

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
November 8, 2018

Item C-1-d

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at 6:06 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
Monique O’Grady, Member (arr. 6:08 PM)
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
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance
Sarah Putnam, Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Erin Wales-Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Tyrone Byrd, Director, Secondary Education

A. CLOSED MEETING: None

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order
2. Recognition:

In recognition of Red Ribbon Week, Kenmore’s Substance Abuse Counselor Jenny Sexton and School Resource Officer Pagan updated the Board on activities that take place in the schools focused substance abuse prevention.

3. Announcements
 - *Nov. 14-16, 2018 Virginia School Boards Association Conference, Williamsburg, VA*
 - *Nov. 14, 2018 – Dinner at VSBA Conference, Williamsburg, VA*
 - *Nov. 27, 2018 Public Hearing on Elementary Boundaries, 7 PM, Board Room*

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.

Board members congratulated Dr. Kanninen on her re-election to the School Board. Mr. Goldstein also announced that in the election, the School Bond passed at the highest approval rate in 30 years. He acknowledged various staff accomplishments and shared highlights of events and activities at several of his liaison schools. In closing, Mr. Goldstein reviewed upcoming opportunities to speak on the Elementary Boundary proposals, stressing the Board's commitment to listening to and engaging the community in all processes.

4. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Murphy thanked Bond Co-Chairs Lida Anestidou and Laura Saul Edwards for their efforts. He announced upcoming events such as an Epilepsy Awareness information session. He encouraged the community to respond to the Calendar survey, to get flu vaccines, and to talk with students about using social media responsibly. He then provided an update on progress made on items in the 2018-19 School Board Action Plan, including new policies and policy revisions, Operational planning, new schools and program moves, and capital initiatives.

C. **CONSENT AGENDA:** (6:40 PM)

Mr. Goldstein announced that Ms. Van Doren asked that Item C-2 Personnel Actions be removed from consent. The Board agreed to take up that item immediately after the vote on the remaining consent items.

Dr. Kanninen moved for adoption of the consent agenda as amended, 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 or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- a. August 30, 2018 School Board Meeting
- b. September 11, 2018 Strategic Plan Work Session
- c. September 20, 2018 School Board Meeting
- d. October 4, 2018 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- e. October 26, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting

2. REMOVED FROM CONSENT

3. Appointment to the BLPC for the New Elementary School at Reed Project

4. Appointments to Aquatics Committee

5. Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices

2. Personnel Actions:

Ms. Van Doren stated she will not approve this item as she does not have sufficient information on some of the specific proposed actions.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the Personnel Actions, seconded by Ms. O’Grady, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 4-1, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively and Ms. Van Doren opposing. The following items were adopted:

Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 1 Resignation
- 3 Resignations (With Prejudice)

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 8 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 6 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Retirement

Ms. Van Doren announced that as part of the consent agenda, the Board appointed two students to the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (6:43 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Bernadette Lozano, employee: stating concerns about plans that were shared about future management of crossing guards.

Bernard Berne, resident: asking to be appointed as a civic association representative to the Washington-Lee Naming Committee.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS: (6:52 PM)

1. Elementary Boundaries

Dr. Murphy thanked the community and staff for their participation in the process to develop proposed elementary boundaries. Ms. Gladis Bourdouane, Integrated Project Planner, explained the need for boundary changes and the process used to

develop the proposed elementary boundaries being presented. She confirmed that APS plans to have two boundary processes, the current process, and another in 2020. After summarizing the six policy considerations used to evaluate boundary changes, Ms. Bourdouane reviewed community engagement and feedback received. She then presented the Superintendent's recommendation, describing how the current proposal was developed and evaluated for each school. After sharing the proposal for grandfathering, she reviewed the timeline for next steps.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the plans for some Henry Elementary planning units to be moved to schools other than Fleet and asking that all current Henry students attend the same school. Some speakers commented on the strength of the program at Henry and how this proposal would affect students, and some noted the impact the change would have on Fort Myer families:

