

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
November 29, 2018

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 29, 2018, at 7:02 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
Monique O’Grady, 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
Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Erin Wales-Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order
2. Recognition:

Lida Anestidou and Laura Saul Edwards, Bond Co-Chairs, presented their report, reviewing the projects that will be funded by the Bond, and summarizing the campaign and sharing the results. Board members thanked Ms. Anestidou and Ms. Edwards for their efforts, noting that this bond referendum passed with the highest approval rating in 30 years.

Ms. Carolyn Jackson, Supervisor, Office of Equity and Excellence, and students from each of the secondary programs who participated in the recent Minority

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.

Student Achievement Network Conference shared their experiences at the event. Student presenters included Kayla Beckles, Karen Cruz, Trevor Dominguez, Ethan Hemmings and Liana Tadesse, and were supported by Monica Lozano-Caldera, Office of Equity and Excellence Coordinator, Career Center. Board members appreciated the report and congratulated the students for their work.

3. Announcements

- *December 4, 2018 Work Session on Elementary Boundaries, 7 PM, County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington*
- *December 5, 2018 Legislative Breakfast, 8 AM, Rooms 254-256-258*

Mr. Goldstein announced activities and events at some of his liaison schools, including the New Directions Holiday Lunch and the Kenmore Food Drive and an art installation that will be displayed in Ballston.

4. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Murphy announced Flu Clinics being held in APS and encouraged students to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Visual Arts Contest. He also invited the community to winter concerts in the schools, and reviewed other upcoming events and dates. He then shared progress 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. He also provided additional information about Elementary Boundaries proposal 6-1 and confirmed that a data correction will be made and shared with the community soon, and confirmed the Board will act on boundaries on Dec. 6.

Ms. Van Doren announced a community meeting on Dec. 5 on the Education Center renovation and encouraged all to come and see the draft schematic design for the site and provide feedback. Mr. Goldstein encouraged eligible community members to take advantage of the senior citizen pass to attend APS events.

Mr. Goldstein apologized for the mistakes that were discovered in elementary boundary proposal 6-1, and for the disruption that this has caused. He confirmed the Board and staff are working together to address the issues, and asked Dr. Murphy to have staff bring forward a new recommendation, which may include adjustments to that proposal, to the Board at the Work Session on Dec. 4.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:57 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. 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. October 10, 2018 School Board Work Session on Elementary Boundaries
- b. October 18, 2018 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- c. November 5, 2018 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 5 Resignations

- 3. Briefing Report: Food and Nutrition Services Annual Report
- 4. Appointment to the Budget Advisory Council

Mr. Goldstein announced that as part of consent, the Board received the annual report from the Food and Nutrition Services Department. Ms. Talento shared highlights of the report.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:59 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board opposing the swap of Key School and Arlington Science Focus School, asking why it is being considered and commenting on the impact it will have on Key families and students:

- Maria Elena Greene*, Key parent
- Jaime Areizaga-Soto*, Key parent
- Ruth Rivero*, Padres Latinos Unidos

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Ellen Gabel, Henry parent: appreciating the strong program at Patrick Henry Elementary School and asking that all families be moved together to Fleet Elementary School.

Bernard Berne, resident: asking to be appointed to the Washington-Lee naming committee as representative of a neighboring civic association.

E. MONITORING ITEM: (8:12 PM)

- 1. Design Development Update for the New Elementary School at the Reed Site

Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, presented an update on the new elementary school being built at the Reed site. He outlined the project parameters and timeline and confirmed that the Use Permit for the project has been approved by the County Board. After sharing renderings of both the exterior and the interior of the facility, Mr. Burgin highlighted the design development phase cost estimates. He also reviewed cost control efforts that have been implemented with the project. Next steps include beginning the civic engineering plan process and developing project drawings and specifications.

Board members appreciated the progress that has been made, and thanked staff for their efforts. They also thanked the County for streamlining the use permit process for school projects.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:24 PM)

1. Legislative Package

Dr. Kanninen introduced Ms. Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, who reviewed changes that have been made to the package since it was presented for Information. Changes include an updated introduction, and added a funding issue supporting funds for test coordinators, to reduce load on guidance counselors. Ms. Wise also confirmed that for one of the initiatives, Del. Hope has submitted legislation to establish a Montessori licensing credential. Additional issues in the package include support for funding for test coordinators to allow guidance counselors more time with students, support for VSBA funding for mental health professionals and security personnel, allowing school boards to prohibit guns at all school related functions, and amending the code to require annual certification for religious exemptions from compulsory attendance. Finally, the package also includes support for the Senate School Facility Modernization Subcommittee and the House Select Committee on school safety.

