

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
September 20, 2018

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 6:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair (arr. 6:32 PM)
Barbara Kanninen, Member
Monique O’Grady, Member (arr. 6:34 PM)
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board immediately convene to consider the appointment of a .50 Interim Assistant Principal at Wakefield High School, and the assignment, appointment, and resignation of up to 25 employees, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively. Ms. O’Grady and Ms. Talento were not present at the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Mr. Goldstein moved to certify that to the best of his knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen and was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye. Ms. Talento was not present at the vote.

Mr. Goldstein called for a recess, and the Board reconvened in open session at 7:04 PM.

B. REGULAR MEETING

Also present were:

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services

¹ Video clips 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.

John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Wendy Pilch, Supervisor, Early Childhood and Elementary Education

1. Call to Order
2. Recognitions:

Mr. Adusumilli introduced County Manager Mark Schwartz and County CIO Jack Belcher, who congratulated APS for their participation in the recently completed Connect Arlington initiative.

Kris Martini, Director, Career, Technical and Adult Education, and Project-Based Learning Specialist Pam Nagurka introduced students Yara Shomali and Charles Gibbs who shared their experience in the Fun with Coding Summer Enrichment program.

3. Announcements

- September 28, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting, 8:30 AM, School Board Conference Room
- September 26, 2018 High School Back-To-School Night

Dr. Kanninen described her participation in the VSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference. Mr. Goldstein shared several highlights from his liaison schools and programs. He also acknowledged the supports and services provided to staff by the Employee Assistance Program.

4. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Murphy shared highlights from celebrations of Constitution Day and Hispanic Heritage Month. He announced a parent information session on suicide prevention, and thanked APS Substance Abuse Counselors for their work. He also announced several upcoming events and dates. He then updated the Board on the status and schedule for various initiatives including new policies and policy revisions, operational planning, new schools and program moves, and capital initiatives.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:28 PM)

Mr. Goldstein announced that item C-2 Personnel Actions will be removed from the consent agenda and will be taken up immediately after Consent.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Bernard Berne, resident: asking to be added to the Washington-Lee Renaming committee.

Dr. Kanninen moved for adoption of the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. O’Grady. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, 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. May 22, 2019 Work Session on FY 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan
3. Grants and Restricted Programs
4. Appointment to the Budget Advisory Council
5. Appointments to School Naming Committees
 - a. The Wilson Building
 - b. Middle School at Stratford Building

Mr. Goldstein announced that as a part of consent, the Board approved the A to T scholarship.

2. Personnel Actions:

Ms. Van Doren described the process for bringing personnel appointments to the Board, including many personal actions early in each school year, and asked for more information about these actions and efforts to address turnover. Dr. K. Murphy provided information, appreciating concerns and noting that as enrollment grows, more teachers are needed. She recognized the challenges that face special education teachers and staff and may contribute to the turnover, and looked forward to additional discussion of these issues.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the Personnel Actions, seconded by Ms. Talento. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

The following items were approved as part of personnel actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 4 Reclassification Requests
 - American Sign Language (ASL) Educational Interpreter Supervisor
 - American Sign Language Interpreter (ASL)
 - Library Assistant
 - Information Systems Administrator
- 2 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 178 Appointments
- 7 Resignations

- 7 Resignations With Prejudice
- 3 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 58 Appointments
- 6 Changes In Position/Salary

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 3 Retirements
- 1 Termination

Mr. Goldstein announced that as part of personnel actions, the Board appointed Maggie Hsu as Interim Assistant Principal at Wakefield. He also announced that the Board accepted the resignation of Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and thanked her for her service to APS over the years.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:58 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board concerning difficulties they have encountered in accessing and in the delivery of special education services at Discovery and Nottingham Elementary Schools:

Heather Wishart-Smith, parent
Keller Smith, parent
Keith Chanon, parent
April Maddox, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board, opposing the swap of the Key School and Arlington Science Focus School and noting how a swap would impact immigrant students and their families:

Ryann Davitian, Henry parent
Anya McMurray, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Saya Samenova, Barcroft parent: sharing concerns about transportation leaving her young son at the bus stop with no adult present to meet him.

Jaiden Watkins, Wakefield student: sharing her appreciation for her Health/Physical Education teacher who helped her learn how to relate to others and accept differences.

Ingrid Gant, Arlington Education Association (AEA) President: appreciating the provision of laptops to staff, but expressing concerns about how some staff are treated.

Dr. Murphy acknowledged the concerns expressed by speakers and shared information about efforts to address those concerns.