Jennifer Dean, parent
Perrine Punwani, parent
Gary Belan, parent
Christine Brittle, parent
Erin Wasiak, parent
Jen Everling, parent
Tom Wasiak, parent
Frank Webb, parent
Lisa Owings, parent
Ligia Loza, parent
Flor Giron, parent
Annie Webb, parent
Marc Luppino, parent
Chip Goyette, parent
Erica Simon-Gross, parent
Thu Vu, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board on the plans for Abingdon Elementary School, supporting the Superintendent's proposal and stressing the importance of keeping the community together and all students at Abingdon:

Jennifer Davies, parent
Guy Land, Fairlington Citizen Association
Richard Simmerman, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board on the plans for Drew Elementary School, encouraging the Board to consider the long-term effect of boundary changes on students, asking for parity and equity across all schools and that the best education be made available at all schools:

Amelia Black, parent
Lauren Jordan, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Brittany Knutson, parent: supporting proposal 2 which she felt best meets the Board's criteria for boundary considerations.

Don Phan, parent: speaking to how the current proposal does not support the policy considerations, and sharing suggestions to better evaluate the proposals.

Jennifer Weber, Barcroft parent: opposing the proposal to move students out of Barcroft, noting the negative impact it will have on students and the community.

Mr. Goldstein thanked the speakers for their comments and Board members appreciated the extensive work staff has done to develop proposals. In response to a question, Wendy Pilch, Director, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, provided an overview of the STEAM focus being implemented at Drew. The Board discussed the various proposals and staff responded to specific questions about capacity utilization and other factors that were considered as proposals were developed. Staff also explained how planning units were selected to be moved, and agreed to provide more information on capacity utilization and walkability. Board members were also interested in looking at additional grandfathering options. In closing, Mr. Goldstein acknowledged areas for continued review and thanked the staff and the community for their involvement and for working together.

Mr. Goldstein called for a brief recess at 8:29 PM and the Board reconvened at 8:45 PM.

2. Legislative Package: (8:45 PM)

Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, presented the draft Legislative Package which includes support for three new initiatives that state legislators will bring forward in the General Assembly. The first is to replace references to "natural parent" with "parent" in the Code of Virginia. The second is to implement a Montessori teaching credential, and the third supports adding the European Honeybee to Virginia's Official Emblems and Designations. Continuing issues include establishing a Board of Education School Health Advisory Board, support for the at-risk add on, and better articulation between high schools and community colleges. Ms. Wise then reviewed funding issues, including the need to update the funding formula as well as asking for General Assembly funds for support services. Additional issues include flexibility in the use of VPI funding and ongoing support for the Cost of Competing factor. Continuing issues include APS support for flexibility in the school calendar. The Board will also consider adding relevant VSBA legislative positions to the package.

Ms. O'Grady appreciated the package and spoke to the benefits of a Montessori teaching credential. Ms. Van Doren asked about the status of legislation brought forward last year related to dyslexia, and Ms. Wise agreed to provide follow up information. Dr. Kanninen commented on plans to work with the County to ensure alignment in both Boards' legislative packages. Ms. Talento noted Board interest in looking at broader state-wide initiatives that compliment APS issues. In closing, Mr. Goldstein thanked Ms. Wise and Dr. Kanninen for their work.

3. Middle School and High School Program of Studies: (9:04 PM)

Mr. Byrd presented the proposed changes to the 2019-20 Middle School and High School Program of Studies. He described the purpose and goals of the Program of Studies, and the process for determining proposed changes. He then highlighted areas of focus for 2019-2020. At the high school level these include additions that support Arlington Tech course progressions, Career and Technical Education, IB English and Literature, and Earth Science II and Environmental Science. Mr. Byrd then highlighted proposed course deletions, confirming that these are courses that no longer align to APS requirements.

Current efforts implemented to support middle school rigor were described by Mr. Byrd. These include curriculum revisions in English/Language Arts and World Geography, and providing opportunities for advanced courses in math, world languages, robotics and World Geography. Mr. Byrd also reviewed future opportunities to address rigor such as curriculum development in the summer and developing a core options course for middle school English/Language Arts to be piloted in 2019-2020. In closing, Mr. Byrd highlighted professional learning framework changes that will help staff learn how to increase rigor in the classroom.

