

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Organizational Meeting, School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting  
July 5, 2017

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Wednesday, July 5, 2017, at 11:00 AM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Nancy Van Doren, Chair  
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Member (arr. 11:04 AM)  
James S. Lander, Member  
Tannia Talento, Member (arr. 11:02 AM)  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING**

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the appointment of Principal, Swanson Middle School; Assistant Principal, Barcroft Elementary School; Assistant Principal, Thomas Jefferson Middle School; and Assistant Principal, Randolph Elementary School and to and to discuss the performance of a public school employee authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 - 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively, and the Board convened in a closed meeting. Ms. Talento and Mr. Goldstein were not present at the vote.*

**Also present were:**

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

The closed meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM, and the Board reconvened in an open 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. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Mr. Lander – Aye; Ms. Van Doren – Aye and Ms. Talento – Aye.*

Ms. Van Doren called for a recess, and the Board reconvened in open session at 12 PM.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Also present were:**

John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education  
David Blorstad, Finance Director  
Terance Proctor, Director, Service Support Center and Infrastructure Services

**B. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

1. School Board Code of Conduct

*Mr. Lander moved that the School Board adopt the Code of Conduct, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively. All Board members then signed the document.*

Ms. Van Doren welcomed attendees, including County Board Chair Jay Fisette, Vice Chair Katie Cristol, and members Libby Garvey and John Vihstadt. She also acknowledged County Manager Mark Schwartz.

2. Election of the Chair of the Board:

Recognizing all that was accomplished in the past year and the full agenda in the year ahead, Mr. Goldstein confirmed the need for a proactive, visionary and task-oriented Chair. Acknowledging her many contributions in the community as well as her efforts as a member and as Vice Chair of the Board, *Mr. Goldstein nominated Dr. Kanninen for Chair for the 2017-2018 school year.* The motion was seconded by Ms. Talento. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively.

3. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Board:

Recognizing the importance of a strong leader who is engaged in the work of the Board, *Ms. Talento nominated Mr. Goldstein as Vice Chair for the 2017-2018 school year,* seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively.

*Mr. Lander moved for adoption of organizational items 4 through 14, seconded by Ms. Van Doren, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively. The following items were approved:*

4. Appointment of the Clerk of the Board:

Melanie Elliott was re-appointed Clerk of the Board for the 2017-2018 school year.

5. Appointment of the Deputy Clerk of the Board:  
Claudia Mercado was reappointed Deputy Clerk of the Board for the 2017-2018 school year.
6. Approval of Payment of Claims
7. Supervision of Construction
8. Adoption of Schedule of School Board Meetings, 2017-2018 School Year
9. Adoption of Proposed Schedule of Pay Dates, 2017-2018 School Year
10. Adoption of Existing Policies and Regulations
11. Adoption of Proposed Guidelines on Executive Session Confidentiality
12. School Board Member Liaison Assignments, 2017-2018
13. School Board Speaker Guidelines
14. Audit Committee Chair

Dr. Kanninen announced that, in compliance with the Code of Virginia, as part of the organizational items, the School Board re-adopted existing policies for the administration of Arlington Public Schools. A current copy of the policies is posted on the Arlington Public School's website at [www.apsva.us/policies](http://www.apsva.us/policies) and is available to employees and to the public. For citizens who do not have online access, printed copies of the policies are available in the School Board Office and the Office of School and Community Relations in the Education Center, and the Virginia Room in the Arlington Central Library.

Dr. Kanninen also reviewed additional items that were adopted such as Board liaison assignments and the Speaker Guidelines for public comment at Board meetings.

## **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

### **C. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (12:08 PM)**

As outgoing Chair, Ms. Van Doren congratulated the staff, students and community for a successful year. She thanked the Superintendent, Executive Leadership Team, and APS staff for their hard work on behalf of the students and their families. She also recognized support the County has provided to APS by fully funding the budget, supporting the schools, and collaborating to ensure that needed space and resources are provided to the schools. She appreciated the hard work of students and the support of their families as well as the community, all of which contributed to a successful year.

