

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Joint School Board/County Board Work Session  
November 1, 2016

**Item C-1-a**

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 6:07 PM at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA.

**Present were:**

**School Board**

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

**County Board**

Libby Garvey, Chairman  
Jay Fisette, Vice Chair  
Katie Cristol, Member  
Christian Dorsey, Member  
John Vihstadt, Member  
Mark Schwartz, County Manager  
Hope Halleck, Clerk

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

Larry Marcus, County Traffic & Engineering Operations Bureau Chief

Introductory Remarks

Ms. Garvey called the meeting to order and briefly reviewed the meeting agenda. Ms. Van Doren shared introductory comments, appreciating the Boards' collaboration.

1. Community Facilities Study Report Implementation Update

Mr. Schwartz summarized community input on recommendations in the Community Facilities Study Report. Some recommendations have been implemented, and he highlighted items that staff will continue to pursue, such as implementing a public facilities siting process. Two upcoming projects will be used to pilot this process, supported by the new joint facilities advisory commission (JFAC). Staff is also looking at how economic impact will inform this process, and will consider formalizing a land acquisition fund.

Dr. Murphy appreciated the work of the Community Facilities group, whose report will inform Arlington Public Schools (APS) as plans move forward, particularly in terms of facilities, budget, and transportation. He noted that an APS study is currently looking at

the evaluation data systems to ensure that accurate, verifiable information is provided. He recognized that this work will help balance competing priorities and will inform decisions.

Mr. Schwartz and Dr. Murphy then responded briefly to Board members' questions, explaining how the recommendations being implemented were selected. The group recognized the challenges ahead, including the need for new facilities in a limited space.

## 2. Draft Joint Facilities Advisory Commission Charter

Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Cristol and Mr. Fisette are Board liaisons to the joint subcommittee on facilities. Dr. Kanninen provided an overview of the work of this group in developing a draft charter for a Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC). She outlined the proposed mission, membership, structure and calendar of the JFAC, which will report to both Boards annually and provide recommendations as needed. Ms. Cristol outlined issues JFAC will begin to address in 2017, and spoke to the role of the joint subcommittee in providing additional direction to JFAC. Mr. Fisette recognized that this is an ambitious charge and confirmed that Dr. Murphy and Mr. Schwartz will identify staff to support the work. He reviewed the expectations for recruitment and makeup of the JFAC membership, noting that a range of talents and perspectives will be included. Finally, he confirmed there will be collaboration in implementing the siting process, which embraces the facilities study recommendation. Mr. Lander echoed Mr. Fisette's comments about the desire for a broad range of experience and expertise on JFAC, and he stressed that this group will not duplicate work already being done by other advisory committees.

The two Boards discussed the draft charter, sharing suggestions and making minor edits to better clarify the role and responsibilities of JFAC. They also discussed the size and makeup of the group, and confirmed that it will be an at-large body rather than having members who represent specific communities or organizations. Ms. Cristol pointed out that as written, the charter can be updated as needed. The Boards briefly discussed reporting, and the consensus was that regular reporting will provide both Boards with the opportunity to ensure that the work is continuously valuable and helpful. In closing, it was confirmed that the Charter will be adopted by each Board within the next few weeks.

## 3. Joint Committee on Transportation Choices

Ms. Van Doren, the APS liaison to this group, summarized the status of the joint committee on transportation choices (JCTC), which is an ongoing collaboration of the Boards. The group is focused on how to motivate the community, especially students, to better use all transportation options. As the County liaison, Mr. Fisette appreciated the good synergy that is developing with this joint effort, and recognized that this work interrelates to other areas being discussed.

Mr. Marcus and Mr. Chadwick then reviewed the initiative and how staff currently collaborates in this work. Mr. Chadwick outlined the proposed Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC). Mr. Marcus shared the program goals which were developed based on the County's Master Plan for Transportation and APSGo! The roles

and responsibilities, proposed membership, and next steps for this initiative were then reviewed.

Mr. Fisette and Ms. Van Doren shared additional details about the proposed committee process, such as meetings, community engagement, and structure of the group. The intent is that the ACTC's work will be transparent, and the goal is to unify the efforts by both the County and the Schools to strengthen use of public transportation. It was recognized that there are challenges in ensuring that public transit can be affordable and accessible for students, and this group will help address those challenges.

Board members appreciated the update and recognized that this work supports initiatives already underway to broaden transportation options. They also appreciated that equity focus is an explicit goal of this work. There was a concern about over-use of acronyms as it might limit the community's understanding, and it was suggested that this group be called the Transportation Committee. The Boards were supportive of student members on the committee, and suggested involvement of the Out of School Time Taskforce. The Boards looked forward to additional information, in particular, how the group will report and how to ensure that meetings accommodate schedules. Mr. Fisette asked that any additional feedback be provided to the liaisons to be incorporated. Ms. Van Doren shared with the County Board members the APS 3-5 Year Plan that is guiding the work of the School Board and staff, and she highlighted that all of the topics being discussed, including budget, transportation and facilities, are part of the vision laid out in this document.

#### 4. FY 2018 Preliminary Budget Forecast

Mr. Schwartz introduced Richard Stephenson, County Budget Director, who presented preliminary information and the budget forecast for FY 2018. Mr. Stephenson summarized the budget outlook, reviewing County revenue sources, as well as expectations for federal and state income. He spoke to the future impact of one-time funding included in the FY 2017 budget on the upcoming budget as well as other needs that are contributing to an anticipated budget gap. Responding to questions, County staff briefly reviewed assessments and how increases will affect residential properties. It was noted that the average single family property is around \$625,000.

In introducing the preliminary budget forecast for APS, Dr. Murphy noted several factors considered, including growing enrollment and the changing structure of education. Ms. Peterson then presented the budget forecast. She summarized projected revenues and expenditures, reviewed past enrollment growth and projections for continued growth. She also highlighted initiatives that APS is investing in, such as Arlington Tech, high school redesign, and a high quality staff. She then presented the fiscal outlook which results in a shortfall.

APS staff responded to questions concerning the percentage of students who receive free or reduced lunch, and it was confirmed that all APS schools are accredited. The group also discussed enrollment projections and how they inform budget development. APS staff agreed to share with the County Board additional data on projections and their accuracy. Enrollment projections will be updated in the spring and will also be shared with the

County Board. Ms. Peterson then explained the methodology used to calculate the cost of enrollment growth.

Dr. Kanninen noted that the Boards have not readopted the revenue sharing principles in recent years, and she reviewed the key principles in the document.

5. Closing Remarks

Both Chairs thanked the participants and appreciated the opportunity to work together to meet community needs and expectations. They recognized challenges ahead, and looked forward to continued collaboration as they work to address needs.

The meeting adjourned 8:02 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Nancy Van Doren, Chair  
Arlington School Board