

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
December 20, 2018

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 6:31 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair (arr. 6:40 PM)
Barbara Kanninen, Member
Monique O’Grady, Member (arr. 6:33 PM)
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 consider the appointment of Director of Counseling, New Middle School at Stratford, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Ms. Van Doren. 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 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:

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
Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management

1. Call to Order
2. Recognitions:

The Williamsburg Middle School Chorus, led by teacher Emily McTavish, performed three songs.

3. Announcements

Ms. O’Grady announced activities of students in the Montessori program at Drew Model School. Mr. Goldstein wished all a good holiday season, and shared highlights of activities taking place at some of his liaison schools. He also commented on the dangers of e-cigarette use, especially for adolescents.

4. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Murphy spoke to the health risks from juuling and encouraged families to talk with their children about the dangers of e-cigarettes. He highlighted important dates and shared a holiday greeting. He then shared progress and next steps on items in the 2018-19 School Board Action Plan in the areas of new policies and policy revisions, operational planning, new schools and program moves, and capital initiatives. Mr. Chadwick shared an update on the upcoming school openings and refreshes that will be completed for September 2019. Dr. Murphy confirmed that the Board will hear the annual update on enrollment and projections at the January 24, 2019 School Board meeting.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:39 PM)

Dr. Kanninen 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. January 18, 2018 School Board Meeting (revised)
 - b. October 24, 2018 Work Session on Elementary Boundaries
 - c. November 1, 2018 Work Session with Employee Groups
 - d. November 8, 2018 School Board Meeting
 - e. December 5, 2018 Legislative Breakfast
2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Resignation

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 2 Resignations
- 3 Retirements

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 7 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

- 3. Briefing Report: Library Services
- 4. Briefing Report: Sustainability Update

Mr. Goldstein announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Janae Rittenhouse Director of Counseling, New Middle School at Stratford. Ms. Talento encouraged all to review the Library Services and Sustainability briefing reports accepted under consent.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:42 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Dean Fleming, Washington-Lee Alumni Association: expressing the importance of good governance and trust.

Mike Webb, resident: stating honor as a community core value, and expressing concern about how a recent FOIA has been handled.

Susan Cox, Washington-Lee alumna: speaking to core values, encouraging the Board to follow rules, and stating her belief that Board work was not done with transparency.

Lee White, parent: sharing a letter from Anthony Kennedy Shriver, thanking the Board for considering naming a building after his mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, and describing her work to support individuals with disabilities.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS: (7:51 PM)

- 1. Proposed New Name for Washington-Lee High School

Ms. Erdos presented a summary of the process to rename Washington-Lee High School. She explained how the naming committee was formed and confirmed that an outside facilitator assisted the work of the group. Committee members, including students Chloe Slater and John Holt, Principal Gregg Robertson, alumnus Peter Strack, and Civic Association representatives Allan Gajadhar, Nikki Roy, and James Rosen, described the group's work. They reviewed key themes and discussions that were held, and how feedback and suggestions were considered. They confirmed the committee voted to recommend the name Washington-Loving High School, with the alternate recommendation of Washington-Liberty High School. Committee members explained why those names were chosen.

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting the name change. One speaker stated his belief that changing the name was the right thing to do. Two speakers were committee members who described the work done by the committee and stated their support for the recommended name and what it represents:

James Rosen, parent and member, Renaming Committee
Allison Chen, committee member and parent
Jack Dolan, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board, opposing the proposed name change. Many opposed changing the name at all, and some commented that keeping the name Lee could provide a teaching opportunity. Some speakers were not supportive of the recommended name. Some speakers felt the process followed was flawed and did not reflect the community input, and had concerns about the way the committee was managed. One speaker presented 754 emails from the community opposing the name change. Speakers also stated concerns about the cost of the name change:

Douglas Watson, resident
Bernard Berne, resident
Dean Fleming, Washington-Lee Alumni Association
Kathy Mirro, Washington-Lee alumna
Dr. Toni DeLancey, Washington-Lee
Julia Crull, Washington-Lee alumna and committee member
Major Mike Webb, resident
Susan Cox, Washington-Lee alumna
Suzy Bohnert, parent
Mary Royce Evans, Washington-Lee Alumni President

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

Zach Bowman, alumnus: suggesting removing the name Lee and calling the school Washington High School.

Mr. Goldstein thanked the speakers for their comments. Dr. Kanninen stated her interest in the recommended names and asked for more information about how the

committee considered possible names. Ms. Erdos confirmed the group discussed various approaches to names and combinations of names. Mr. Gajadhar confirmed that there was substantial discussion of keeping two names. He explained that the group looked to honor individuals who did not have heroic stature, but did have an impact on society. Other committee members spoke to the consideration of suggested names, including symmetry, underrepresentation, and whether to use an abstract or concrete representation of honor. They confirmed that while Lincoln was a top contender, there was more interest in connecting the school to recent history. Responding to additional questions, Dr. Robertson stated that until a new name is selected, the school will not consider changing the mascot or school colors.

