

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Work Session on the PreK-12 Instructional Program Pathways  
June 11, 2019

**Item C-1-c**

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at 7:06 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

**Present were:**

Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Barbara Kanninen, Member  
Monique O’Grady, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning  
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order and announced that Ms. Talento was on medical leave, so could not attend the meeting, and Ms. Van Doren was unable to attend as she was out of town.

History and Rationale

Dr. Murphy outlined the history and rationale for the development of the Instructional Program Pathways (IPP). He reviewed enrollment changes over the years and adjustments made to accommodate these changes. He explained that the IPP will help APS plan for future growth and provide students with options. He also noted as new schools and programs will be opening in the fall, the IPP will help articulate the programs and options that are available now and in the future.

Role of the PreK-12 Instructional Program Pathways

After reviewing documents that informed the development of this framework, Dr. Natrass confirmed that the IPP will help guide long-term planning. She noted that this work supports the Strategic Plan goals, and key objectives are to define the elements of options schools and programs, and to develop a vision for PreK–12 articulation. She then described features of the IPP and explained how it will inform decisions, the opening of new schools, and boundary processes.

Teaching and Learning

The draft framework was developed with input and feedback from staff, advisory groups, schools, and families. Dr. Natrass described the vision and goals that guide the work of the Department of Teaching and Learning and how the Teaching and Learning Framework informs the IPP. She also explained how options and programs will be considered as they tie in to this work. She then responded to questions on how the IPP relates to current programs. The group also discussed the concept of entry points to the different program pathways and how the IPP will help families understand their options.

### Proposed Definition of Options

Dr. Natrass shared the proposed definition of options schools and programs that was developed with input from the stakeholders and staff. She highlighted key elements of options and shared an example of an option program. The group briefly discussed aspects of the definition and how it will inform families of what they can expect for the different choices.

### Data Considered

After reviewing neighborhood schools with options that have been created and the benefits of these options, Dr. Natrass shared data considered in developing the framework. Data on moving to a centralized application process for H-B Woodlawn and Arlington Tech indicates that it has increased diversity at these programs. Results from surveys taken in 2017 and 2019 were also shared, and Dr. Natrass summarized the findings related to family preferences on school/program options. Trends show that families prefer more neighborhood schools at the elementary level and more options schools for secondary students. Data on actual enrollment in neighborhood and options schools was also shared.

The group discussed the survey data. Board members were interested in student participation in the surveys, and staff agreed to provide data on that topic. The group also discussed why centralized applications affected diversity as well as challenges in balancing diversity, and looked forward to future data.

Ms. Stengle then reviewed current enrollment in neighborhood schools, options schools and other programs. The group briefly discussed how the current waiver process may affect data. Data was also shared on applications to option programs in 2018-19 and for the upcoming school year. Staff also shared results from the questionnaires on the types of new programs of interest to families.

### Potential Instructional Models

Dr. Natrass described several instructional models considered and proposed new options in the Prek-12 IPP framework. She also explained how these new models could fit with current schools and programs. Responding to questions, she described the proposed stand-alone elementary IB program. The group briefly discussed how decisions will be made on adding new programs, and how new programs might affect current programs. Ms. Stengle then presented the September 2018 enrollment in current schools and programs, and how the proposed IPP could change the balance in neighborhood schools and options. The group briefly discussed how this proposal relates to additional capacity already being added to accommodate enrollment growth.

### Policy and Implementation Implications

Ms. Stengle presented policy implications for the preK-12 IPP, outlining actions needed, including how boundaries will be considered in this process. She also summarized future considerations for implementation of the initiative, such as implications related to transportation, sibling preference, communications, admissions and locations of programs.

### Closing Remarks

Board members appreciated the information presented and recognized the value of options to help balance diversity and enrollment. The Board looked forward to additional information to help inform decisions. There was a brief discussion of how to move forward with the IPP and if it should be considered in plans for Arlington Tech. Also discussed were locations for proposed options, how options may affect current schools and programs, and how option schools fit into capacity planning. Mr. Goldstein was interested in more specific recommendations and a timeline for the IPP. Staff noted that the IPP will help with development of the 2021-30 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and other plans to address growth. Dr. Murphy spoke to previous challenges faced when capacity was added without a specific plan for the seats. He noted that the IPP provides advanced thinking about programs, articulation, and future decision-making. The group discussed how to move forward and what additional information is needed. Dr. Kanninen suggested developing a policy that defines programs and options and how they are managed.

Board members thanked the staff for their work on developing this framework, and Dr. Murphy looked forward to continued conversation as APS approaches the upcoming CIP.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

#### **ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Arlington School Board