

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
December 14, 2017

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 14, 2017, at 6:31 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹ Prior to the meeting, the Board hosted a reception to thank outgoing member James Lander for his years of service on the Board.

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. Recognitions

The Washington-Lee Chorus sang three songs, including the African American National Anthem in honor of Mr. Lander. Ms. Talento congratulated Finance Department staff Leslie Peterson, Tameka Lovett-Miller, Alvera Wilson and Jorge Valezquez on achieving The Association of School Business Officials International Meritorious Budget Award. Mr. Goldstein then recognized APS participation in the

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.

United Way Campaign. Mr. Jeff Brown, United Way Public Sector Campaign Manager, also appreciated APS efforts.

4. Announcements

Board members appreciated Mr. Lander's commitment, dedication and service as a member of the School Board over the past eight years, and wished him well in his future endeavors. Ms. Talento thanked Mr. Lander for being an example to her and for always keeping what's best for the students at the forefront. Noting that they have worked together for years, Mr. Goldstein was grateful for Mr. Lander's guidance and sage advice and for the unique thoughtfulness he brought to Board discussions. Ms. Van Doren acknowledged Mr. Lander's commitment to the children of Arlington and noted that he has touched the hearts of many through his work. She also thanked his family for allowing him to give so much of his time to APS. Dr. Murphy appreciated Mr. Lander's collaboration and his thoughtful conversations over the years. He noted that Mr. Lander always took the long view, and focused on ensuring that APS is prepared for the future. Dr. Murphy also appreciated Mr. Lander's service as Chair and encouraged him to continue to stay connected to APS. Noting that she joined the Board during his Chairmanship, Dr. Kanninen thanked Mr. Lander for his advocacy, his service and his work on the Board.

Mr. Lander appreciated the opportunity he had to serve on the Board and thanked his many colleagues. He recognized Education Center custodians Mr. Kusi and Ms. Grace for their constant support for the work of the Board and staff, and acknowledged all other dedicated staff members. He recognized his County colleagues, and also acknowledged former School and County Board members Mr. Tejada, Ms. Hynes and Dr. Violand-Sánchez, and especially thanked his mentor, Mr. Frank Wilson. While he recognized the Board's contributions, he affirmed that the most important contributors to APS are the educators and staff. He appreciated the education that his daughter and all students in Arlington receive. He looked forward to continuing to be active and contribute to the County and to APS, and thanked all for their kinds words and wishes. In closing, he thanked his family for their love and support.

Dr. Murphy announced upcoming events including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Visual and Literary Arts contest and winter concerts in the schools. He asked for feedback on the 2018 -19 calendar options, and confirmed APS is accepting options and transfers applications for select programs and schools. In closing he encouraged healthy habits, shared winter weather reminders, and highlighted upcoming dates.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:27 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. October 10, 2017 Work Session on Literacy
- b. October 13, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- c. December 8, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Termination

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 8 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Reclassification Request
Employment Specialist
- 1 Resignation
- 2 Resignations (With Prejudice)
- 2 Retirements

3. ACI Appointments

4. Receive Briefing Reports:

- a. Extended Day Update
- b. APS GO! Update

5. Change Order for Architecture and Engineering Services at the Career Center

6. Appointments to Career Center Working Group

7. Construction Settlement Agreement

8. Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, the Board appointed John Armstrong Chair and Janeth Valenzuela as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices, and also made appointments to the Career Center Working Group. Also under consent, the Board received the Extended Day and APS GO! Briefing reports. Dr. Kanninen encouraged all to review these reports to learn more about programs in APS.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:31 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Jeffrey Elkner, teacher: stating staff concerns about excessive testing in the schools, especially the new requirement to administer the Workplace Readiness Skills Test.

Josh Folb, parent: stating concerns about the accessibility of electronic textbooks to student once APS moves from Blackboard to the Canvas learning management system.

Ingrid Gant, teacher: thanking Mr. Lander for his service in APS and his support for staff and students.

E. MONITORING ITEM: (7:37 PM)

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

Dr. Murphy presented the update, reviewing the status of the current initiatives and highlighted upcoming dates. These initiatives are categorized in for groups including new policies and policy revisions, preparations for new schools and program moves, operational planning including the Fy19 budget, the strategic plan and the Capital Improvement Plan, and ongoing capital initiatives. He encouraged community members to visit the Engage with APS web page for information and to provide input.

2. Montessori Program Update: (7:42 PM)

Wendy Pilch, Director, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, presented the update. After describing the visioning team, Ms. Pilch reviewed the visioning process and presented recommendations. These are to move the Drew Montessori student body to the Henry building in 2019, to maintain primary Montessori satellite classes but to eliminate singleton classes at schools, to grow Montessori at Henry, and to consider options for inclusion of 6th grade at the Henry site. Ms. Pilch then shared three options for capacity utilization at the Henry building. Next steps include continuing to assess capacity at Henry, developing an admission process, and further exploration of 6th grade at Henry. Additional next steps are to plan for grouping of satellite locations, recruiting and training staff, and studying parking and transportation issues.

