

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
November 14, 2017

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 14, 2017, at 6:30 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

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

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
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors by the Arlington Career Center JROTC
3. Recognition

Kaitlin Bresnahan, Yorktown Counselor, introduced students from Wakefield, Washington-Lee and Yorktown High Schools who attended the annual Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Student Conference. Students Monique Vaz, Elisha Wolday, Musse Yimer, Brianna Alexander, Jade Northover, Cesar Alexander, Alvarado Hernandez, Chelsie Ross and Ricardo Martinez Moreira shared their

¹ Videos 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.

experiences at the conference and described the action plan they developed to expand the MSAN program in APS.

4. Announcements

Dr. Kanninen announced the following meetings:

- November 15-16, 2017, Virginia School Boards Association Annual Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia
- November 28, 2017, Work Session on the 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan and AFSAP, 7 PM, Room 101.

Ms. Van Doren thanked Kathleen O'Brien for donating a little free library to Carlin Springs Elementary School. Dr. Murphy announced publication of the 2016-17 Annual Report and recognized School Psychology Awareness Week. He encouraged participation in the Color of Leadership Girls' Conference, and shared grade reporting and upcoming meeting dates. He also provided an update on transfers and options, confirming that this topic will be revisited after middle school boundaries are adopted.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:04 PM)

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Goldstein, 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. September 7, 2017 School Board Meeting
 - b. ~~September 12, 2017 Work Session~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
 - c. November 8, 2017 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change In Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Resignation
- 2 Retirements

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations
- 2 Resignations (With Prejudice)

3. ACI Appointments

4. Receive Briefing Reports:
Virtual Learning Update

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, the Board received the Virtual Learning briefing report, and described how virtual learning is used in Arlington to broaden learning opportunities and she encouraged all to read the report.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:06 PM)

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Long Westerlund, parent: encouraging the Board to add a second immersion program more centrally located, as it can be difficult for families to travel across the county.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:09 PM)

1. Superintendent's 2017-18 Action Plan Update:

Dr. Murphy presented the update on the 2017-18 Action Plan initiatives, highlighting the plan's focus and the projects that are underway. He encouraged all to review the summary card and calendar or to visit the website to see the status of ongoing initiatives. Noting that the projects are grouped under four general categories, he updated the Board on the status of several of the initiatives.

Responding to a question, staff provided more information about the timeline for surveys related to the school naming criteria process.

2. Summer School Report: (7:19 PM)

Wendy Pilch, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, presented the report. She shared the program profile and course offerings, confirming that both enrichment and strengthening courses are offered at all levels. She also described staffing and enrollment figures and highlighted the available learning opportunities. Tyrone Byrd, Director of Secondary Education, presented data on student achievement in new work for credit as well as make-up and strengthening courses. He also shared data on WISE Financial Literacy Certification. Goals for the future are to increase options available to students, and increase student success in make-up and strengthening courses. In closing, Dr. Murphy confirmed that Summer School Fees for 2018 will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

Responding to questions, Dr. Natrass confirmed that Drivers Education will be offered in 2018 and fees will be presented at the next Board meeting. She highlighted staff work to strengthen literacy support in summer school, especially in make-up and strengthening classes. Dr. Natrass and Mr. Byrd described enrichment opportunities, and Board members supported providing as many opportunities as possible to allow students flexibility. Staff agreed to provide the Board with information on bridge and transition classes, and Dr. Natrass outlined how blended classes are structured. Staff then explained how SOL data is used to strengthen instruction. Summer school

staffing was also discussed, and the group briefly reviewed the recent decline in enrollment. Board members recognized that cost can a challenge and encouraged expanding offerings in all schools. The group also briefly discussed the recent decline in make-up and strengthening SOL pass rates. Staff is aware of this concern which appears to be related to the reduction of summer school from six to five weeks, and Dr. Natrass confirmed staff is working to address this issue. In closing, the Board looked forward to additional conversation and support for Summer School.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:09 PM)

1. Education Center Instructional Focus

Ms. Van Doren made the following motion:

On June 29, 2017, the School Board approved a motion requiring the Superintendent to make recommendations on options for high school seats at the Education Center, no later than December, 2017.

The School Board also moved that the BLPC/PFRC process for the Education Center project would not commence before the School Board had received and acted upon the Superintendent's recommendations.

