

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
June 18, 2019

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, June 18, 2019, at 6:05 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
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 Principal, Abingdon Elementary School, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), 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 closed meeting adjourned at 6:28 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. O’Grady 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.

Mr. Goldstein called for a recess and the Board reconvened at 7:02 PM.

Also present were:

John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations

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.

Catherine Ashby, Acting Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Dr. Tara Nattrass, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order and Presentation of the Colors
2. Recognitions:

The Board recognized student achievements in athletics, World Languages, Scholastic Arts, and the All Virginia High School Ensemble. The Board then recognized Paul Jamelske and Cleveland James for their support of the County's SPARC program. The Board congratulated Leslie Peterson for receiving certification as a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations.

3. Announcements

MEETINGS:

- June 24, 2019 Policy Subcommittee: Board Policies, 2 PM, School Board Conference Room
- June 25, 2019 Closed Meeting, 7 PM, School Board Conference Room
- June 26, 2019 Closed Meeting, 6:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- June 28, 2019 School Board/ELT Retreat, 1 – 5 PM, Rooms 354-356

Ms. Talento thanked the community for their support during her recent medical leave. She also announced that Arlington Community High School received the Board of Education's 2019 Continuous Improvement Award.

4. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Murphy announced his retirement, appreciating his experiences as Superintendent. He confirmed that he will remain through the summer to help finalize ongoing projects and prepare for new leadership. He acknowledged the support he has received from Board members over the years and thanked them for their work. He also thanked the APS administrative team, staff, County Board and County staff, and the community their support and efforts.

Dr. Murphy then shared recent and upcoming events and end of year activities. He reviewed summer school plans and Mr. Chadwick spoke to summer school transportation. Ms. Wales-Smith provided a update on the status of staffing for the new school year. Dr. Nattrass shared an overview of the PreK-Grade 12 Instructional Programs Pathways (IPP) initiative, summarizing information from the recent work session, and Dr. Murphy spoke to next steps for the IPP.

Dr. Murphy also shared progress on 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. He reviewed the status of policies and policy implementation procedures being developed and revised. Mr. Chadwick and Dr. Murphy shared updates on capital projects and encouraged all to review the monthly updates posted on the website.

Ms. Talento appreciated the work on IPP and asked for a report summarizing work done and plans for the IPP going forward. Ms. Van Doren encouraged APS and the Board to state their commitment to the plans for the Career Center and the programs that are housed there. The group also discussed developing a policy on program development.

Mr. Goldstein appreciated Dr. Murphy's contributions to APS, and summarized plans to develop a process to select a new superintendent.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:10 PM)

Ms. Talento moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. O'Grady. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. March 12, 2019 Budget Work Session #2
 - b. March 19, 2019 Budget Work Session #3
 - c. April 2, 2019 Budget Work Session #5
 - d. April 9, 2019 Budget Work Session #6
 - e. April 9, 2019 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting
 - f. April 11, 2019 School Board Meeting
 - g. May 7, 2019 School Board Meeting
 - h. May 31, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment
2 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

13 Appointments
15 Resignations
1 Rescind Resignation
6 Retirements
8 Terminations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

4 Resignations
1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

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

3. Appointments to the School Health Advisory Board
4. ~~School Health Advisory Board Brief~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
5. Planetarium Letter of Agreement
6. 2019-20 Local Consolidated Application
7. Deed of Temporary Easement at Campbell Elementary School
8. Architecture/Engineering Team Fee for Career Center Expansion Concept Design Phase
9. Verizon Premises Access License at Fleet Elementary School
10. Amendment to School Board Policy I-11.6.34 Secondary Course Withdrawal
11. Appointments to Budget Advisory Council
12. Appointments to Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs

Mr. Goldstein announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed David Horak as Principal of Abingdon Elementary School. He also announced the appointment of the chairs and vice chairs of the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs and Budget Advisory Council for the 2019-2020 school year. The Board also approved the letter of agreement with the Friends of the David M. Brown Planetarium.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:14 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Stacy Snyder, Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC): sharing a recommendation and feedback from the FAC related to possible use of two buildings at the Buck property, and ideas for how best to use this space.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:23 PM)

1. Annual Report: Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC) and Staff Response

Chair Stacy Snyder presented the FAC's annual report, summarizing the Council's work in 2018-19. She then presented the Council's recommendations related to boundary decisions, the Arlington Facilities Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP), and an APS Master Plan. She also shared recommendations on continued engagement with the County on planning for growth, and planning for additional capacity. Priorities for 2019-2020 were highlighted and include a focus on the CIP and expansion of the AFSAP. She appreciated APS staff who supported the FAC's work, and thanked departing members.

Mr. Chadwick presented the staff response, thanking Ms. Snyder for her leadership and all of the committee members. He provided data on the projected impact of the Amazon move on the schools and described minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) projects and funding. Staff responses to the FAC's specific recommendations were also shared. Ms. Stengle then spoke to long range facilities planning and collaboration with the County on this initiative.

Board members thanked Ms. Snyder for her work as FAC Chair. Responding to questions, Ms. Snyder summarized the FAC's consideration of the Buck property as swing space, outlining concerns that were identified. Mr. Goldstein appreciated the focus on collaboration with County and recognized the benefits of these efforts.