The following speakers addressed the Board, commenting on the need for more rigor in middle school. While speakers appreciated the proposed changes that were presented, they asked for more options and stronger gifted instruction in APS:

Elaine Maag, Swanson parent, Co-Chair, Gifted Services Advisory Committee
Dan Corcoran, Co-Chair, Gifted Services Advisory Committee

Responding to questions, Mr. Byrd provided more information about the core options course being proposed and other efforts to ensure that all students can enroll in rigorous courses and that families are aware of the available opportunities. Board members appreciated the variety of classes offered to students, especially dual-enrollment classes, and reiterated the importance of providing rigor in all classes. Ms. Van Doren recommended inviting the ACI to provide input as the Program of Studies is developed. Board members asked that the pilot course be offered to all students and that no one be counseled out of the class, and asked for more information about how it will be determined and implemented. They also encouraged good communication about all courses being offered. Mr. Byrd described how teachers and counselors work with families to help them navigate the course selection process and choose the most appropriate courses. He then explained why the proposed course is not being identified as an intensified class, and confirmed that staff is still developing the plan for the course.

The group further discussed how new courses are developed, how rigor is defined and what training is provided to strengthen instruction, especially for gifted learners. Mr. Byrd confirmed staff is working to ensure a universal understanding of rigor, and described staff work in building rigor throughout the curriculum. He

also spoke to the importance of differentiation in providing rigorous instruction in all classes. Staff also responded to questions on how new courses affect budgets and staffing requirements. The group considered survey results indicating students do not feel challenged and how to use this data to improve instruction. It was recognized that more information is needed from the students to better understand the survey results. Dr. Murphy spoke to the difficulty of balancing challenging work and opportunities for rigor without adding to student stress. In addition, there was a brief discussion of the risk of tracking when intensified courses are offered.

The group discussed the timeline for approval of this item, and agreed to postpone action until the December 6 Board Meeting to allow staff to further develop the pilot, to research topics discussed, and to further refine the program of studies.

4. Transfer of Unspent Capital Project Funds to Capital Reserve: (10:36 PM)

Ms. Peterson presented the proposed transfer of unspent capital funds to the Capital Reserve, reviewing four projects that have closed out at costs lower than anticipated. She confirmed there are approximately \$1.9 million of unused funds that staff is recommending be transferred to the Capital Reserve.

The Board appreciated this good news, and Ms. Peterson provided additional information about the specific projects and their financial management.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (10:43 PM)

1. Drew Deed of Resubdivision, Exchange Agreement and Deed of Lease

Mr. Chadwick confirmed that there have been no changes to this item since it was presented for information, and he also confirmed that this item has been shared with the neighboring community by both APS and the County.

Ms. O'Grady moved that the School Board authorize the Chair to approve the proposed Drew Property Deeds of Resubdivision, Boundary Line Adjustment, Exchange of Property Agreement and Deed of Lease and MOU with Arlington County, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted by a vote of 5 – 0 with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

2. Contract Award for the Solar Photovoltaic Rooftop System Power Purchase Agreement: (10:45 PM)

Mr. Chadwick confirmed there have been no changes to this item since it was presented for information.

The following speakers addressed the Board, noting how this agreement will provide educational and financial benefits to APS and addresses environmental concerns. They also recognized the importance of addressing climate change:

*Will Driscoll, Arlington 350
Harold Hofstad, resident*

Board members appreciated this agreement and thanked the community for supporting this effort.

Ms. O’Grady moved that the Board award the Contract for the Solar Photovoltaic Rooftop System Power Purchase Agreement to Sun Tribe Solar as recommended by staff, seconded by Ms. Talento and the motion was adopted by a vote of 5 – 0 with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

Dr. Murphy announced that prior to the Dec. 6 meeting, APS will hold a special celebration of this initiative.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board