The group discussed challenges with growing Montessori, factors that will guide decisions, and how this plan fits in with the overall K-12 instructional vision being developed, as well as with the development of the new Strategic Plan. The group recognized budget implications, and Dr. Murphy confirmed that, as with all projects, information on costs are shared with the Board when available. Ms. Talento encouraged staff to consider how moving Montessori will impact families that participate at Drew or in satellite classes. Information was provided on the Montessori wait list, admissions and enrollment at different levels, and how adding 6th grade at Henry could affect middle school Montessori. In closing, Dr. Natrass confirmed that additional information will be brought to the Board and engagement with the committee and the community will continue as processes move forward.

3. Sustainability Update: (8:15 PM)

Ms. Cathy Lin, Energy Manager and Stormwater Program Administrator, and Dr. Dat Le, Science Supervisor, presented the update, highlighting sustainability efforts in capital projects and operations. Areas of focus include indoor air quality, natural daylight, renewable technologies, siting, stormwater issues and transportation. Ms. Lin described sustainability efforts in the schools, including pursuing solar power. She also outlined the work of the Sustainability Committee, which included transportation efforts, green action awards, communications and outreach, and developing a sustainability liaison program. Dr. Le described how the sustainability liaisons supports instruction and shared information about the Outdoor Lab program and a grant-funded environmental literacy initiative. In closing, Ms. Lin presented key takeaways focused on reducing energy costs. She confirmed that this effort supports active learning and has a positive budget impact through energy cost savings and lifecycle costs. Next steps are to continue efforts in engagement and outreach, to focus on existing facilities, and to work on managing life cycle costs.

The group discussed opportunities for composting at the schools and challenges with implementing solar power. Dr. Kanninen suggested that the Sustainability Committee collaborate with the Student Advisory Board on strengthening recycling efforts in the schools. Also discussed were concerns about ensuring that students have opportunities to participate in the Outdoor Lab and identifying and providing other outdoor learning opportunities in the County.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:37 PM)

1. Middle School Boundaries

Dr. Murphy recognized the entire Planning Staff for their work on this, and introduced Dr. Sarah Johnson who summarized the recommended option. She reviewed how the proposed boundary change will affect enrollment in the schools, and presented the proposed motion for the Board.

Mr. Lander moved that the School Board accept the Superintendent's Middle School Boundary change, Updated Option A v.2, to take effect for the start of school year 2019-2020.

As per SB Policy 25-2.2, dated 6/1/2017, the superintendent will provide an annual update to the School Board on enrollment levels and transportation and will make recommendations to achieve the goals of that policy.

As part of the forthcoming Annual Updates, the School Board directs the Superintendent to propose possible:

- *program moves, and/or*
- *new programs, and/or*
- *boundary refinements at the middle and/or high school level,*

as necessary, to fully utilize all middle school facilities, for action by the School Board no later than March 2019.

The School Board further directs the Superintendent to develop a plan to enable transfers among all middle schools no later than November 2018. This may include utilizing, if necessary, relocatable classrooms.

The motion was seconded by Ms Talento.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Hans Bauman, Swanson parent: appreciating the thorough, open process that has been conducted, stating support for the proposed boundary changes but encouraging Board to grandfather 8th graders at their current schools.

Anthony Panza, Boulevard Manor resident: appreciating the work on this proposal, but commenting that the plan does not reflect considerations in the policy.

Karrie Beaudry, parent: supporting the recommendation and thanking the Board.

Hemant Sharma, parent: appreciating the Board's work, but asking that the East Falls Church neighbors be kept at Swanson Middle School.

Kevin Hall, Dominion Hills resident and parent: appreciates that Board gave the community time to review the proposed boundaries before taking action.

Christine Purka, parent: stating concern about the lack of diversity with the proposed option and asking the Board to further consider diversity before acting.

Ayman Tarabishy, parent: thanking the Board for the revised proposal, and encouraging the Board to approve the motion.

Meghan Keller, parent: appreciating the thorough process, but asking the Board to defer decision until explore more options to expand diversity in the schools.

Mr. Lander thanked the speakers and community members who have written for their thoughtful comments. He confirmed that the Board worked to ensure that the proposed motion balances direction and flexibility to best meet needs. He recognized that the population continues to grow and confirmed the need to act now on this decision. He also recognized the importance of including flexibility in the decision so future Boards can adapt to meet changing needs. He encouraged continued conversation throughout Arlington on diversity, and encouraged all to consider and explore the option programs available in APS as they can provide a more diverse student population.

