

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Capital Improvement Plan Work Session #2
May 17, 2016

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, at 7:34PM at 1426 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Emma Violand-Sánchez
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Deirdra McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Jim Meikle, Director, Maintenance Services
Ben Burgin, Acting Director, Design and Construction
Lionel White, Director, Facilities Planning
Zachary Larnard, Facilities Planner
Meg Tuccillo, Facilities
Leslie Peterson, Budget Director
Tamika Lovett-Miller, Budget analyst

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order, and Mr. Chadwick reviewed the agenda. He appreciated the input from the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC) and Chair Kelly King.

1. FY 2017-2026 Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Mr. Chadwick presented a brief overview of Superintendent's proposed CIP, and Mr. White responded to questions previously submitted by Board members. Staff shared plans for the Career Center site and how these plans will affect capacity throughout the County. Mr. White reviewed the use of relocatables and how they affect the seats generated by the options being considered for the CIP.

The group discussed how the Career Center differs from a comprehensive school, as students rotate in and out of the facility based on courses and other schedules. The facility also houses the Teen Parenting program. Also discussed was how both Arlington Mill High School and the Langston ESOL/HILT program affects high school capacity figures.

2. Staff/FAC Analysis

Staff then presented scenarios to add high school capacity. The first was to build secondary capacity at the Education Center site. Staff reviewed the need for relocatables with this option and responded to questions on boundary changes, a program for this site, and how this added capacity would impact plans for Arlington Tech and overall funding within the CIP. Ms. Peterson reviewed the financial implications of this proposal.

Scenario 2 was to accelerate elementary seats at Reed. Staff shared information on relocatables and how this scenario affects funds for other projects. Noting the highest priority is high school seats, the Board recognized the need to focus on projects that address this. It was also noted that adding seats at the Education Center is more costly than some options. Mr. Chadwick agreed with prioritizing high school seats and recognized the challenge of balancing needs while planning future capacity at other levels. He reminded the Board that the CIP is revisited regularly and is adjusted to meet changing needs.

The group discussed Arlington Tech and community interest and support for the program. Mr. Lander reiterated the importance of instructional considerations when planning projects. The group identified high school redesign and the need to ensure full utilization of facilities as topics for further discussion. Additional consideration of the Career Center will include how scenarios affect space, seats added, and costs. Also discussed were leasing space for Arlington Community School to free the Fenwick building for other use, and costs of converting leased space to classrooms. Dr. Kanninen believes that Arlington Tech will draw students and supported accommodating all interested students. She agreed that the Career Center will need to move forward in parallel with another project to provide needed high school capacity. The group also briefly discussed elementary capacity.

CIP Scenarios

Ms. Peterson presented financial information for three options: The Superintendent's Proposed CIP; the Proposed CIP with renovation of the Education Center added, and the proposed CIP with acceleration of the new elementary school at Reed.

Ms. Peterson also presented financial information outlining the impact of five additional scenarios submitted by the Board, focusing mainly on high school capacity. This information included how the scenarios affect Bond funding and other proposed projects. The group discussed the options and Board members were especially interested in looking at scenarios that add capacity at the Education Center. Other topics discussed were how these scenarios affect elementary capacity, whether any options eliminate the need for high school boundary refinements, and how all options would affect debt capacity.

Mr. Meikle then explained how elementary capacity needs were analyzed. He confirmed that no strong priorities were identified, so sites were assessed and ranked based on several factors. Schools that were identified for further analysis were Arlington Traditional, Arlington Science Focus, Glebe, Jamestown and Nottingham. Mr. White then reviewed how moving the all Montessori classes to Patrick Henry would affect seat deficits

throughout the County. He also reviewed data on Washington-Lee enrollment and how it might be affected by boundary changes and enrollment at Arlington Tech.

Ms. King shared FAC thoughts on projections for elementary seat needs and how use of the Reed site could ease crowding. The FAC also looked at how eliminating choice at Key and Claremont might affect capacity, and where a boundary for a neighborhood school at Reed might be. An additional option considered by the FAC was using Reed for all prekindergarten classrooms. Ms. King shared challenges with the Reed facility as is, and confirmed the FAC will continue to look at options there.

3. School Board Discussion

Summarizing the discussion, Mr. Chadwick reviewed direction heard from the Board. The CIP should prioritize high school seats adding as much capacity as possible in the first two years. The Board asked for further study of options to add capacity at the Education Center. This site should be considered for renovation or replacement, and could house a program or a school. The Board supports looking at boundary adjustments to help relieve crowding at Washington-Lee, and suggests early and ongoing communications about options, so families have time to adjust to changes. The Board also recognizes the need to begin a visioning process for high school redesign, taking into account changes being implemented by the Commonwealth. Mr. Chadwick noted that the CIP can include funding for secondary seats to be determined, which allows more time for a process to identify where those seats should be added. The Board also is interested in including some consideration of elementary capacity, including options for the Reed facility.

Board members appreciated this approach, and stressed the importance of good communications. It was confirmed that the Board is prioritizing high school capacity, wants to look at options for Reed and will deliberately analyze and consider boundary changes. Dr. Violand-Sánchez confirmed that the Board will continue to work with the County to consider County-owned or private property they may become available to the Schools. The Board recognized the challenge to staff of managing numerous projects, and thanked staff and the FAC for their collaboration in this process.

The meeting adjourned 10:15 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board