

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
March 22, 2018

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6:30 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair (arr. 6:37 PM)
Monique O’Grady, Member
Tannia Talento, 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. NO CLOSED MEETING

B. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors by the Arlington Career Center JROTC
3. Recognitions – NONE
4. Announcements

Dr. Kanninen made the following announcements:

March 23, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 8:30 AM, School Board Conference Room

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.

Dr. Murphy spoke to efforts to support and strengthen student safety in the schools and the community, and shared resources available to families. He thanked the APS Counseling staff for their work in this area. After announcing several events and meetings, Dr. Murphy highlighted important dates and reviewed the budget timeline. He also announced the move of the administrative offices to the Syphax Education Center. In closing, he announced the upcoming Recruitment Fair and Spring Break.

Dr. Kanninen announced that the Board would act on consent and hear the Superintendent's Action Plan Update prior to the public hearing.

D. CONSENT AGENDA: (6:45 PM)

Ms. Talento moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. O'Grady. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. January 4, 2018 School Board Meeting
 - b. February 24, 2018 School Board and Superintendent Retreat
 - c. March 16, 2018 School Board Committee of the Whole Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL
2 Retirements

T-SCALE PERSONNEL
3 Appointments
11 Resignations
3 Retirements

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
1 Appointment
1 Change In Position/Salary
3 Resignations
1 Retirement

3. Wakefield High School Upgrade and Reconfiguration of Chemical Safety Devices

4. Appointment to Building Level Planning Committee for the New Elementary School at Reed

5. Temporary License Agreement for Fleet Parking at Jefferson

F. MONITORING ITEM: (6:46 PM)

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

Dr. Murphy presented the update, highlighting the four initiative groups of new policies and policy revisions, preparations for new schools and program moves, operational planning projects, and capital initiatives. Dr. Natrass provided a brief update on the inclusion and acceptable use of technology policies, confirming that this work is being done in coordination with development of the strategic plan. Dr. Murphy then reviewed the timelines and progress that has been made on additional initiatives.

C. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED FY 2019 BUDGET: (7:01 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board, stressing the importance and contributions of teachers and staff to the students and schools, and urging the Board to maintain funding that supports a high quality workforce. One speaker also noted the importance of providing staffing to ensure equitable access for students with special needs:

Josh Folb, parent and teacher
Danielle Anctil, teacher
Leslie Stockton, AEA Vice President
Keith Chanon, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board, supporting the Challenging Racism program and asking the Board to add funding to the budget to continue and expand this program:

Pat Vinkenes, parent
Ariadne Goerke, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board, opposing any cuts that affect staffing such as the elimination of arts specialist positions and funding for lead teachers. One speaker noted the importance of the arts for students with special needs:

Susan Scott, parent
Gaston Finger, and other members of the Swanson Chorus
Caroline Coleman, student
Ewin Yong, parent, on behalf of his daughter
Rose Tcheng-Yong, parent
Danielle Werchowski, parent
Jennifer Smith, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board, asking them not to cut funding for the Montessori program, noting how Montessori supports the whole child and enhances learning. Some speakers also commented on the diversity of the Drew program:

Susan Kerin, parent: Montessori parent
Cindy Behr on behalf of Kia Haynes, parent
Jonathan Hui, parent
Heather Selig, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board, thanking APS for the commitment to providing mental health support for students, sharing stories about struggles with mental health and asking the Board to continue to add school psychologists and social workers:

Greg Myers, counselor
Katherine Blas, Wakefield student
Suraiya Ali, Wakefield student
Sarah Steffen, Wakefield student

The following speakers addressed the Board, opposing the budget recommendation to raise aquatics fees and suggesting the County and APS adjust the revenue transfer provided for aquatics support:

Donald Hesse, Aquatics Committee Chair
Nathan Stamps, resident

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

John Armstrong, Chair, Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices: asking the Board to continue to support the Transportation Demand Management Program.

Christi Przystawik, staff member: opposing reductions to the assistant to teacher program.

Patty Tuttle, teacher: asking that teachers be consulted as budget decisions are made that affect their work.

