard, and encouraging the Board to improve the process.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board adopt the proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar, seconded by Mr. Lander.

Mr. Goldstein looked forward to hearing the professional learning plan. Dr. Kanninen appreciated input received and asked staff to look at improving the development process.

Ms. Van Doren called for a vote, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

2. Revision of Select Finance School Board Policies: (9:30 PM)

Ms. Peterson confirmed that there are no updates to these changes.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the proposed revisions to School Board Policy 40 Goals, School Board Policy 40-1.12 Financial Management – Services Provided to County Offices, and School Board Policy 40-5 Student Fees, Fines and Charges, seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:31 PM)

1. Revision of Select Student Services School Board Policy:

Dr. Wilks presented the proposed changes to School Board Policy 25-1.8 Opening Exercises. The change aligns the policy with the Code of Virginia related to the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence each day.

2. REMOVED FROM AGENDA

3. Contract Amendment for Pre-Construction Construction Manager at-Risk Services for the New School at Wilson: (9:33 PM)

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, presented the proposed contract amendment, briefly reviewing components of the amendment. He confirmed this fits within the current funding available, so no increase in funding is needed.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Arlington School Board