

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Item C-1-a

Work Session on Facilities

August 30, 2016

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, at 7:01 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
James Lander, Member
Emma Violand-Sánchez, 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
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services
Gregg Robertson, Principal, Washington-Lee
Chad Demagistris, IB Coordinator
Margaret Chung, Principal, Arlington Career Center
Zach Larnard, Planner
Greg Greeley, Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs

A. Introduction

Ms. Van Doren called the meeting to order, introduced attendees, and summarized the agenda.

B. Profile of a Virginia Graduate

Dr. Natrass described the Department of Education's "Profile of a Virginia Graduate" which focuses on four areas: content knowledge, workplace skills, career planning and community and civic responsibility. Ms. Chung described how Arlington Tech and the Career Center support students in these areas as they develop skills to help them make informed, practical decisions. She highlighted community partnerships that provide opportunities for students, and Board members suggested additional organizations to consider as partners. Dr. Natrass spoke to other initiatives that support students and confirmed a focus on developing critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and citizenship. She then reviewed the proposed high school redesign timeline through Fall 2018 when new graduation requirements become effective.

C. Options to Balance High School Enrollment

Mr. Chadwick reviewed options to balance high school enrollment and shared staff's recommendation to postpone any boundary change until 2018-19. He outlined three planned

actions that will affect enrollment that staff considered before making this recommendation. First, APS plans to continue the current waiver of high school transfers and to offer transportation to transferring students. Ms. Johnson reviewed capacity utilization figures related to waivers, and shared data on the status of applications for both middle school and high school transfers. Second, staff recommends that the Superintendent evaluate the current boundary policy. The third item that will affect high school enrollment is the still to be determined boundary for the new middle school. Board members appreciated this information and supported allowing transfers and encouraging students to take advantage of all APS programs, which will better utilize current space. They also encouraged strong communications with parents about the transfer and transportation options. Mr. Chadwick reaffirmed that staff recommends postponing high school boundary considerations until the Board can determine what effect these three considerations have on enrollment in the schools.

Mr. Chadwick then reviewed the impact of planned CIP projects on high school capacity, explaining how these projects are expected to affect seat deficits. He also noted changing demographics that may affect enrollment, and shared information about the number of relocatables that will be needed through 2026 if the recommendations are implemented. The group discussed the use of relocatables, and staff explained how they developed estimates for the number needed. Dr. Robertson described relocatable use at Washington-Lee, noting that high school students move between building classrooms and relocatables throughout the day. He suggested that housing 2600 students using relocatables at Washington-Lee for 300-400 students would likely not be manageable, noting the impact on common space as the most significant factor.

Responding to questions, Mr. Chadwick reminded the Board that potential high school boundary changes will only affect incoming freshmen. He confirmed that the strongest reason for postponing boundary changes at this time is that the impact on capacity of the three strategies being implemented is not yet known. Ms. Johnson commented that staff expects transfers to Wakefield to increase, which will also affect crowding. The Superintendent stated his support for postponing the boundary process, noting that transfers being offered this year allow families to move to a school without relocatables if they are concerned. He appreciated the flexibility of the high school principals and their willingness to implement whatever decision is made.

Board members discussed the recommendations presented by staff, with some voicing support for delaying boundary considerations until the impact of the current strategies is seen. Other Board members were in favor of moving forward with a boundary process, recognizing the overcrowding that is especially problematic at Washington-Lee. Mr. Greeley noted the importance of strong communications, regardless of the decision the Board makes.

D. 1,300 Additional High School Seats

Mr. Chadwick reviewed CIP direction to determine a location for 1,300 additional seats by Fall 2022. APS is negotiating for additional space, and if a lease is agreed upon, staff recommends moving the administrative offices and using the Education Center site for capacity. Acknowledging it is preliminary, Ms. Natrass shared a suggestion to consider the Education Center location for an IB and World Languages Academy. Other ideas discussed were using that space to provide relief for crowding at Washington-Lee or for middle school seats. The group also discussed the World Languages program and how an academy might strengthen instruction, as well as how the IB program might benefit from a single location rather than having separate programs at each high school. The Board acknowledged there are County sites that might become

available for capacity needs, although they recognized that these are not controlled by APS. After additional discussion, the Board agreed that the Education Center should be considered for high school capacity if negotiations are successful for leasing administrative space elsewhere. Staff and the Board agreed to continue to explore options for the Education Center.

E. Discussion and Summary

Ms. Van Doren summarized the discussion, confirming the Board looks forward to the high school revisioning process and will consider the proposed actions to help balance enrollment. The majority of the Board supports beginning a high school boundary process this fall, and they look forward to receiving additional information on this option. The Board also agreed to add capacity at the Education Center site if the administrative offices are moved. Dr. Violand-Sánchez asked staff to look at increasing enrollment in other programs such as Langston, as that will also provide relief to the comprehensive high schools. Mr. Chadwick agreed to study the costs of renovating or replacing the Education Center building, to ensure that every option is considered.

Other topics briefly reviewed were the phase-in of the Arlington Tech program, and plans to move The Children's School and Integration Station to Madison so that Reed can be used temporarily for the Stratford Program. The Board looks forward to continued collaboration with the County on the Community Facilities Study process and a transportation committee.

Ms. Van Doren thanked all participants, and the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Arlington School Board