Ann Marie Douglass, parent: asking for funding for the Outside Learning coordinator, and suggesting reducing the use of devices in the schools, which will result in savings. She also spoke to health concerns with the use of devices.

Dr. Kanninen thanked the speakers and reviewed next steps in the budget process.

E. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:11 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Stacy Snyder, Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC): sharing the Future Facilities Needs Report prepared by the FAC to help the School Board, the County and the community identify and plan for future needs. She shared the FAC's commitment to help APS work to meet these needs.

Lisa Owings, Henry parent: asking the Board to commit to keeping the current Henry students together when moving the program to the new Fleet Elementary School.

Matt de Ferranti, Chair, Budget Advisory Council (BAC): confirming that the BAC has reviewed the FAC Future Needs Report and supports the suggestions in that report.

Danielle Werchowsky, parent: stating concerns about cell phone use in schools and asking the Board to study how student use of cell phones impacts instructional time.

Steven Leutner, Arlington Science Focus School (ASFS) parent: encouraging the Board to keep ASFS as a neighborhood school.

LuAnn Oliver, Claremont Immersion parent: stating concerns about student access to inappropriate information on web sites when in school.

Jim Hurysz, resident: stating concerns about a perceived lack of comprehensive planning for growth in the County and the spending on county facilities.

F. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:27 PM)

2. Science Update:

Dr. Dat Le, Science Supervisor, updated the Board on Science instruction. He described the program purpose and areas of focus, highlighting the importance of student-centered learning. He confirmed that in addition to classroom instruction, the Science program includes offerings at the Outdoor Lab and at the Planetarium. Dr. Le then shared trends in Science SOL pass rates and end of course scores. Enrollment in advanced classes and expanded course offerings were also highlighted. Noting that the recommendations align with the program evaluation, Dr. Le then reviewed program recommendations, action steps, and expected completion dates.

Dr. Le responded to questions, describing project-based learning in elementary schools and student diversity in advanced science courses. He confirmed plans for a longitudinal study of student performance, particularly of students who have attended a science-focus elementary program. After describing the Scientists in the Schools program, Dr. Le provided information on statistical data presented and explained how the program recommendations were identified. The group then discussed the Outdoor Lab and ways to strengthen outdoor learning. Also discussed were suggestions to add staffing to support outdoor learning and the impact of eliminating the science lead teacher. The Board appreciated the science program and the work of the staff.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:13 PM)

1. Capital Improvement Plan Framework

Ms. Stengle presented the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Framework. She reviewed work that has been done to develop current projections and highlighted steps in developing the 2019-2028 CIP. After summarizing projects in the current CIP, she reviewed updated enrollment and projections by grade and identified opportunities to reconsider timing of some of those current projects. Ms. Stengle then described two options for projects to consider for inclusion in the upcoming CIP. In closing she

outlined the timeline for developing the next CIP and reviewed plans for community engagement.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Stacy Snyder, Chair, FAC: sharing input from the FAC on the CIP Framework, stressing the importance of ensuring that all needs are met.

Lois Koontz, resident: noting challenges of limited funding, encouraging the Board to focus on planning, simplifying and improving processes to add capacity.

Responding to questions, Ms. Stengle provided clarification on the CIP framework and how it will be refined as additional information becomes available. Additional topics discussed were how to identify where growth is occurring in the County and the group agreed that alternative approaches such as using relocatables or flex space could be considered to help manage capacity. Board members encouraged staff to think flexibly about available space and looked forward to receiving additional information on funding and costs to help guide the CIP development. In closing, Dr. Kanninen encouraged continued conversation and engagement as the process continues.

2. Final Design and Construction Contract Award-Full Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the New Middle School at Stratford: (10:08 PM)

Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, presented the final design and construction contract award/full GMP for the new middle school at the Stratford site. He reviewed the project timeline and described the site plan and features that will increase accessibility and safety for students. Outlining the GMP process, Mr. Burgin reviewed strategies, including value engineering, used to reduce project costs. He confirmed staff avoided changes that would impact teaching and learning at the site or that would affect historic features of the building. Ms. Peterson then presented the project funding, confirming that staff plans to pursue Virginia historic tax credits for the site. She also reviewed items that will receive joint county funding. In closing Mr. Burgin presented the staff recommendations.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Michael Beer, resident: supporting the project except asking that no parking be added, and suggesting that parking at a nearby church be used instead. He also shared concerns about other items presented at the meeting.