2. Annual Report of the Budget Advisory Council (BAC) and Staff Response: (8:53 PM)

Incoming Chair Bob Ramsey presented the report, thanking Ms. Peterson for her support in developing the document. He reviewed BAC activities over the past year, then provided recommendations and future considerations for the BAC. Considerations include a growth-oriented budget, the proposed compensation study, future impact of growth on per pupil costs, and planning with the County. Mr. Ramsey thanked the council members and looked forward to working with the Board going forward.

Ms. Peterson shared the staff response, thanking outgoing Chair Cecilia Ciepela-Kaelin and other retiring members. She then provided responses to specific recommendations, agreeing with many and commenting on collaboration with the BAC on next steps.

The Board thanked Mr. Ramsey and the BAC members for their work and support. Board members suggested that the BAC look to strengthen community understanding of per pupil cost and longer-term projections. The Board agreed with the importance of collaboration with the County, and suggested that the BAC consider meeting with the Internal Auditor.

3. Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth Policy Implementation Procedure Update: (9:14 PM)

Dr. Murphy explained that Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) are staff generated and managed, and outline how policies are implemented. He commented

on feedback from the community on the proposed PIP, and confirmed that a collaborative process on developing this PIP will continue to ensure that APS addresses all student needs. Dr. Natrass then presented the update. She summarized Policy J-2 Student Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination, and reiterated that the overall goal is to meet the varying needs of all students. She then described the PIP development process and outlined components identified for inclusion in the PIP. She also highlighted other APS guidelines and documents that relate to and support implementation of the goals of this PIP.

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting the PIP, noting the importance of ensuring that all students feel safe; commenting on issues transgender and gender non-conforming students experience; sharing some suggestions to improve the PIP; and encouraging full implementation by September 2019:

Grace Lehman, Drew Model School student
Emrys Jones, Yorktown student
Jordan Funk, Kenmore student
Emerson Parker, H-B Woodlawn student
Quincy DuBois, student
Diane Schwartz, parent
Lorelei Brown, parent
Brad Lehman, parent
Emily Vincent, parent
Melissa Wadman, parent
Will Bohlen, parent
Betsy Rosenblatt Rosso, parent
Michelle Cottrell-Williams, teacher
Emily Sexton, parent
Bethany Vanderbilt, parent
Pat Vinkenes, parent
Peter Anderson, parent
Susan Dubois, parent and AGIA member
Gary Wynn, doctor and parent
Robert Rigby, Jr., resident
Haru Connolly, parent
Alison Acker, parent
Annie Cosgrove-Davies Winter, parent
Symone Walker, parent
Elizabeth Fogarty, parent
David Ensign, parent and Pastor
Robin Frank, parent
Sarah Priestman, teacher and parent
John Vivalo, parent
Royce Sherlock, parent
Kate Skidmore, resident
Walter Clark, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

Mark Blacknell, parent
L.A. Drucker, graduate

The following speakers opposed moving forward with the PIP until more discussion and research can be done. They also asked for more planning for implementation and how it will affect all students. Some speakers shared concerns from a recent student survey, and stated concerns about the impact of the PIP on other children:

David Henshaw, parent
Anuliina Santry, parent
James Rives, parent
Randy Burkholder, parent
Reade Bush, parent

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

Shara Lee, parent: appreciating the support expressed for upholding parental rights, asking for more clarity on how gender is identified; and stressing that the policy should only be used to protect children, and not misused.

Board members appreciated the community comments and the staff work that has been done on the PIP. Staff responded to questions on developing the implementation plan and creating processes that consider and ensure the safety and comfort of all students. Dr. Murphy confirmed that the goal is to have the PIP in place for September 2019, and Dr. Natrass confirmed staff will have regular training for staff on working with trans-gender and gender non-conforming students. Board members agreed with the importance of ensuring that policies or PIPs are not misused, and supported continued work on developing guidelines. The group also discussed ensuring that parental rights as well as student confidentiality are protected throughout this process.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:10 PM)

1. Revisions to School Board Policy J-6.8.1 Student Safety – Bullying/Harassment Prevention

Dr. Jeannette Allen, Director, Administrative Services, presented the proposed changes to Policy J-6.8.1. The policy was last revised in 2017, and Dr. Allen confirmed that only minor adjustments are being suggested. She also explained that staff will consider suggestions received from the Board in terms of bullying of students by staff. The changes that were recommended included adding the word ‘supportive’ to describe the learning environment, and clarifying references to events that impact a school community. Dr. Allen also reviewed several changes made to the PIP associated with this policy.

Staff responded to questions on the use of peer mediation and other efforts to address bullying. Board members also discussed ensuring that this policy addresses staff bullying or references the policies that do address that issue.

2. Revisions to School Board Policy E-3.31 Health and Safety: (10:25 PM)

Zac Pope, Emergency Manager, reviewed the recommendations for all policies related to health and safety. He explained that the current policies will be consolidated into one overarching policy on health and safety that will better align with local, state and federal regulations, and will reflect best practices. In addition, the revised policy will have eight PIPS that clarify roles and responsibilities in specific areas of health and safety, and allow greater oversight. Mr. Pope then explained how the content of each of the existing policies and PIPs are being incorporated into the revised documents. It was noted that confidential information was removed from all documents.

Board members appreciated this reorganization and thanked Mr. Pope for his work.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board