Responding to questions, additional information was shared on the difference between requirements for religious exemption and home-schooling. Also briefly discussed was how successful these legislative efforts have been.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the School Board approve the Legislative Package, seconded by Ms. O’Grady.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the School Board amend the Legislative Package by adding the following paragraph:

Accelerated Graduation

The Arlington Public School Board supports accelerated pathways to graduation, including the expansion of opportunities already available to students. Current structures include high school credit at the middle school, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, and virtual

course offerings. These options accelerate students' progression through high school by giving them the opportunity to earn credits in Mathematics, Social Studies, World Languages, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the middle school level. With the support of the Virginia legislature, students could further accelerate their learning in English Language Arts and other content areas as well. The dual enrollment program provides students with the opportunity to earn college credit in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies/History, and CTE. In addition, through the Advanced Placement program, students can earn college credit in Fine Arts, Computer Science, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. The Arlington Public School Board supports reducing the Virginia Department of Education regulations that may prevent further acceleration opportunities for students, including current accountability structures. The motion seconded by Ms. Talento.

Ms. Van Doren explained that this amendment is meant to expand opportunities for middle school students to take classes for high school credit. She also spoke to other states that allow additional credit-bearing courses in middle school. Ms. Wise noted that the Advanced Placement and IB programs specify that only high school students may enroll. Board members appreciated the intent of the motion but felt they needed more information on what the state currently allows, what barriers exist that prevent students from receiving credit, and how to go about achieving this goal.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion to amend was defeated by a vote of 1 – 4 with Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady Ms. Talento opposing.

Ms. O'Grady also spoke to the inclusion of an issue asking for more flexibility on the use of pre-Kindergarten funding, and recognized the importance of pre-Kindergarten.

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

Ms. Van Doren asked that the Superintendent provide the Board with the information needed to determine what legislation change is needed to allow APS to offer these courses. Ms. Talento agreed with this request to understand the restraints that keep APS from granting credit for more middle school courses. Ms. Talento also pointed out the continuing issue on legislation that provides eligibility for instate tuition to students who are not yet permanent residents. Mr. Goldstein thanked Ms. Wise for her ongoing support of APS.

2. Proposed School Board Policy J-15.8 Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records: (8:56 PM)

Mr. Adusumilli briefly reviewed this new policy, confirming there have been no changes since this item was presented for Information. He also confirmed that this

policy will bring APS in line with Code of Virginia requirements concerning electronic signatures and records.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board adopt School Board Policy J-15.8 Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records, 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.

3. Transfer of Unspent Capital Project Funds to Capital Reserve: (8:58 PM)

Ms. Peterson summarized this recommended action to transfer unspent capital funds from four projects to the Capital Reserve. Responding to questions, she explained that future use of the funds will depend on the funding source, and she will research and provide the Board with information on how these funds can be used in the future.

Ms. Van Doren appreciated staff’s work to bring these projects in under budget.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board approve the transfer of \$1,892,810.10 in savings from the closed capital construction projects to the Capital Reserve as recommended, seconded by Ms. O’Grady. 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.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:05 PM)

1. Revision of School Board Policy G-2.14 Employment

Ms. Wales-Smith presented the proposed changes to Policy G-2.14 Employment, explaining that the changes are needed to bring the policy in line with the Code of Virginia, and noted that this change only applies to guidelines related to licensure. The change is to reflect that the state has eliminated a requirement to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology.

Responding to questions, Ms. Wales-Smith confirmed that this is a policy amendment, and the full policy will be revised as previously scheduled. Also discussed was the support provided to teachers in terms of licensure, and Dr. Kanninen provided a few suggestions to clarify information in the policy.

2. Revision of School Board Policy E-3.30 Building and Grounds Management: (9:13 PM)

After acknowledging staff for their work on this policy, Mr. Chadwick presented the proposed revision, first reviewing the policy history and confirming that the goal is not intended to change current practice but to clarify who is responsible for what actions. He then outlined the current policy and PIP structure and explained

the proposed revisions, which will organize the documents in a more logical sequence. He then presented the proposed text for the revised policy.

Board members appreciated the organized approach used in the policy revision and its presentation. Ms. Van Doren suggested including an accountability clause in this and all policies, to provide the Board with a mechanism to ensure the policy is being implemented properly. Dr. Kanninen noted that several items in the policy respond to County requirements and suggested that by meeting County requirements, APS is demonstrating compliance with the policy.

3. Contract Award for Field at Arlington Science Focus School: (9:25 PM)

Mr. Chadwick presented the proposed contract award, first sharing background information on the need for the field work. He reviewed the proposed funding that has been identified for this work and stated that the Superintendent's recommendation is to award the contract to the Matthews Group.

Responding to questions, Mr. Chadwick agreed to bring back the timeline for this project, and provided additional information about the funding sources. He confirmed there are no plans to install relocatables on the field in the future. The group briefly discussed maintenance of both natural and artificial turf fields and how this project will help address concerns.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Talento asked the Board to develop a protocol to ensure that all speakers have the opportunity to be heard by the Board, including those who need interpretation.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board