Committee members also responded to questions about feedback received and confirmed that all suggestions were considered. Dr. Robertson confirmed staff will work with colleges to ensure that they recognize the school was formerly known as Washington-Lee. In terms of the cost of a name change, Dr. Murphy confirmed some preliminary research has been done, but additional information resulting from the final decision is needed before the cost can be determined. Also discussed was how APS will continue to teach students about history and General Lee.

Responding to questions, students on the committee described their conversations with classmates about the name change and the feedback received and confirmed there was strong support for keeping the initials W-L. They also affirmed that they talked with all students freely about the committee's work. Board members encouraged continued outreach to students and families to ensure they understand the reasons for the name change. Ms. Erdos reiterated that the committee was tasked with bringing forward a recommended name and an alternate name. Also discussed was feedback received in the comment box at all committee meetings.

Board members appreciated the thorough and thoughtful work of the committee and thanked them for their commitment through the challenging process. They recognized the comprehensive research and robust discussion that the committee undertook. Acknowledging that three members resigned from the committee, the Board appreciated the contribution those individuals also made to this work. In addition, the Board appreciated the community engagement that took place and informed the conversations about the name change.

2. Revision of School Board Policy D-12.3 Travel Reimbursement: (9:32 PM)

Ms. Peterson explained the proposed revision of the travel reimbursement policy. The revision reflects that reimbursement allowances are based on General Services Administration per diem rates and IRS mileage rates, and links to those documents have been added. She also confirmed that the policy implementation procedures (PIPs) have also been updated to reflect this change.

Responding to a question, Ms. Peterson agreed to add clarifying information to PIP-3 directing staff to detailed instructions for submitting reimbursement requests.

3. FY 2018 Final Fiscal Status Report and CIP Quarterly Report: (9:41 PM)

Ms. Peterson presented the FY 2018 final fiscal status report. Financial records for 2017-18 fiscal year are closed and audited, and the required annual report was sent to the Virginia Department of Education. Overall net available funds total \$9.3 million and Ms. Peterson shared recommendations for the use of those funds. This includes a transfer of \$1.8 million to the compensation reserve, and \$6.9 million transfer to future budget years' reserves. Also recommended is expending approximately \$604,000 for additional needs in the current year.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Josh Folb, Arlington Education Association: appreciating the transfer to the compensation reserve, but suggesting an even larger transfer. He also commented on the rising cost of living and lack of cost of living increases in recent years.

It was recognized that this closeout figure is less than what is considered standard practice. It was confirmed that some funds were diverted in 3rd quarter for current needs. Staff also provided more information about the expenditure recommendations for the current year.

Ms. Peterson then presented the CIP quarterly report, sharing progress on capital projects and minor construction/major maintenance projects within this budget year. She confirmed that in the 4th quarter, 2 major construction projects were completed and 140 of 162 minor construction/major maintenance projects were completed.

Mr. Goldstein thanked Ms. Peterson for the report.

The Board took a brief recess and reconvened at 10:12 PM.

4. Education Center Reuse Educational Specifications: (10:13 PM)

Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, assisted by Julie Cantor, IB Coordinator, Washington-Lee High School, and Tyrone Byrd, Supervisor, Secondary Education, presented the education specifications (ed specs) for the Education Center reuse project. After outlining the project parameters, Mr. Burgin gave an overview of general ed specs and how ed specs are created and applied to specific projects. Mr. Byrd then spoke to considerations that were reviewed in developing ed specs for the Education Center. He confirmed the Department of Teaching and Learning worked with Washington-Lee staff and the design team to ensure the plans meet the needs of the students. Ms. Cantor confirmed this work focused on developing a flexible space that can be adapted to meet changing needs.

Mr. Burgin then described aspects of the project, such as lockable storage for staff, and outlined how the design principles support the APS Strategic Plan and how the space was analyzed. He confirmed the building will provide 500-600 seats, and he

reviewed planning factors used to develop the plans for the space. In closing, he shared sample detail sheets for the spaces and outlined next steps for the project.

Responding to questions, Mr. Burgin described the two smaller physical education spaces planned for the facility, and Ms. Cantor noted that some outside space can also be used for physical activity. Mr. Burgin confirmed that while only three rooms will have water, more sinks could be added if needed in the future. Other topics discussed related to capacity, access to library materials, food service, and teacher planning space. Staff also spoke briefly to how these ed specs compare to traditional high school space. Ms. Van Doren encouraged applying lessons learned from other projects and focusing on using space most efficiently. Mr. Chadwick agreed with this approach and confirmed staff continually takes that approach. In closing, the group reviewed the use of the space that was identified in the charge for the Education Center renovation.

5. Change to the Guaranteed Maximum Price for Syphax Renovation: (10:51 PM)

Mr. Chadwick summarized the proposed change to the guarantee maximum price for the Syphax renovation to complete additional work. This change order will be funded through project contingency so does not increase the cost of the project. Mr. Chadwick then shared the financial and scope summary, noting that the items added to the project fall into four categories. In closing, he summarized the project budget adjustment and presented the staff recommendation.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Mike Webb, resident: stating concerns about spending funds on improvements to the Syphax facility.

