

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
September 5, 2019

**Item C-1-a**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 5, 2019, at 7:02 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Tannia Talento, Chair  
Monique O’Grady, Vice Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Member  
Barbara Kanninen, Member  
Nancy Van Doren, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent  
Dr. Jeannette Allen, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Catherine Ashby, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Dan Redding, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Terri Carson, Director of Finance  
Tyrone Byrd, Director of Secondary Education, Teaching and Learning  
Wendy Pilch, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education

**A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE**

**B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:**

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

Paul Ferguson, Clerk of the Court for Arlington County, swore in Ms. Cintia Johnson as Interim Superintendent. Mr. Goldstein, joined by Jamestown Principal Michelle McCarthy and Arlington County Fire Fighter Jamie Jill, recognized teacher Jaimie Peterson for her heroic efforts in the Jamestown cafeteria last spring. Ms. O’Grady then recognized Mary Beth Donnelly for being selected as the 2019 Virginia History Teacher of the Year.

3. Announcements

- *September 10, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room*

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- *September 17, 2019 Closed Meeting, 5 PM, School Board Conference Room*
- *September 18, 2019 ACI Meeting and Reception, 6:30 PM, Rms. 254-256*

Ms. Talento provided an update on the Superintendent search process and timeline, reiterating the School Board's focus on hiring a new superintendent by September of 2020. She also announced National Suicide Prevention Week, and shared information about resources available on suicide prevention.

Mr. Goldstein shared information about activities and events at his liaison schools including Kenmore, Wakefield, and Barcroft.

#### 4. Interim Superintendent's Announcements, Updates and First Day Report

Ms. Johnson welcomed all students, families and staff back to school and looked forward to a great year. She commented on efforts to ensure student safety, highlighted the new online verification process, and announced upcoming events. She then reported on the first day of school, thanking staff and celebrating the opening of 5 new schools/programs, and confirming first day enrollment was 27,996 students. After presenting a transportation services update, she shared a video of first day activities and confirmed her goal is to visit the 42 schools and programs in 42 days.

Ms. Van Doren shared highlights from the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, noting that there are vacancies for elementary, middle and high school representatives. She appreciated staff for their tremendous work to provide transportation and address issues, encouraged parents to be patient, and explained how parents can help with addressing their concerns.

Ms. O'Grady appreciated the excitement at her first day visits to liaison schools, and encouraged parents to participate in the PTA. She also appreciated the community members and staff who worked on the new schools and programs.

#### C. **CONSENT AGENDA:** (7:53 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board concerning item C-9 amendment of School Board Policy G.3.2.4 Leave, thanking the Board for working to address the full-time release issue, and appreciating their strong support for staff and students:

*Leslie Stockton*, Kenmore teacher  
*Ingrid Gant*, AEA president

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

*Melissa Schwaber*, Claremont and Gunston parent: concerning the revision to School Board Policy J-8.3.1 School Health Services, commenting on issues for students who use insulin pumps and how those issues area currently being handled.

Ms. Van Doren 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, 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. June 18, 2019 School Board Meeting
  - b. July 31, 2019 School Board Policy Subcommittee
  - c. August 26, 2019 Committee of the Whole and Closed Meeting
  
2. Personnel Actions:  
  
P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL  
4 Appointments  
1 Change In Position/Salary  
  
T-SCALE PERSONNEL  
153 Appointments  
5 Resignations  
2 Retirements  
  
A-SCALE PERSONNEL  
29 Appointments  
4 Changes In Position/Salary  
1 Resignation  
  
SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL  
14 Appointments  
12 Changes In Position/Salary  
4 Resignations
  
3. Appointment of Co-Chair of Joint Facilities Advisory Council
4. Temporary Easement at Gunston Middle School
5. Revision of School Board Policy J-8.3.1 School Health Services
6. Authorization of Signatures in the Absence of the Superintendent
7. Appointments to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs
8. Appointment to the Career Center Expansion BLPC
9. Proposed Amendment of School Board Policy G-3.2.4 Leave

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Kathleen McSweeney as Vice Chair of the Joint Facilities Advisory Council, and reappointed Chandra Krohl and Stacy Snyder to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs. The

Board also appointed Mr. Chip Goyette to the Career Center BLPC. Responding to a speaker, Ms. Talento noted that the School Health Policy will be revised in the next few months, and efforts will be taken to address concerns.

**D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**E. MONITORING ITEM: (8:05 PM)**

1. PreK-12 Instructional Program Pathways (IPP)

Ms. Stengle provided an overview of the process to develop the IPP, which will help APS support students and prepare for increasing enrollment. She summarized planning for new and renovated facilities such as the Education Center, and confirmed that the IPP framework will guide planning for instructional priorities as APS works on boundary processes for new schools and develops the next CIP.

Ms. Pilch described resources used to develop the IPP and staff engagement that informed this process. Katie Willet, Chair of the Teachers' Council on Instruction, described staff visioning sessions that were part of this process. Mr. Byrd then spoke to the IPP framework and how it articulates multiple pathways for student success and establishes criteria for option programs and schools. Career Center teacher Eric Healey explained how staff considered possible programs and options for inclusion in the IPP. In closing, Ms. Stengle reviewed next steps in the process through the 2021-22 school year and beyond.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

*Kenny Kraft*, Arlington Traditional School (ATS) parent: appreciating the work IPP and the importance of access to choices, noting the strength of the traditional model in place at ATS and asking that it also be listed in the IPP.

