

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
January 10, 2019

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 6:05 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹ Prior to the meeting, Board members attended a celebration for signing the power purchase agreement for solar voltaic panels.

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member (arr. 6:07 PM)
Monique O’Grady, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Erin Wales-Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to discuss a disciplinary action involving an employee and the resignation of an employee, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively. Dr. Kanninen, was not present at the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:35PM, 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 Ms. Van Doren and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

Also present were:

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
Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

1. Call to Order
2. Recognitions:

Wakefield Boys Basketball Coach Tony Bentley was recognized by Health and Physical Education Supervisor Debbie DeFranco for reaching his 300th victory. Carolyn Jackson, Supervisor, Office of Equity and Excellence, then recognized 6 students who have been selected as Posse Scholars and 3 students selected as Quest Bridge Scholars.

3. Announcements

MEETINGS:

- January 16, 2019 Work Session on Special Education, 7 PM, Rms. 254-256
- January 18, 2019 Committee of the Whole, 8 AM, School Board Conference Rm.
- January 18, 2019 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM, School Board Conference Rm.
- January 22, 2019 Work Session on Transportation, 7 PM, Rms. 254-256

4. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Murphy welcomed all back from winter break, and spoke to efforts to support families affected by the government shutdown. He announced upcoming events and activities including Kindergarten Information Night and events related to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He announced that applications for school options and transfers are being accepted, and he reviewed winter weather reminders.

Dr. Murphy shared progress that has been made and next steps on 2018-19 School Board Action Plan items in the areas of new policies and policy revisions, operational planning, new schools and program moves, and capital initiatives. Mr. Chadwick provided updates on capital initiatives to prepare for September 2019 school openings of Fleet Elementary School, the new middle school at the Stratford site, the new building in Rosslyn, and the Henry and Drew Elementary School refreshes. Dr. Murphy also commented on enrollment projection updates that will be shared at an upcoming meeting.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:31 PM)

Ms. Van Doren moved for adoption of the consent agenda, 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. November 29, 2018 School Board Meeting
 - b. December 6, 2018 School Board Meeting
 - c. December 14, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - d. December 17, 2018 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
 - e. December 18, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

5 Appointments

2 Resignations

1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

2 Appointments

1 Change In Position/Salary

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

3 Appointments

2 Changes In Position/Salary

4 Resignations

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:32 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Dean Fleming, APS graduate: commenting on the decision not to include Stratford in the name of the new middle school.

Susan Cox, Washington-Lee Alumni Association: stating concerns about recent naming processes.

Mike Webb, resident: about appropriate messaging and legal matters.

Charles Gerlach, Washington-Lee Alumni Association: thanking the Washington-Lee Alumni Association for the work they have done in the community.

The following speakers addressed the Board opposing the swap of Arlington Science Focus School and Key School. Speakers described benefits of the immersion program at Key and noted how moving the program would negatively impact students, families, and the community. They were also concerned about how far Science Focus is from their homes:

Michelle Posner, Key parent
Nadia Pontif, Key parent
Ruth Rivero, Key parent
Carla Toro, Key parent
Josefina Cantoran, Key parent
Jaime Reyes, Key parent
Emily Akerman assisting Lucia Castillo, Key parents
Stephanie Lynch, Key parent

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

Miranda Turner, parent: stating concerns about transfers out of Drew School, and encouraging the Board to support efforts to keep neighborhood families at Drew.

F. MONITORING ITEM: (8:08 PM)

1. FY19 Mid-Year Fiscal Monitoring Report

Ms. Peterson presented the FY19 mid-year fiscal monitoring update, sharing the status of the 2019 budget in terms of revenues and expenditures. Revenues were down slightly, and there was approximately \$5.5 million in savings in expenditures, so that net funds of \$1.9 million were available at mid-year. Based on this figure, Ms. Peterson confirmed that there are no recommendations for Board action.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Dean Fleming, Washington-Lee Alumni Association: expressing concerns about building a high school in south Arlington that does not have the same amenities as the other high schools in the county.

Responding to questions, Ms. Peterson explained how staff assignments are managed when enrollment is lower than anticipated.

Ms. Peterson then presented the mid-year status report on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). She summarized the status of funding for Major Construction, and for Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) projects.

Responding to an additional question, Ms. Peterson briefly described how the CIP and MC/MM projects are funded.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:20 PM)

1. Proposed New Name for Washington-Lee High School

Ms. Erdos confirmed that there is no new information on this item and acknowledged the committee members present at the meeting.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Bernard Berne, resident: explaining why he did not support the name of Loving for the school, and suggesting the board go with Liberty.