E. MONITORING ITEM: (8:28 PM)

1. Health and Physical Education (HPE) Program Evaluation Report

Dr. Murphy introduced the report, noting that presentations will now reference how programs are addressing the goals and objectives of the new Strategic Plan. Ms. Regina Van Horne, Assistant Director, Program Evaluation, then described the evaluation process and findings. After reviewing HPE goals and services, she summarized the evaluation findings in terms of quality of instruction, use of resources and student outcomes, and shared areas for improvement such as scheduling HPE instruction. Debbie DeFranco, Supervisor, HPE, presented evaluation recommendations and next steps. She also described how findings from the evaluation relate to the Strategic Plan goals and objectives, specifically objectives 6 and 7 related to healthy, safe and supported students.

Staff responded to questions about accessing resources on mental health and how concerns are being addressed about space for HPE classes. Also discussed was ensuring that health instruction is delivered consistently, and Ms. DeFranco described efforts underway. Additional topics discussed were bicycle instruction, efforts to support transgender students, how staff accommodate students who cannot participate in activities due to health issues, and the range of activities during PE classes. The group also discussed field maintenance, and Mr. Chadwick confirmed that the long-term plan is to replace all fields with synthetic turf.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (9:08 PM)

1. Revisions to School Board Policy E-6 Food and Nutrition Services

Ms. Peterson briefly reviewed the revisions that have been made to the policy since it was presented for Information. She confirmed that in response to Board feedback, cross references have been added to two related policies.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board adopt School Board Policy E-6 Food and Nutrition Services as revised, seconded by Ms. Talento, and the motion was approved by a vote of 5 – 0 with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

2. School Board 2018-2019 Action Plan: (9:11 PM)

Mr. Goldstein summarized the purpose, development, and priorities included in the 2018-19 Action Plan.

Ms. Van Doren noted that under New Policies and Policy Revisions, the previous version of the Plan listed transgender and equity separately, but in this version, they are included in one bullet. Dr. Murphy stated that the change was made to align these two items so they can be considered together. He also noted that while this work may result in a recommendation for one overall policy, it does not preclude APS from developing two separate policies.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board adopt the School Board 2018-2019 Action Plan seconded by Ms. Talento.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board amend this document so that transgender is on one line, removing the word 'and' following transgender, and moving the word equity to a separate line. Ms. Talento seconded this motion.

Ms. Van Doren explained her belief that transgender issues are broad and unique and should be considered separately, noting many areas that must be considered to ensure that APS is meeting the needs of transgender students. Ms. Talento agreed that different work is needed for each of these topics, and was concerned that the public could misunderstand the Board's intent if the two are listed together. Dr. Kanninen noted that the required work will be done regardless of how the topics are listed. Dr. Murphy acknowledged Ms. Van Doren and Ms. Talento's concerns and agreed that separating the topics would be appropriate. Ms. O'Grady also agreed with two separate topics to be clear that the Board intends to address the needs of transgender students. Mr. Goldstein noted his concern about providing too much direction to staff before they can fully explore issues and determine the best approach.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote on the amendment, and it was approved by a vote of 5 – 0 with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

Ms. O'Grady appreciated the addition of the Career Center project to the document.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the main motion as amended, and it was approved by a vote of 5 – 0 with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:30 PM)

1. School Board's 2020 Budget Direction

Mr. Goldstein summarized the proposed 2020 Budget Direction.

All Board members appreciated the document and recognized the budget challenges facing the County. Ms. Talento was concerned about the detail included in the document. She suggested presenting a tiered or prioritized list of needs and shared a few examples of items she felt should not be included. Dr. Kanninen stated her support for the document as written, noting that it reflects previous Budget

Direction and clearly identifies work that must be done as well as additional items the Board would like to include. Ms. O'Grady was concerned about the statement that APS will undertake no new initiatives, noting that with the new Strategic Plan, there may be initiatives needed to achieve those goals. She also commented that some new initiatives may not require funding and, therefore, did not want to limit options. Ms. Van Doren was concerned about the negative tone of the document and felt it was too detailed. She shared suggestions for specific changes and suggested adding direction to the Superintendent to conduct budget studies and look for ways to address per pupil costs. Ms. Talento agreed with clarifying whether and when new initiatives might be considered. Mr. Goldstein agreed with the recommendations to make the document more concise, and he summarized next steps to finalize the document for Board Action on October 4, 2018.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Van Doren asked that policy 3-5.3.30 Admission and Transfer be revised to include the same language that appears in other policies, explaining the appeal process. Mr. Goldstein confirmed that he will work with Dr. Murphy to move this request forward.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board