The Board thanked Mr. Chadwick for the presentation.

F. MONITORING ITEMS: (10:56 PM)

1. Extended Day Update

Mr. Bobby Kaplow, Director, Extended Day, and Ben Harris, Assistant Director, presented the update. Mr. Kaplow shared an overview of the program, which has approximately 500 staff members at 28 school sites. He described how the program supports Strategic Plan goals, with ongoing activities in the areas of literacy, STEM, enrichment, clubs, and STEM-based programs. Additional activities relate to fitness and health, homework, family events, and community service, and each site focuses on healthy, safe and supported students. Extended Day staffing efforts and professional learning opportunities were also highlighted. After summarizing the budget, Mr. Kaplow shared information about community partnerships that support Extended Day. Challenges ahead include providing Extended Day at new schools, addressing the wait list for the program, and improvements to services.

Board members appreciated the presentation and the good work being done by Extended Day.

2. Policies Review Update: (11:12 PM)

Chief of Staff Julia Burgos presented the update on the Policy Review Team's (PRT) work. She reviewed completed tasks that include instituting a new policy numbering system and refining the review process in response to Board feedback. Acknowledging the concurrent work on policies being done by the School Board's policy subcommittee, Ms. Burgos confirmed that the PRT has updated 10 policies and plans to revise an additional 30 policies this school year. After sharing policies under review, she described the Policy and PIP review process.

Board members appreciated the update and efforts to develop a rigorous system to move through policy review.

G. ACTION ITEMS: (11:20 PM)

1. Proposed Name for the New Middle School at the Stratford site:

Ms. Ellen Smith, Principal, summarized the naming selection process and confirmed that there are no legal limitations to changing the name of the school. She noted that any change to the exterior signage at the site must include consideration of its historic designation.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Susan Cox, W-L alumna: appreciating the committee's recognition of the importance of recognizing the historic significance of the site.

Dean Fleming, former APS student: sharing correspondence from the Hamm family that supported adding a Hall of Honors at the site, to provide an opportunity to teach the community about the history of the school.

Charles Gerlach, APS alumnus: suggests naming the school Stratford to honor the history of the site.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board approve the name of 'Dorothy Hamm Middle School at the Historic Stratford Site' for the new middle school at the Stratford site, seconded by Mr. Goldstein.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board amend the motion by striking 'at the Historic Stratford Building,' so that the motion reads: I move that the School Board approve the name of the Dorothy Hamm Middle School for the new middle school at the Stratford Site. The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Ms. Van Doren described the plan developed and approved by APS and the County for the historic commemoration that will preserve the history of the site as well as the Stratford name. Mr. Chadwick confirmed staff is working diligently to enact those plans. Because of this commemoration, Ms. Van Doren stated her belief that the additional wording is not needed for the school name. Mr. Goldstein commented on the importance of recognizing the historical significance of this site. Ms. Talento appreciated the work that was done by the committee, and stated that she will not support the amendment.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote on the amendment and it was approved by a vote of 3 -2 with Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Ms. Talento and Mr. Goldstein opposing.

Dr. Kanninen appreciated the committee’s work and recognized efforts to preserve the historic significance of the site. She noted that by naming the school after Mrs. Hamm, it celebrates the students and families who made the change happen. Ms. O’Grady also commented that by going forward with this name, the history of what happened at the school will be taught and remembered. Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Talento confirmed that while they were concerned that Stratford will not be part of the name, they will support the name of Dorothy Hamm Middle School.

Mr. Goldstein then called for a vote on the main motion as amended, 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.

2. Summer School Fees: (11:39 PM)

Dr. Natrass provided a brief update on proposed summer school fees. She shared information on how APS offerings compare to other local jurisdictions and provided more detail on enrollment by program over the past few years. She also reviewed the budget analysis of the cost for summer school as well as efficiency options that have been proposed, including transportation options and changes in proposed fees, particularly for advanced courses.

Ms. Van Doren asked staff to monitor the impact of the increased fees for the advanced courses. Mr. Goldstein stated his concern about the effectiveness of summer school and whether the success of the program justifies the costs. Staff then responded to questions about costs and how over-expenditures are handled.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board approve proposed summer school fees as presented, 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.

3. Change to the Guaranteed Maximum Price for Fleet Elementary School: (9:57 PM)

Mr. Chadwick confirmed that no changes have been made since this item was presented for information. He briefly summarized the change, which is needed due to the use of cranes on the site, and he confirmed it is within contingency.

Staff ensured the Board that they will do their best to manage the cost of changes for projects and to inform the Board when changes are needed. Staff will also look to revise agenda item titles to more clearly describe the content.

Ms. Talento moved that the School Board approve the proposed change to the guaranteed maximum price for Fleet Elementary School as presented, 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.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Talento thanked staff for including gender-neutral rest rooms in the education specifications.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 AM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board