In consideration of staff planning and community engagement that has taken place this fall, and the Superintendent's recommendations regarding the School Board's June 29 motion on options for high school seats, I move that the School Board direct the Superintendent to proceed as follows:

Program and Instructional Focus

1. *Postpone selection of a program and instructional focus for the new seats to be created by adaptive use of the Education Center to June 2019, after completion of the Strategic Plan so that they may be consistent with the Strategic Plan.*
2. *Building upon previous community engagement, and consistent with the completed Strategic Plan, provide further opportunity for community input prior to the Superintendent's final recommendation for the program and instructional focus of the new high school seats.*
3. *Provide the following detailed information on the instructional programs being considered; data on current and anticipated student demand for the programs; the number of students to be served; staffing and facility considerations; operating and start-up costs; timing; how the programs would be coordinated with other secondary program options across the County, including those being developed for the Career Center site; and how the programs would align with the completed Strategic Plan.*
4. *Recommend boundary changes as necessary.*

Adaptive Reuse of the Education Center for High School Seats

1. *Develop adaptable educational specifications/program of spaces at the Education Center, so that the building may be used for a variety of different high school programs with minimal reconfiguration and cost.*
2. *Proceed with planning, design and construction prior to selection of the instructional program so that the new seats are completed as soon as possible, and no later than September 2022.*

Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC)

1. *Recommend stakeholder groups to be represented on, and a charge for, the BLPC by December 2017.*
2. *Commence the BLPC process by Spring 2018.*

BLPC Charge

1. *The estimated maximum total project cost shall not exceed the \$25 million funding available as approved by the School Board.*
2. *The project shall have a capacity of 500 to 600 students.*
3. *Low, medium and high cost alternatives, all within the \$25 million dollar maximum, shall be developed and presented to the School Board for consideration.*
4. *Options for common spaces, including physical education, assembly, cafeteria and library spaces, which might also be shared with the community, shall be developed.*
5. *Requirements for parking and field space shall be developed.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Lander.

Ms. Talento reiterated the timeline for this project, and Ms. Van Doren appreciated staff work and support through this decision making process.

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

2. Charge to Career Center Working Group: (8:15 PM)

Ms. Stengle reviewed minor changes that have been made to the charge responding to feedback from the School and County Boards. The changes include extending the timeline for the work, refining the objectives for transportation and parking, and adjustments to the membership.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board approved the Charge to the Career Center Working Group as presented, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

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

Board members appreciated the tremendous amount of work done by both APS and County staff to draft a charge that addresses all needs and interests. Dr. Kanninen thanked Ms. Talento and County Board Vice Chair Katie Cristol, who will serve as liaisons to the working group and have supported these efforts.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:19 PM)

1. Middle School Boundaries

Dr. Murphy thanked the planning staff and community for their work to develop the recommendations. Dr. Sarah Johnson, Planner, presented the proposed boundaries, providing background information. Summarizing the community engagement process used to develop options, she confirmed that approximately 900 emails and 2000 online forms were received. After describing how community input was used to inform option development, Dr. Johnson outlined the proposed boundaries. She reviewed the number of students to be moved and how the changes support the boundary policy criteria. In closing, she confirmed that staff recommends moving all three grades at once, and reviewed next steps and opportunities for further engagement.

The following speakers addressed the Board, appreciating the recommendation to keep Glebe communities together, and supporting diversity, proximity and alignment:

Christina Headrick, Glebe parent
Patricia Stasco, Glebe parent
Kay Moyer, Glebe parent
Alexandra Bocian, Halls Hill/Highview Park Civic Association President
Jessica Buckwalter, Glebe parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board, opposing moving planning units 24100 and 24111, as a few students would be separated from their classmates and commenting on how difficult this will be for middle school students:

Dima Hakura, ASFS parent
Sunjeev Sikand, ASFS parent
Amy Decker, ASFS parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Gary Singer, parent: appreciating the strength of all schools, recognizing the core values in this process, and thanking the Board for listening and collaborating with the community. He reiterated that students who can walk to school should.

Michael Beer, parent: asking Board to reconsider the proposed boundaries and make every effort to increase diversity in all schools.

Mr. Lander appreciated the input from community, and affirmed that all APS schools are excellent. Recognizing that some families value diversity most, while

others value proximity more, he encouraged families to consider choice options to find the best fit for their children. He asked Dr. Johnson to review the community input received on the boundary policy criteria, and she confirmed that by far all communities expressed the strongest support for proximity. Dr. Murphy reaffirmed that staff is committed to supporting each student, and reiterated that there are many choices throughout the county available to students. Mr. Goldstein acknowledged the different points of view on the Board and in the community. He stressed that a key strength needed to be successful is the ability to collaborate with diverse groups, and confirmed his focus goal is to help students develop this skill. He asked staff how the effect of each option was analyzed. Dr. Johnson reviewed the definitions and aspects that were considered when looking at options, and confirmed that the data used in this analysis is posted on the website.