APS completed many major tasks from the APS 3-5 year Action Plan during the year, and Ms. Van Doren shared highlights of that work. The Board revised the options and transfer policy, approved refinements to high school boundaries, established the Joint Facilities

Advisory Committee, made a commitment to strengthening literacy, and appointed a significant number of key leaders. In addition, the Board approved building designs for new elementary, middle and secondary schools, and approved plans to add 1,300 or more high school seats to accommodate the growing enrollment. These efforts were supported by community engagement, and decisions made reflected the feedback received.

Ms. Van Doren also reaffirmed the Board's dedication to the community and their commitment to being caring, supportive, inclusive, and welcoming. This commitment is reflected in updated policies and in the administration of schools. Looking forward, she planned to continue to address the needs of students with disabilities and second language learners, and to listen to the community so the Board can best support the schools. In closing, she acknowledged the Superintendent and staff, the contributions of students, parents and the community, and the dedication of her Board colleagues.

Mr. Lander spoke of his experience on the Board, appreciating the perspective he had gained over the years. He recognized that while it may not seem that progress is being made, many accomplishments are achieved each year. He acknowledged the different perspectives new staff and Board members bring, and appreciated their efforts and commitment. Thanking the Superintendent for his leadership and guidance as APS has evolved, Mr. Lander recognized the tremendous growth that continues to occur. He also thanked his County Board colleagues for their support, particularly Mr. Fisette, who has provided him with guidance and wisdom. In addition, he acknowledged former School Board member Frank Wilson, who was, and continues to be, a mentor to him.

Looking forward, Mr. Lander recognized many projects ahead and reminded the Board to focus on each individual child, to ensure they have the support they need to learn and succeed. He highlighted achievements, such as the establishment of mentoring programs for young men of color and programs for middle school boys and girls, and hoped these efforts continue. He encouraged the community to talk with their children about priorities and how to make good decisions, and to teach them to be good thinkers so they can find their own best way forward. Over the next few months, Mr. Lander plans to continue focusing on ensuring that all students learn to read at grade level, all projects stay under budget, and APS continues to hire quality staff. He confirmed that APS is a great school system with a wonderful staff, and he thanked all who have made it strong.

Appreciating his nomination as Vice Chair, Mr. Goldstein looked forward to work ahead, confirming his priorities will focus on the Board's planning functions, better communications, and showcasing for the community the great things going on in the individual schools and throughout APS.

He then recognized and appreciated Ms. Van Doren's service as Chair, acknowledging the many hours she has committed to the work and decisions that needed to be made. He briefly highlighted some of the initiatives undertaken in the past school year under Ms. Van Doren's guidance, and the major work sessions held on topics including literacy, personalized learning, and the 1:1 device initiative. He recognized the many meetings that the Chair facilitated, and acknowledged that under her leadership, the Board has launched the 3-5 Year Plan and the Engage@APS communications mechanism on the APS website.

He confirmed that Ms. Van Doren ably managed all ceremonial aspects of the Chair's role, served as liaison to schools and other groups, and provided oversight of all Board correspondence. She was also primarily responsible for ensuring ongoing collaboration with the County Board and County Manager. In closing, Mr. Goldstein thanked Ms. Van Doren for her herculean work over the past year.

Ms. Talento also thanked Ms. Van Doren for her strong and committed leadership, and for guiding APS through a hard but successful year. She looked forward to working with Dr. Kanninen and Mr. Goldstein as the new leadership of the Board. As the newest member, Ms. Talento appreciated the guidance and advice of her School Board as well as her County Board colleagues, and recognized the tremendous amount of work that each Board member does. She also appreciated the County Board's demonstration of support for the schools in passing a budget that met APS needs.

Noting challenges that Arlington has faced since she joined the Board in January, particularly related to immigration, Ms. Talento appreciated both Boards for their teamwork to ensure that Arlington is a welcoming and inclusive community, and for advocating for all members of the community. She also commented on the political divide that affected APS students, and acknowledged that the courage demonstrated by students, both immigrants and the students on the two different sides of the political debate, was humbling and impressive. She appreciated the community for having those challenging conversations, and recognized that there will be more challenges ahead.

