

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on High School Options
May 15, 2017

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Monday, May 15, 2017, at 7:32 PM at 1426 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Director, Planning and Evaluation
Greg Greeley, Joint Facilities Advisory Council (JFAC) and Advisory Council on School
Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)
Gabriela Acurio, Deputy County Manager

Introduction

Ms. Van Doren called the meeting to order. She thanked Ms. Acurio for her participation and noted collaboration between the Schools and County in developing forecasts and projections. Dr. Natrass then provided a brief summary of the meeting agenda.

Overview of Estimates of Arlington's Growth

Ms. Stengle reviewed County population forecasts and APS projections for long term growth. She explained that APS projections are annually updated and she described the Arlington Facilities Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP) the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which also informs plans for growth. After reviewing projects in the current CIP that add seats at all levels, she confirmed longer term planning is also being done in collaboration with JFAC. She also noted that all of the sites currently being explored may be needed to accommodate future growth even if not selected now.

Options for 1300+ High School Seats

Noting that an instructional focus that aligns with the siting of these 1,300 high school seats is integral to this decision, Dr. Natrass described four options being considered and a possible instructional focus for each option. The proposed sites are Kenmore, the Career Center, the Education Center, and a hybrid that adds seats at both the Education Center and the Career Center.

Dr. Natrass then reviewed the process used to analyze the proposed options. Criteria considered were number of seats, timeline, cost, instructional program, complexity of move, transportation, potential to address long-term growth, and maximum use of the site. The sites were analyzed by whether they met, partially met or did not meet expectations for each criterion, and Ms. Arcurio confirmed that the County reviewed and provided feedback throughout the process.

Dr. Natrass explained the criteria and analysis process, and reviewed how well each option met the identified criteria. Dr. Murphy recognized concerns about space for extracurricular activities at some sites, and noted that the Board has communicated with the County about use of the Buck property if seats are added at the Education Center. In terms of transportation, Mr. Chadwick stated that the Career Center is the most flexible option while Kenmore presents the most challenges. Ms. Arcurio confirmed that the transportation analysis considered improvements to County infrastructure that will be completed by 2022. Other challenges identified included having young students and high school students at the same site for some options, and determining the best use of the Education Center. Mr. Chadwick outlined parking considerations that will be evaluated once a site is selected. The group also discussed how the proposed options respond to the CIP and the Community Facilities Study, and how to accommodate community needs.

Ms. Stengle then reviewed the overall rating of each option. Responding to a question, Dr. Murphy stated none of the current options come in under the funding set aside in the CIP, however, staff will analyze renovation of the Education Center as part of the hybrid option and may come in under cost. The group discussed which criteria are most important, and if there are any current initiatives that might change the ratings. Mr. Greeley shared the FAC's efforts to study capacity issues, and appreciated consideration of the Community Facilities Study as plans were developed. He confirmed interest in the hybrid option and looked forward to learning if the hybrid option affects the timeline for adding seats. The FAC supports looking at sites for an additional comprehensive high school, as well as thorough exploration of all potential County sites for future use. Staff also responded to questions concerning the size of the Kenmore site, how the funding for this project is laid out in the CIP, and the timeline of the bond sales.

Timeline of Next Steps

Dr. Natrass reviewed next steps which include more opportunities for community engagement, and Dr. Murphy reviewed the schedule for Board action. Dr. Kanninen confirmed that the information presented at the work session was not a recommendation, but was only information for the Board will consider as they make a decision. Dr. Natrass also confirmed that the instructional focus suggested for each option is not part of the decision to be made at this time.

In closing, Board members appreciated staff work and the in-depth analysis done for the work session. Ms. Van Doren also thanked County staff and students who participated in the analysis and encouraged community engagement as this process moves forward. The meeting adjourned 9:04 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Arlington School Board