

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and Work Session on 2019-20 Planning Projects
August 27, 2019

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 6:02 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

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:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Erin Wales-Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Catherine Ashby, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Julia Burgos, Chief of Staff
Ty Byrd, Director, Secondary Education
Wendy Pilch, Supervisor, Early Childhood and Elementary Education
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

A. Call to Order and Convene in Closed Meeting

Ms. Talento moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to discuss plans related to the security of a public facility and the safety of persons using such facility, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (19), seconded by Ms. O’Grady, and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0 with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

B. Reconvene in Open Meeting

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:05 and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Ms. Talento moves 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 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.

C. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Student Transfer Appeal SY20-02
Ms. Talento moved that in the case of Student appeal SY20-02, the Board grant the appeal, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Mr. Goldstein opposing.

2. Student Transfer Appeal SY20-03
Ms. Talento moved that in the case of Student appeal SY20-03, the Board grant the appeal, seconded by Ms. O’Grady. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2 with Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Dr. Kanninen and Mr. Goldstein opposing.

D. WORK SESSION

Ms. Talento welcomed the participants, and Dr. Murphy provided an overview of the work session.

Leadership - Superintendent Search

Ms. Talento provided a brief description of the plans and timeline for the search for a new superintendent. She confirmed that Cintia Johnson will serve as Interim Superintendent, and an outside firm will be hired to manage the superintendent search.

New Policies and Policy Revisions

Ms. Burgos summarized plans to review and update approximately 65 School Board Policies and associated Policy Improvement Procedures. She shared information about the policy review process followed by the School Board Policy Subcommittee in coordination with the staff Policy Review Team. She also described the community engagement process and outlined information that will be posted on the APS website Engage page.

FY 21 Budget

Ms. Peterson described the budget development process, describing budget drivers such as enrollment, compensation, debt service and ongoing initiatives. She explained that the budget development will include strategic planning and will incorporate results from the budget and compensation studies. She then reviewed the budget development timeline.

FY 21-30 Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Peterson next described the development of the Capital improvement Plan (CIP) and data that informs the CIP. She described the Arlington Facilities and Student

Accommodation Plan (AFSAP) and Ms. Stengle provided additional detail about the AFSAP. She also reviewed the timeline for development of the CIP.

Instructional Program Pathways, Capital Improvement Plan priorities, Immersion and Preparation for 2021-22 Boundaries

Ms. Stengle described the upcoming elementary boundary process that will prepare for opening a new elementary school at the Reed site in 2021. She confirmed that discussion on how to approach boundaries is underway, and elementary school leaders and Teaching and Learning staff have been part of the conversation. Some options that might be considered are boundary changes and program moves, and she confirmed community engagement will be part of the process.

Ms. Pilch shared priorities identified by administrators, including balancing demographics as much as possible, adhering to walk zones, and creating efficiencies. There was also support for keeping VPI classes in neighborhood schools and expanding pre-K opportunities. Ms. Pilch and Ms. Johnson spoke to APS's commitment to immersion and efforts to maintain the integrity of that program. Ms. Johnson noted the importance of having native Spanish speaking students in immersion classrooms, and staff is considering placing the immersion program in locations that are more easily accessed by Spanish speaking children. Ms. Pilch also spoke to the importance of limiting the length of bus rides for pre-K students.

Ms. Stengle then described planning for secondary capacity. She outlined ideas for secondary programs, staffing and locations, including use of the repurposed Education Center space. She also reviewed the timeline for operational planning for new boundaries through Fall of 2020. Ms. Stengle confirmed planning unit data will be shared for community input, and she commented on how useful that was in the last boundary process.

2019-20 School Board Action Plan

Ms. Talento presented the draft 2019-2020 Action Plan. Areas of focus include leadership actions such as hiring a superintendent, chief diversity officer and partnership coordinator; operational planning for school facilities and boundaries, and new policies and policy revisions. Ms. Talento confirmed that the Board's work will focus on three objectives of the Strategic Plan that support student success and well-being. Additional work will include tuning of performance objectives, monitoring academic progress, and adopting the budget.

Discussion

Staff responded to questions, clarifying terms and processes referenced in the presentation. Ms. Burgos described the policy review process and opportunities for community input. The group recognized that some of the instructional policies to be reviewed relate directly to the Board's objectives, and agreed to highlight this work. Ms. Peterson explained data used to develop the budget forecast and how it is updated as more information becomes available. Board members discussed revisions to the Action Plan related to the budget forecast, and how revising the compensation policy could affect the budget.

Mr. Goldstein stated concerns about the purpose of the IPP, and asked whether it should be adopted by the Board. Dr. Murphy described that the IPP was developed to provide a variety of learning opportunities as well as inform capacity planning. Board members appreciated that the IPP provides flexibility, and suggested considering it a planning document like the AFSAP. The group agreed work is still needed to systemize the IPP so it can be most useful, and they looked forward to improvements.

Timing of the upcoming boundary process was discussed and Ms. Stengle reassured the Board that it is a manageable schedule. She also noted the importance of using the most up-to-date information to inform the process. The group acknowledged challenges in developing accurate projections and brainstormed about different approaches to addressing capacity. Other topics discussed included how the IPP can inform this work and approaches to balancing demographics. Ms. Stengle described plans for community engagement, confirming all topics will be shared for feedback. Also discussed was how plans have evolved over time and community concerns due to these changes. Moving forward, efforts will be made to ensure that the community is fully involved and informed.

The Board then discussed possible adjustments to the draft School Board action plan in terms of content and format, and agreed to continue this work to finalize the plan.

The Board members acknowledged the plan that was presented and the work done to develop it, and thanked staff for their efforts. The Board members also thanked Dr. Murphy for his work as Superintendent over the past 10 years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board