

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Work Session on Discipline and Code of Conduct
February 19, 2019

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 7:05 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
Monique O’Grady, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Jeannette Allen, Director Administrative Services

Ms. Talento and Ms. Johnson began the meeting by outlining the objectives of the Work Session which included review of discipline data, receive Board feedback on the current discipline policy and practices, status report on the work that has taken place this school year, professional development, and the progress on the Student Rights & Responsibilities guidebook.

Ms. Allen presented data on suspension and showed comparisons to neighboring districts on race and ethnicity, gender and other student groups, types of offenses, and professional development. She also provided a summary of the APS/Arlington County Police Department memorandum of understanding. In addition, she presented the “Know Your Rights” brochure, and shared the Student Rights & Responsibilities guidebook draft. These resources are created to inform families and students of their rights and responsibilities in a family-friendly language. Ms. Johnson shared the alignment of the discipline policy to the Strategic Plan Objective 10, as well as strategies, proactive and alternative measures to maintain students in school, and three-year trend data. She also provided an overview of the Discipline Policy J-7.4, the Code of Virginia requirements and guidelines from the Virginia Department of Education.

The Board discussed the types of offenses tracked and reviewed the race and ethnicity data provided.

At 8 PM, Board members separated into three groups and briefly discussed the following:

Data: Strategic Plan Performance Objective: Discipline Data

- Request for additional data to understand overlap of students in different categories
- Request for more data on the Second Chance Program

Policy: VSBA Student Conduct Policy vs. Current Discipline Policy

- Need for more proactive language in the policy that outlines alternative disciplinary actions

- Need for parents to have a better understanding on how to help their children and the resources available to them

Guidebook: Students Rights and Responsibilities Guidebook Draft

- Positive feedback on the consistency of the policies and procedures across the system
- Students request for more age appropriate and interactive resources

The Board thanked the community for attending the Work Session and they thanked staff for their work on discipline policies and student's rights information and resources at APS.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board