Jim Hurysz, resident: reading a statement from Dr. Audrey Clement, concerning the legality of the naming process conducted.

Jack Dolan, parent of W-L graduates: appreciating the effort to change the name, and suggesting a better choice for the name would be Washington-Lincoln.

Michael Beer, parent: appreciating the work of the Board and all of the naming committees for recent processes, and encouraging all to come together and support the schools going forward.

The following speakers addressed the Board opposing the name change, speaking of the history of the school and how the change will affect alumni. Some speakers had concerns about the naming committee and the naming process, and many speakers asked that the vote be postponed so additional consideration and conversation on a name change could take place:

Dean Fleming, Washington-Lee Alumni Association

Lynn Schnurr, Washington-Lee alumna

Tom Hafer, Washington-Lee alumnus

Susan Cox, Washington-Lee alumna

Claudia Virginia Alarcon, Washington-Lee alumna

Charles Gerlach, Washington-Lee alumnus

Kathy Mirro, Washington-Lee alumna

Major Mike Webb, resident

Mary Royce Evans, Washington-Lee Alumni President

Patrice Kelly, Washington-Lee parent

Don Morey, alumnus

The following speakers also addressed the Board, supporting the name change, describing the work of the committee and how they came to their recommendation. Mr. Thomas shared concerns that students were not better informed about the reasons for considering a name change:

Peter Strack, Naming Committee Member

Thorton Thomas, 9th grade representative to Naming Committee

Mr. Goldstein thanked the speakers and called for a motion.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the School Board affirm and accept the recommendation of the committee to rename Washington-Lee High School "Washington-Loving High School, seconded by Ms. O'Grady.

Ms. Van Doren thanked the naming committee for their efforts, commitment, and dedication to completing the task they were given. She stated her support for the recommended name of Washington-Loving, which continues to honor George Washington and acknowledges the progress society has made, bringing Arlington into current history. She also noted that this name reflects the diversity in the school and highlights the importance of advancing equal rights for all. She briefly reviewed the thorough process and confirmed that the Board considered all input provided by the community. She then reaffirmed her support for the name of Washington-Loving.

Recognizing that the committee was asked to recommend a new name because the current name does not meet criteria that have been adopted, Ms. O'Grady thanked the committee members for their service. She appreciated both proposed names, and stated her support for Washington-Loving, as it recognizes that ordinary people can do extraordinary things, celebrates the power of love over hate, and confirms the importance of perseverance in achieving goals. She also commented that Loving speaks to diversity and represents inclusion and acceptance. Noting that the new name will hold to tradition by preserving the initials W and L, Ms. O'Grady confirmed that the history of Robert E. Lee will continue to be a part of the curriculum, and urged the community to refrain from erecting symbols that might cause division, and move forward with this name change.

Dr. Kanninen thanked her colleagues for their comments and provided a detailed summary of how the Board came to the decision to revise the school naming process. She reviewed work that took place to develop the naming process, including significant community engagement. She also shared each step taken by the Board, the staff, and the advisory committee to bring forward the recommended name. While she appreciated and respected the courage and importance of the Loving's actions, she stated that she will support the alternate name of Washington-Liberty. She then highlighted the concept of liberty and how central it has always been to the history of the United States. She stated that whatever name is chosen, the Board will work with the Washington-Lee community to keep that school, and all APS schools, strong.

Ms. Talento thanked her Board colleagues for their comments and their efforts. She also thanked the committee for their thoughtful and thorough work, and acknowledged with respect the committee members who felt it necessary to resign. She referenced the Loving's fight to overturn the Racial Integrity Act and recognized the importance of the Supreme Court decision that ensured freedom and liberty for all. Appreciating the efforts and significance of the Loving's actions, she recognized that they fought for the liberty that is vital to the United States. She also confirmed that liberty is guaranteed by the Constitution, which provides the tools to ensure equality for all. She acknowledged it was a difficult decision, but confirmed she would be supporting the name Washington-Liberty for the school.

Mr. Goldstein thanked his colleagues and the committee for their efforts. He appreciated all the names that were considered as finalists, and commented on the important contributions of each of the individuals whose names were considered. He stated that the unifying theme of all those individuals' contributions was liberty, and confirmed his belief that liberty is the best choice for the name. He again thanked his Board colleagues and the naming committee for their difficult and important work.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote on the motion to rename the school Washington-Loving, and it was defeated in a vote of 2 – 3, Ms. O'Grady, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, and Ms. Talento opposing.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board rename Washington-Lee High School, "Washington-Liberty High School" seconded by Ms. Talento.