After sharing comments from the Building Level Planning Committee Chair endorsing the project, Ms. Van Doren stated her support for this design. She recognized the site constraints and appreciated efforts to celebrate the historic aspects of the site. Ms. Peterson responded to questions about the funding for this project that was included in the CIP and on unanticipated costs of the project.

3. Open Air Market at Barrett: (10:30 PM)

Mr. Chadwick presented the proposal for an open air market at Barrett Elementary School that would run from April through November. He described the terms of the proposal and the plan for use of the site, and confirmed staff has addressed concerns about restroom accessibility during the market.

Dr. Kanninen called for a 5-minute recess, and the Board reconvened at 10:38 PM.

4. ~~The Children's School Letter of Intent~~: REMOVED FROM AGENDA
5. Concept Design for the New Elementary School at Reed: (10:38 PM)

Mr. Burgin presented the concept design for a new neighborhood elementary school at Reed. After reviewing the timeline for the project, he outlined the design process and described the current site and existing amenities, which is made up of both County and APS owned properties. Staff has considered adding to the current building, but has identified issues with building up. Mr. Burgin then outlined concept phase cost estimates that were shared with PFRC and BLPC for six proposed options, and he confirmed both groups strongly supported the integrated scheme, which preserves the most open space. Ms. Peterson then spoke to project funding for this design, which is \$6 million more than the funding included in the current CIP. She confirmed that staff has not identified a source for this overage, and also confirmed that the project will be included in the upcoming CIP. Mr. Burgin then summarized the staff recommendations for the project.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

James Schroll, Chair, Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC): thanking the membership of both committees, Mr. Schroll summarized the work of the PFRC and BLPC in considering options and working on recommendations for this site, and the PFRC recommendations and support for the project.

Stacy Snyder, Chair, FAC: confirming FAC advocates for the entire community, sharing concerns about the impact of spending more on this project and the effect this will have on debt service and operating cost. She also stated concerns about the loss of green space and the impact of this project on the greater community.

The following speakers also addressed the Board, supporting the integrated scheme which preserves outdoor space and addresses many community concerns. Speakers asked for a thorough traffic study at the site, and noted parking challenges in the neighborhood. One speaker suggested a transfer and sale of some of the property to ensure preservation of green space:

Molly Ketcham, Westover Civic Association liaison to BLPC
Bill O'Brian, resident
Shana Rothman, Reed neighbor
Vanessa Guest, representing area Civic Associations
Robert Swennes, resident

As liaison to this project, Ms. O’Grady thanked the PRFC and BLPC Chairs and members for their work and she shared comments from BLPC Chair Hans Bauman. She encouraged the Board to move forward in a way that keeps costs in containment and shows that the School Board and County Board prioritize community values. Staff responded to questions concerning the timeline, costs and potential funding for the project. Also discussed was parking included in the plan, and Board members looked forward to receiving additional information about parking and transportation at the site. Mr. Goldstein expressed concern that this proposal exceeds identified funding for the project. Ms. Peterson provided additional information about possible funding sources and actions to ensure funding for this project. Recognizing the challenges at Reed, Board members appreciated the work that has been done and efforts to work with the community. Dr. Kanninen acknowledged the County Board’s support and looked forward to continuing to work to complete this project.

H. NEW BUSINESS: (11:38 PM)

Title IV Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment application for 2017-2018

Dr. Natrass introduced this item, confirming that the Virginia DOE has encouraged APS to pursue this grant opportunity. Federal Programs Supervisor Cate Coburn then described the proposed application for Title IV funding that recently became available. She explained that she has worked with the Virginia DOE to confirm that APS can transfer these grant funds into Title I to offset a reduction of previously anticipated Title I funds.

Ms. O’Grady moved that the Board approve the ESSA Title IV, Part A Application for Award Year 2017-2018 and authorize the Chair to sign the application, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board