Ms. Van Doren thanked APS staff for their efforts to engage the community and identify viable options. She recognized the values of alignment and proximity, and asked staff to continue to focus on safety and further explore concerns about three specific neighborhoods. Recognizing some ongoing concerns, Dr. Kanninen reaffirmed the strength of all schools. Responding to the Board, Dr. Johnson stated that two schools will be slightly over capacity with the recommended option. Dr. Kanninen noted that all criteria were considered in this process, and asked if transfers will be available so 8th graders can stay at their current school. Dr. Murphy confirmed staff will continue to look at data and consider if transfer opportunities can be offered. In closing, Dr. Kanninen reviewed next steps and encouraged the community to view the Engage webpage.

2. Legislative Package: (9:16 PM)

Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, presented the draft package, confirming that the newly elected representatives have voiced strong support for public education. She then reviewed specific positions in the package, reiterating APS' support for local control and flexibility, especially in terms of student discipline and control of the school calendar. One new position is support for increasing the at-risk add-on, to provide more funding for students living in poverty. The package also includes support for a state-wide School Health Advisory Board to provide advice to the General Assembly. New graduation requirements are still being reviewed, and Ms. Wise explained that the package includes a clause to delay of implementation of these requirements if needed. In closing, she confirmed that local control of the school calendar continues to be a priority for Arlington.

The group briefly discussed the relationship between the Standards of Accreditation regulations and policies established by local jurisdictions. Noting that some policies have more local relevance, the group confirmed support for local control. In closing, Dr. Kanninen and the Board appreciated Ms. Wise's ongoing efforts.

3. Middle and High School Program of Studies: (9:38 PM)

Dr. Natrass and Mr. Byrd presented the proposed changes to the middle school and high school Program of Studies. After reviewing the purpose and goals of the Program of Studies, Mr. Byrd explained the decision making process used by staff to review current offerings and determine needed changes. He then reviewed additions and deletions, explaining the programs that will be enhanced by the changes, and the rationale for the proposed revisions.

The following speakers addressed the Board asking that more vigor and intensified offerings be added to the Program of Studies in all core areas for middle school students. Speakers supported recommendations in the Gifted Program evaluation:

Elaine Maag, Co-Chair, Gifted Advisory Committee
Dan Corcoran, Co-Chair, Gifted Advisory Committee

The group discussed providing more challenging instruction to gifted students. Staff confirmed that courses offered differ based on the school's instructional approach, and information on all offerings is available in the Program of Studies. Confirming the overall goal of challenging all students, Dr. Natrass recognized the strengths and challenges of cluster grouping and differentiation in the classroom, and described efforts to strengthen differentiation. The group also discussed the variation in courses available at each school, and Board members asked for more consistency across the division. Dr. Natrass explained how course additions have been made in the past and agreed to explore ways to ensure that all schools provide similar opportunities to strengthen consistency. Dr. Murphy stressed the importance of developing a curriculum and identifying student interest before adding new courses, and he agreed to provide a timeline for this process.

Responding to questions, staff agreed to add information to the Program of Studies to indicate where courses are being offered. Mr. Byrd confirmed that American Sign Language (ASL) is being offered as a pilot at Jefferson Middle School, and Board supported providing ASL at all middle schools as well as at Arlington Tech. The group further discussed strengthening the delivery of gifted services, especially at the middle school. Dr. Natrass described the current model in APS, confirming efforts to provide appropriate instruction to gifted students. She also commented on how effectiveness of instruction will be measured. Also briefly discussed was the relationship between tracking and the availability of intensified instruction. Mr. Lander stressed the need to ensure that all students' needs are addressed.

Board members appreciated the vigorous discussion and the staff focus on providing a broad range of opportunities and ensuring that the offerings are strong and effective. Responding to a question, Dr. Natrass briefly described new courses that support English Language Learners and students with special needs. Dr. Kanninen appreciated the discussion, and noted that the recommendations in Program of Studies are budget neutral. She acknowledged efforts to expand project-based and interdisciplinary learning, which strengthen the instructional program.

4. Gunston Supplementary Heating Work and Controls: (10:32 PM)

Jim Meikle, Director, Maintenance Services, explained the need for supplementary heating work at Gunston Middle School. He confirmed that will ensure that APS receives the best value for the work.

Board members asked for additional information about the purpose of this work and how it will be funded. Mr. Meikle confirmed that this is an issue of project timing and will be within the funding already identified. Ms. Peterson then briefly reviewed Minor Construction/Major Maintenance bond funding.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board