

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
September 19, 2019

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 6:38 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, arrived at 8:15 PM  
Claudia Mercado, Deputy 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  
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management  
Dan Redding, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

**A. CLOSED MEETING:**

*Ms. Talento moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the appointment of Director of Counseling, Jefferson Middle School, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Mr. Reid Goldstein. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively. Ms. Van Doren was not present at the time of the vote.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

*Ms. Talento moved to certify that to the best of her 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 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Ms. Talento – Aye. Ms. Van Doren was not present at the vote.*

Ms. Talento called for a recess and the Board reconvened at 7:02 PM.

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<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.

**B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:**

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

Dulce Carrillo, Coordinator of Community Engagement, presented a recognition to eight high school student-leaders in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

3. Announcements

- *September 23, 2019 Closed Meeting and Committee of the Whole, 5 PM, School Board Conference Room*
- *September 24, 2019 Work Session on the AFSAP, 7 PM, Rooms 254-256*

Ms. Talento announced that Ms. Van Doren was in an accident in August and would join the School Board meeting later in the evening.

Ms. Talento provided an update on the Superintendent Search. The Board received three Request for Proposals (RFP) from national search firms, however they were considered non-responsive. The RFP was re-issued on September 23, 2019. The Board anticipates conducting interviews in October and November, and making a final selection on a search firm in December.

Additionally, Board members shared updates on their respective liaison schools.

4. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson spoke about Hispanic Heritage Month at APS and invited the community to the culminating event on October 18, Harvesting Dreams for Our Children. She provided an update on the Annual Online Verification Process (AOVP) and reminded families to complete this process by October 31. She encouraged the community to visit the Engage with APS! Webpage to stay current on School Board initiatives and to learn about community engagement opportunities. Ms. Peterson shared that about 65% of families had completed the application process for Free and Reduced Priced Meals and spoke about ways to access the application. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Chadwick thanked families for their patience with Transportation issues during the first weeks of schools.

Lastly, Ms. Johnson shared a summary about upcoming events around the school system.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:45 PM)**

*Ms. O'Grady moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, and Ms.*

Talento voting affirmatively. Ms. Van Doren was not present at the vote. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
  - a. July 1, 2019 School Board Meeting and Organizational Meeting
  - b. July 30, 2019 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
  - c. August 13, 2019 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting
  - d. September 10, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting
  
2. Personnel Actions:  
  
P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL  
1 Appointment  
2 Changes In Position/Salary  
1 Retirement  
  
T-SCALE PERSONNEL  
17 Appointments  
1 Resignation  
1 Retirement  
  
A-SCALE PERSONNEL  
10 Appointments  
1 Resignation  
  
SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL  
7 Appointments  
2 Changes In Position/Salary  
1 Resignation  
2 Retirements
  
3. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy C-2.1 Board/Superintendent Relationship
  
4. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy C-2.7 Superintendent Evaluation
  
5. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy D-2.32 Joint County Board and School Board Activities
  
6. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy D-9 Internal Audit
  
7. Appointments to the Career Center Expansion Building Level Planning Committee
  
8. Appointment of Chair, Joint Facilities Advisory Council

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Dante Hicks as Director of Counseling at Jefferson Middle School. They also appointed members to the

Career Center Expansion Building Level Planning Committee. The Board also adopted revisions to four School Board Policies.

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

**E. MONITORING ITEM: (7:49 PM)**

1. Health and Physical Education Program Update

Ms. Debbie DeFranco, Supervisor, Health and Physical Education (HPE) provided a brief overview of the programs and services provided, including an update on the middle school dive team. She shared about the relationship of HPE to the Strategic Plan and to support Performance Objectives six, seven and fifteen. She also spoke about program evaluation recommendations to improve the HPE.

The Board discussed data on the Your Voice Matters survey and other data for comparison. They also discussed the changes to the middle school dive program.