Ms. Van Doren stated that she will support this motion, as the name Washington-Liberty was also recommended by the naming committee, and she urged all to move forward together with the new name. Ms. O'Grady also confirmed her willingness to join her colleagues and vote for the name Washington-Liberty.

Mr. Goldstein acknowledged the long and difficult process leading up to this vote, and affirmed that a name change will not change the experiences or the great accomplishments of Washington-Lee students and alumni. He also confirmed this action would not erase the history of Robert E. Lee or the teaching of that history. He stated that the school will continue to carry on its outstanding traditions, and the faculty, curriculum and student body will remain the same.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and 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.

2. Proposed Name for the New Building at the Rosslyn Site: (9:26 PM)

Dr. Casey Robinson and Dr. Karen Gerry confirmed that the committee held an additional meeting after the proposed name was presented for Information, and is now recommending that the word "Building" be added to the recommended name of "The Heights."

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Lee White, parent: after stating some concerns about the naming process, Mr. White confirmed that what is most important is what happens in the school, not what the building is called, and appreciated staff and the Board for their work.

Mr. Goldstein thanked the speaker, and called for a motion.

Dr. Kanninen moved to approve the name of the “Eunice Kennedy Shriver Building” for the new building in Rosslyn, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Dr. Kanninen highlighted the contributions of Mrs. Shriver and explained why she favored that name. Board members appreciated the work of the committee, and stated that they would be willing to consider the name of Eunice Kennedy Shriver in the future for a building or a program. Ms. Van Doren appreciated the name of Mrs. Shriver, but reiterated her belief that the Board should honor the recommendation of the committee. Ms. Talento thanked the community for their advocacy, and recognized the valuable contributions of Mrs. Shriver. She stated that because the programs that will be housed in the building have unique names, the recommended name of The Heights Building seemed most appropriate. Ms. O’Grady confirmed her support for The Heights Building, as it reflects the geography and history of the neighborhood as well as the symbolism of aspiring to new heights. Mr. Goldstein stated that while both names would be fine names for programs or schools, he supported The Heights Building for this facility.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was defeated in a vote of 1-4, with Dr. Kanninen approving and Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

Ms. O’Grady moved that the School Board approve the name of The Heights Building for the new facility in Rosslyn, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Dr. Kanninen confirmed that although she preferred the name of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, she will support the committee’s recommendation.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and 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.

3. Proposed Name for the new Montessori Program: (9:42 PM)

Committee member Andrew Greenwood and Assistant Principal Yolanda Nashid, updated the Board on the committee’s recommended name for the new Montessori Program at the Patrick Henry site. Ms. Nashid thanked the Board for supporting Montessori over the years, and explained why the committee is recommending the name of The Montessori Public School of Arlington.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Mike Webb, resident: speaking about the importance of names in communication.

Ms. O’Grady asked about other proposed names, and Mr. Greenwood and Ms. Nashid explained how they were considered and the recommended name selected.

Ms. O’Grady moved that the School Board approve the name of “The Montessori Public School of Arlington” for the Montessori program at the Patrick Henry site, seconded by Ms. Talento.

Ms. O’Grady thanked the committee for their work and looked forward to this new stage for Montessori. She briefly describing the 40-year history of the Montessori program in Arlington, and confirmed the new name will provide a clear understanding of the program as part of the Arlington Public Schools.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and 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.

Mr. Goldstein called for a brief recess and the Board reconvened at 10:07 PM.

4. Revision of School Board Policy D-12.3 Travel Reimbursement: (10:07 PM)

Ms. Peterson confirmed that in response to the Board, language was added to the Policy Implementation Procedure (PIP) on where staff can find training materials.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board adopt the proposed revisions to School Board Policy D-12.3 Travel Reimbursement as presented, seconded by Dr. Kanninen, and 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.

5. Education Center Reuse Educational Specifications: (10:09 PM)

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, confirmed that no changes have been made to this item since it was presented for Information.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the School Board approve the Education Center Educational Specifications as presented, seconded by Ms. O’Grady, and 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.

6. Change Order for the Syphax Renovation: (10:10 PM)

Mr. Chadwick stated that no changes have been made to this item since it was presented for information. He confirmed that this change order will address some issues that have been identified at the site and is within the budget for the project.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board approve the change order for the Syphax Renovation as presented, seconded by Ms. O’Grady.