Mr. Goldstein thanked staff for their hard work throughout this process and the community engagement they conducted to ensure that all voices were heard and considered. He also appreciated the time and effort that the community dedicated to this process to provide input. While he appreciated this effort, he stated his belief that

the Superintendent's proposal does not balance capacity appropriately and still leaves a seat deficit. He also shared his concern about the lack of diversity at some schools that results with this proposal. In spite of these concerns, Mr. Goldstein confirmed he will support the motion as it includes direction to continue looking to address these concerns. In closing, he again acknowledged the community engagement and reiterated that what happens in each classroom is APS and the Board's top priority.

Ms. Talento also appreciated the hard work of staff throughout this process in responding to the Board and the community. She recognized that the community is made up of individuals with different philosophical perspectives, and she appreciated the respect shown by all for views different from their own. She supported the flexibility that option programs provide to families, and appreciated that this motion supports expanding choices for families. She recognized challenges that some families face with transportation or other issues, and confirmed that APS strives to meet all families and students where they are to ensure they receive the best education possible.

Joining her colleagues, Ms. Van Doren thanked staff for the comprehensive process conducted, and highlighted staff's responsiveness to all of the communications that were received. Recognizing that APS is now at capacity, she confirmed that the Board will need to think flexibly in order to optimize that capacity. She also recognized that there are differences between schools and encouraged the flexibility that this provides. She asked for continued attention to three neighborhoods where concerns remain and confirmed her intention to address these areas.

Dr. Kanninen also thanked all of the staff members who worked on this process and appreciated the community for advocating and engaging in conversation. She also appreciated her Board colleagues for working together on this important decision to address capacity needs. She also recognized the need to continue to look at the utilization of sites, to consider possible refinements as the plan moves forward, and to provide guidance to the Superintendent to explore transfers to all schools if possible. She looked forward to continuing this work as a Board and community.

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. Legislative Package: (9:33 PM)

Mr. Lander thanked Ms. Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, for her efforts to represent interests of Arlington to the state legislators. Noting that the General Assembly begins on January 13 and will include development of the biennial budget, Ms. Wise briefly reviewed the legislative package, noting that two items supported by the Virginia School Boards Association have been added. These are to require annual certification of religious exemptions from compulsory attendance, and to allow local Boards to prohibit guns at school activities.

Mr. Lander moved that the Board wholeheartedly support and approve the 2018 Legislative Package, seconded by Ms. Van Doren 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.

3. Summer School Fees: (9:37 PM)

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve the 2018 Summer School Fees, seconded by Mr. Lander 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.

4. Gunston Supplementary Heating Work and Controls: (9:37 PM)

Mr. Meikle presented additional information on this item to clarify funding that has expended on this project to date, and to summarize the recommended Board action. He confirmed that once design of the main project is complete, staff will bring the overall budget back to the Board.

Ms. Peterson then explained that while a total budget for the project is not available, this work needs to be done before the full project is designed to ensure that there will be heat in the school through the winter. While she understood the issue, Ms. Van Doren expressed her concern that an overall budget for the work that is needed is not available. She also asked if the County, which shares the facility, will contribute to this project. Dr. Kanninen agreed to raise this question with the County Board. Mr. Meikle confirmed that the cost of this work will be deducted from the final budget for the full project.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve the allocation of up to \$300,000 in additional HVAC bond funding for work in advance of the main project for Gunston Supplementary Heating Work and Controls, seconded by Mr. Lander 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.

G. INFORMATION ITEM: (9:46 PM)

1. FY 2017 Final Fiscal Status Report

Ms. Peterson presented the FY 2017 closeout summary, confirming that financial records for the year are closed and audited and the annual report has been filed. Summarizing the report, she confirmed that the ending balance available from operations is \$13.6 million. She also shared the closing balances in three funds where the balances are carried forward. After presenting information about County revenue, she confirmed that funds available total \$18.1 million. Recommendations for these funds are to add a total of \$14.4 million to the Capital Reserve, the Compensation Reserve and the Debt Service reserve, and to expend the remaining \$3.7 million on current year requirements.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Joshua Folb, Arlington Education Association Compensation Committee: asking the Board to preserve funding in the compensation reserve to ensure that staff can be provided with a Step in the upcoming budget.

Responding to questions, Ms. Peterson and Dr. Murphy described the development of the compensation reserve and how it has been used in the past. Dr. Murphy confirmed that any decisions related to future compensation will be made in the upcoming budget process.

Ms. Peterson then presented the 4th Quarter FY 2017 CIP closeout information and a summary of the status of projects included in that CIP. She also summarized the status of the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance projects in the CIP.

Responding to questions, Ms. Peterson explained the difference between the Capital Reserve and the Major Construction Reserve. She also provided additional information about how bond funding is used for construction projects.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board