**F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:15 PM)**

1. School Board 2019-2020 Action Plan

Ms. Talento summarized the proposed Action Plan with the major areas of focus being Leadership, Operational Planning, New Policies & Policy Revisions, and Focus on Student Success and Well Being.

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve the School Board 2019-2020 Action Plan, 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.*

2. New Elementary School at Reed Final Design and Construction Contract:

Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, briefly reviewed the Reed final design, site plan and project funding. He updated the Board on recent community meetings that discussed the impact of tree removal.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

*Audrey Clement, independent candidate for County Board: concerns about possible flooding due to tree removal.*

*Vanessa Guest, Leeway Overlee Civic Association, BLPC representative: support the final design*

*Nancy Schell, resident, unhappy with final design and removal of trees.*

*Joshua Handler, Urban Forestry Commission member and parent, proposed changes to the final design to save more trees.*

The Board discussed the impact of tree removal, incorporation of the universal design and budget allocation. Board members expressed their gratitude to staff and community members for working together in this project.

*Ms. O’Grady made the following motion:*

*Having carefully reviewed the extensive input from the BLPC, PFRC, civic association leaders and other stakeholders, and the Interim Superintendent’s recommendation, I move that the School Board approve the final design as generally described in Exhibits A through E in the materials from the September 19, 2019 School Board meeting.*

*By approving Exhibits A through E the School Board approves the following aspects of the project:*

- *Reaffirm basic project criteria to create a new neighborhood elementary school with an attendance zone for a minimum capacity of 725 seats, to be completed in time for start of school September 2021;*
- *Site plan and development conditions of the approved Use Permit. The School Board authorizes the Chair to sign related legal instruments, such as easements, vacations, and dedications, as may be required to comply with conditions of the Use Permit, provided such instruments were first reviewed and approved as to form by APS legal counsel;*
- *Final design for the project as generally described in Exhibits A through D;*
- *Total project budget and funding available as described in Exhibit E;*
- *Construction contract award to Gilbane Building Company in the amount of \$42,617,291; and*
- *Transfer of \$2.75 million from the Capital Reserve to the project funding for APS’ contribution for the ACG/APS jointly funded items.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

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. Career Center Expansion Pre-Construction Phase Construction Management at-Risk Contract

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design & Construction, recommended that the School Board approve the contract award for Phase 1: Pre-Construction Services to Gilbane Building Company in the amount of \$664,850. This recommendation

moves forward two FY 2019-28 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects at the Career Center site to add capacity to the Career Center and Arlington Tech.

2. School Board's FY 2021 Budget Direction:

Ms. Talento reviewed the proposed School Board's FY 2021 Budget Direction, which in part, directs the Interim Superintendent to prepare an FY 2021 budget that maintains the almost 28,000-student school system, focuses on supporting staff, and emphasizes the School Board's three top priorities:

- increased achievement for all reporting groups that shows progress toward eliminating the opportunity gap,
- improved mental health measures and access to mental health resources, and
- all students can identify at least one school-based adult who supports and encourages their academic and personal growth.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

*Josh Folb*, Compensation Committee, Arlington Education Association: encouraged the Board to include a cost of living and step increase in the FY 2021 Budget.

The School Board discussed employee compensation including Board salary increase, and briefly discussed a compensation study.

3. Proposed Revision to School Board Policy B-2.1.33 School Liaison:

Ms. Talento proposed changes to School Board Policy B-2.1.33 School Liaison to align the policy with current APS practices and related policies, clarify liaison assignments, and create a Policy Implementation Procedure for this policy.

4. Nomination of Barbara Kanninen for Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Northeast Regional Chair:

The School Board nominated Dr. Kanninen for the Virginia School Boards Association Northeast Regional Chair for a two-year term. The VSBA, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training and services.

Board members expressed their support of Dr. Kanninen's nomination.

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board nominate Dr. Kanninen for the VSBA Northeast Regional Chair*, 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.

**F. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Tannia Talento, Chair  
Arlington School Board