Looking forward, Ms. Talento will advocate for mental health awareness in education, and will work to provide needed support to students. She remains committed to eliminating the gap, and will focus on each student and ensuring access to opportunities for all. She will work to strengthen community outreach, specifically to communities that don't always have a voice, so that all are heard and APS moves forward with decisions that support every individual. In closing, she thanked her School and County colleagues and looked forward to continued collaboration, communication and engagement with all communities. She recognized that challenges ahead will require strong leadership and a focus on what is best for the community, and confirmed her commitment to meet those challenges.

Dr. Kanninen thanked her School Board colleagues for their passion and commitment to students, families and the community, and appreciated the opportunity to serve as Chair in the coming year. Acknowledging Ms. Van Doren for her hard work and the productive year that APS had, Dr. Kanninen also acknowledged the Superintendent, Executive Leadership Team, and school leaders, teachers and staff who are committed to the success of all children. She thanked the County Board members, the County Manager and other individuals who have shown their dedication to the schools and community. In addition, she appreciated her family, thanking them for inspiring, challenging and believing in her.

Confirming her belief in the students, teachers and staff, she recognized that the community's future depends on the hard work of APS in collaboration with the County Board and the community. She recognized the great work that has been done in Arlington over the years, and vowed to continue to build on that foundation. The School Board has identified priorities for the coming year, which are to support and empower teachers and

staff; to strengthen school, family, and community relationships; and to develop a new Strategic Plan that supports the whole child and builds a vision for teaching and learning. Dr. Kanninen also highlighted additional work before the Board to develop new policies, continue to address enrollment growth, and build a sustainable school budget.

In closing, Dr. Kanninen recognized that the Board's agenda for the coming year is ambitious. To accomplish this work, she looks forward to collaborating, positively and constructively, with the Board, Superintendent and Executive Leadership Team, and with staff, school leaders, parents, students and the full community. She confirmed her belief that together, this group can make Arlington Public Schools the best that it can be.

Dr. Murphy congratulated the new Board leadership and looked forward to working with all Board members in the coming school year. He appreciated Ms. Van Doren for her exceptional leadership over the past year. Highlighting progress that APS made in 2016-17, he celebrated student accomplishments and congratulated families, students and staff for their hard work. He acknowledged the exceptional team at APS including the Executive Leadership Team, principals, and teachers, and was excited to welcome new teachers and principals throughout APS.

Dr. Murphy acknowledged key priorities in the coming year, such as maintaining and fostering the instructional team, strengthening professional learning opportunities for staff, continued focus on the Arlington Tiered System of Support, and ensuring options and choices for students. He confirmed that additional work ahead includes formulating the new strategic plan, making decisions to address capital needs and projects, and supporting staff so they can continue to provide children with the resources they need. To be successful, APS will work together with families, the schools and County colleagues to make decisions that ensure the excellent schools are maintained for the future.

**D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**E. CONSENT ITEMS: (12:48 PM)**

*Mr. Lander moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Talento. 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: REMOVED FROM AGENDA
2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 5 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Retirement

- 4        Suspensions (Without Pay)
- 1        Termination
  
- 3.       Membership in the Virginia High School League
- 4.       FY 2019 Budget Development Calendar
- 5.       APS Purchasing Resolution Amendment
- 6.       OPEB Transfer
- 7.       Tie Back and Access Agreement with Penzance for New School at Wilson Site
- 8.       Tie Back and Access Agreement with 7-Eleven for New School at Wilson Site
- 9.       Construction Easement with APAH for New School at Wilson Site
- 10.      Parking License Agreement for the Fleet Elementary School at Jefferson Project
- 11.      Authorization of Signatures in the Absence of the Superintendent

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, the following appointments were made: Renee Harber, Principal, Swanson Middle School; Heidi Smith, Assistant Principal, Barcroft Elementary School; Robert Hanson, Assistant Principal, Thomas Jefferson Middle School; and Rebecca Irwin Kennedy, Assistant Principal, Randolph Elementary School.

**F.       NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**G.       ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

**ATTEST:**

---

Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

---

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board