Dr. Kanninen explained that she will not support this item as she believes these funds could be better used to address needs in the schools. Ms. Van Doren confirmed that she and Ms. Talento participated in the review of the facility to

identify improvements that will benefit the work of the staff and of the Board, and confirmed she will support this project. Mr. Goldstein agreed that these improvements are needed.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 4 –1, with Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Dr. Kanninen opposing.

7. Revision of School Board Policy E-3.30 Building and Grounds Management:
(10:14 PM)

Mr. Chadwick confirmed that in response to the Board’s comments, a clause has been added describing how the work in this policy will be monitored.

Ms. Van Doren appreciated the added statement but asked that in the future, a time frame for monitoring work be specified in the PIPs. Mr. Chadwick confirmed that going forward, this information will be added to the PIPs.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board adopt the proposed revisions to School Board Policy E-3.30 Building and Grounds Management as presented, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and 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.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:19 PM)

1. Appointments to the Drew Naming Committee

Dr. Murphy introduced the item, suggesting that the Board could consider acting on these appointments at this meeting. Principal Kim Graves then presented the proposed appointments to the Drew Naming Committee. She explained how the committee membership was determined, confirming it includes representatives from each school attendance zone within the new boundary and representatives from all civic associations in the attendance zone. She also noted there will be a representative from the community at large and a staff liaison to the committee. Ms. Graves then reviewed the recruitment process, shared the list of proposed members, and looked forward to the committee’s work.

Responding to questions, staff confirmed that recruitment will continue for vacancies on the committee, and that the name change is being considered in relation to a boundary change. Ms. O’Grady appreciated the work that has been done and stated her support for acting on the appointments at this meeting.

Ms. Van Doren was concerned about renaming this school, and strongly encouraged the committee to consider keeping the current name. She recognized

the important contributions Dr. Charles Drew made in his lifetime. Ms. Erdos provided some background on how Drew Model School was named, how programs at the school have evolved, and why the change is being considered. She encouraged the Board to provide direction to the committee to keep Drew as part of the name if they feel that is appropriate.

The group discussed how to move forward, recognizing the importance of having the community select a meaningful name for the school. Ms. Graves responded to questions about the selection of committee members and the proposed schedule for the committee's work. Ms. Erdos responded to questions about how past naming processes were conducted, and how the naming policy and PIP have been implemented. The Board discussed whether there should be a formal charge to the committee, and how postponing a vote on the appointments would affect the committee's work. It was acknowledged that the only action being proposed is to appoint members to the committee.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the committee as presented, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Ms. Van Doren stated she will support the appointments, and asked that the Board's comments, including support for retaining the Drew name, be taken back to the committee. Mr. Goldstein stated that he was not comfortable moving forward as there are member vacancies and no charge is being provided. Staff confirmed that they will continue to look to fill the vacancies as soon as possible.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 1, with Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Mr. Goldstein opposing.

2. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy I-10.32 Pupil Services: (11:00 PM)

Dr. Natrass summarized the proposed updates to this policy, which relates to all aspects of services provided to students. Changes include replacing the name Pupil with Student, inclusion of references to social/emotional supports in the policy, and moving the language related to roles and responsibilities to the PIPs.

Ms. Talento suggested a reference be added to clarify how families can access services. Mr. Goldstein recommended that, as this policy has been reviewed by the School Board Policy Subcommittee, it can be brought forward for action under Consent at the next meeting.

3. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy M-14 Support: (11:04 PM)

Dr. Natrass stated that staff is proposing eliminating this policy. She explained that the reorganization of the Department of Teaching and Learning has consolidated delivery of all support services, and that support is described in other policies.

Mr. Goldstein confirmed that this policy will also be acted on under consent at the next meeting.

4. Funding for Drew and Henry Refresh Projects: (11:06 PM)

Ms. Peterson presented the proposed transfer of capital reserve funds for the Drew and Henry refresh projects. She explained that these projects were proposed as part of Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) projects in FY 2020. By using Capital Reserve funds for these projects, she confirmed that they can be completed more quickly and will free up funding for other needs in FY 2020.

5. Transportation Staff Facility Renovation Preliminary Project Budget: (11:11 PM)

Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, briefly described the proposed Transportation staff facility renovation project, which will enhance the space available to the growing number of drivers and attendants employed by APS. He confirmed the proposed work will have two phases, with design, demolition and abatement in the first two quarters of 2019 and construction slated for the 3rd and 4th quarter. He then presented the preliminary project budget, which totals \$2.1 million. In closing, he shared staff recommendations for this work.

Responding to questions, Mr. Chambers outlined the timing of the two phases of this work.

H. NEW BUSINESS: None

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board