The Board discussed the IPP, including its documentation, how frequently it will be updated, and how the Board and community will learn about changes. Ms. Stengle explained that since this is a new process that looks at all school levels, plans are still evolving. Staff confirmed the IPP will provide flexibility and will be revised to meet needs or requirements such as new Strategic Plan goals and state requirements. The group discussed possible option programs to include in the IPP, and how the process will allow input from instructional staff and the community as changes are considered.

Noting that the development of the IPP has been a long and strategic process, Board members appreciated staff efforts and looked forward to continuing work. They were particularly appreciative that it is focused on providing students with multiple pathways to success, and acknowledged the process is evolving. Board members made suggestions concerning types of programs, such as STEM, that could be included as options, and suggested clarifying the options and transfer policy to ensure that all types of programs are included, and to clearly define 'neighborhood

school' in this process. Additional suggestions included ongoing communication with the community as the plan evolves, and determining a schedule to provide monitoring updates to the Board.

**F. ACTION ITEM: (8:55 PM)**

1. Adoption of Charge to the Career Center Expansion Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC)

Mr. Chadwick summarized the proposed charge, appreciating efforts of staff and community members who have contributed to the work. After reviewing the project development process and policy guidelines, he summarized the draft charge for the Career Center Expansion BLPC. He also reviewed funding for the Career Center included in the last two Capital Improvement Plans, and described the project components, instructional plans, education specifications and costs.

*Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the Charge to the Career Center Expansion Building Level Planning Committee, seconded by Ms. O'Grady.*

Dr. Kanninen thanked BLPC Chair Ted Black, and looked forward to serving on the BLPC as Board liaison. Ms. Van Doren appreciated work of the Career Center Working Group and community members who contributed to the project and helped inform the charge. She appreciated the approach being taken to ensure that the building design is flexible and can adapt to future needs. Noting the complexity of the site, Ms. O'Grady appreciated the progress that has been made.

Ms. Talento called for a vote and 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.

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:10 PM)**

1. School Board 2019-2020 Action Plan

Ms. Talento presented the proposed Action plan, explaining changes that were made following discussion of the plan at a recent work session. She confirmed that hiring a Superintendent has been highlighted as the primary focus of the Board's work in this school year. Ms. Talento then summarized the other priorities, which were organized under the headings of Leadership, Operational Planning, New Policies and Policy revisions, and Focus on Student Success and Well-Being.

2. New Elementary School at Reed Final Design and Construction Contract: (9:15 PM)

Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, and VMDO Architect Wyck Knox presented the final design and construction contract for the new elementary school at the Reed site. Mr. Burgin thanked all involved in this work, reviewed the project schedule, and summarized the public engagement

process. Mr. Knox presented the final design, first reviewing the site plan and site limitations. Considerations included preserving green space, addressing storm water issues, and adding capacity. Features of the site design such as building size, onsite parking, bus and car queue space, and bike storage were also described. Mr. Knox then shared detailed information about tree impact of the project and plans to replant on the site. He also reviewed the building design, including sustainability features, floor plans and other aspects. In closing, Mr. Burgin described cost management steps taken in developing the project, the proposed budget and funding, and the next steps and staff recommendations.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

*Hans Bauman*, Chair, Reed Expansion BLPC: summarizing the BLPC's recommendations and support for the project, and specifically acknowledging the need to remove trees from the site. He also shared comments on behalf of James Schroll, Chair of the Public Facilities Review Committee, in support of the design and appreciating the thorough process followed by APS for this project.

The following speakers also addressed the Board, stating concerns about the plans at Reed, especially the removal of mature trees, the impact of the planned amphitheater on the site, and how this will negatively affect neighboring homes:

*Christopher Clarkson*, resident

*Kathleen Trainor*, resident

*Nancy Striniste*, resident

*John Kozar*, resident

*Angela Dickey*, resident

*Nancy Schell*, resident

Board members appreciated the design and work done by the BLPC. Responding to questions, staff confirmed that APS routinely replaces trees on property in coordination with County requirements and guidelines. Ms. Van Doren appreciated that the plans meet universal design guidelines, as that will allow all individuals to access the facility. Mr. Knox and Mr. Burgin responded to questions about aspects of the design and financing for the project. Dr. Kanninen spoke to the robust design process used by Arlington that considers community interests and concerns. As the liaison to this project, Ms. O'Grady understood concerns about the loss of trees, and looked forward to the upcoming community meeting to discuss the trees. Responding to a question, staff described how long the project has been underway and the negative effect that considering other site designs would have on the timeline. Additional topics briefly discussed were storm water concerns in the neighborhood and how much of the site will be closed during construction.

3. Proposed Revisions to Select School Board Policies: (10:57 PM)
  - a. C-2.1 Board/Superintendent Relationship
  - b. C-2.7 Superintendent Evaluation
  - c. D-2.32 Joint County Board and School Board Activities

d. D-9 Internal Audit

Ms. Talento briefly summarized minor adjustments that were proposed to each of these policies. She noted that Policy C-2.32 needed more significant revision than the other policies, as it had not been revised in many years. She also noted that the revisions result in policies that better reflect the Board's work.

**F. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 pm.

**ATTEST:**

---

Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

---

Tannia Talento, Chair  
Arlington School Board