

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
November 7, 2019

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 6:42 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹ Prior to the Meeting, some Board members attended the Student Advisory Board meeting at 5:00 PM.

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
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 Assistant Principal, Williamsburg Middle School, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, M. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:53 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 just held, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening this closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren 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.

Ms. Talento called for a brief recess, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 7:03 PM.

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

¹ 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.

Also present were:

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
Tyrone Byrd, Director, Secondary Education

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

In recognition of School Psychology Awareness Week, Ms. Wendy Carria, School Psychology and Social Work Supervisor, described the work that psychologists and social workers do in APS to support students.

3. Announcements

- *November 13, 2019 Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM, School Board Conference Room*
- *November 13, 2019 Work Session on Services to Students with Special Needs, 6:30 PM, Rooms 254-256*
- *November 14, 2019 Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM and Committee of the Whole, 6 PM, School Board Conference Room*

Mr. Goldstein shared information about activities and events at his liaison schools, including at Oakridge, Long Branch and Kenmore. Ms. Talento then provided an update on the superintendent search process and announced that the CIP Direction information item was postponed to the Nov. 19 School Board meeting.

4. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson announced the Veterans Day holiday and plans to honor veterans, and she summarized participation in the annual online verification process. She also shared highlights of the Deep Equity Training being done in APS. Mr. Redding gave a brief update on the 2019-2020 School Calendar and encouraged families and staff to participate in the online calendar survey. Ms. Johnson also shared an update on her efforts to visit 42 schools in 42 days.

Ms. Johnson then gave an update on the 2019-2020 School Board Action Plan. Mr. Redding reviewed the status of the search for a Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. Ms. Johnson described the elementary school planning process and community engagement plan currently underway, and shared updates on operational planning and on new policies and policy updates.

Ms. Talento clarified that a Joint Work Session with the County Board is planned for December 3, and the agenda is being finalized. She also noted staff is working on making paper questionnaires available to community members.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:35 PM)

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. October 3, 2019 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
 - b. October 16, 2019 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting
 - c. October 17, 2019 School Board Meeting
 - d. October 21, 2019 School Board Selection Advisory Committee Closed Meeting
 - e. October 29, 2019 School Board Selection Advisory Committee Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL
3 Appointments
2 Classification Specification Requests:
 Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
 Budget Analyst
2 Resignations
1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL
8 Appointments
3 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL
10 Appointments
2 Changes In Position/Salary
2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
13 Appointments
1 Change In Position/Salary
1 Resignation
3 Retirements

3. Capital Projects Status Update and Transfer

4. The Children’s School Specialized Improvements Costs

5. Appointments to the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent, the Board approved the transfer of savings on recently completed capital projects to the Capital Reserve. The Board also approved funding for specialized improvements to The Children's School, which houses the APS Integration Station Program. The Board also approved appointments to the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee and the appointment of Dr. Latisha Ellis as Assistant Principal at Williamsburg Middle School.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:36 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board concerning the lack of a Biology teacher at Langston, and advocating for a qualified teacher who can help them prepare for the Biology SOL:

Jariel Santos Nieves, Langston student
Luis Alexis Lizordi Valdez, Langston student
Jennifer Loza, Langston student

The following speakers also addressed the Board, sharing concerns about the elementary school and program move proposals that affect McKinley Elementary School and asking for better data and a more holistic approach to the process. Some speakers encouraged combining the current process with the elementary boundary process in the fall of 2020:

Jennifer Myers, McKinley parent
Nathan McQueen, McKinley parent
Terri Schwartzbeck, McKinley and Yorktown parent
Francisca Winston, McKinley parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board about the possible move of Arlington Traditional School (ATS), stating concerns about how a move would impact ATS as well as concerns that the program might be eliminated. Some speakers referenced the Instructional Program Pathways document which does not include the traditional school model:

Kenny Kraft, Arlington Traditional School PTA President and parent
Maura McKinley Tull, Arlington Traditional School parent
Marcio Silveira, Arlington Traditional School parent
Deanna Caputo, Arlington Traditional School parent
Leigh Sue, Arlington Traditional School parent
Jessica Snyder, Arlington Traditional School parent
Priscilla Sandoli, Arlington Traditional School parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Alicia Rich, Key parent and PTA President: commenting on the value that option schools provide to APS and families and stating concerns about the impact of each of the current

proposals on option schools, and encouraging the Board to be sure to include option programs in the considerations for moves.

E. MONITORING ITEM: (8:10 PM)

1. Career, Technical and Adult Education/Arlington Tech and Internships Update

Mr. Kris Martini, Director, Career, Technical and Adult Education (CTAE), presented the update. After sharing the program profile, he highlighted staffing and CTAE course offerings. He then shared three areas of good news on CTE enrollment in secondary classes, work-based learning opportunities for students, and students receiving state-approved industry credentials. Strategic Plan key performance indicators related to each of these areas were also presented. Mr. Martini also shared strategies that CTAE is undertaking to respond to recommendations from the most recent program evaluation. In closing, he summarized bright spots related to STEM instruction in elementary, middle and high schools.

Mr. Martini responded to questions, describing efforts to address opportunity gaps, and highlighting opportunities at the Career Center that provide multiple pathways for students to explore and pursue interests. He also updated the Board on efforts to add HVAC opportunities at the Career Center. Also discussed was the Program of Studies for Arlington Tech, participation of underrepresented groups in CTE courses, and data on whether students continue to pursue CTE in college. In addition, there was a brief discussion of the plans of local universities to open innovation campuses, and further disaggregation of data to strengthen counseling to improve student success.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:54 PM)

1. Career Center Expansion Educational Specifications:

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, summarized the proposed Career Center Expansion Educational Specifications. He explained revisions that have been made to the document since it was presented for Information related to the planning parameters and how spaces were determined for the program. He then summarized next steps and shared the staff recommendations.

Ms. Van Doren appreciated the revisions, and asked if universal design is specified as a principle in the design book. Staff confirmed that it was not specifically mentioned, but all projects are completed using universal design, so agreed that it should be in the document.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the Arlington Career Center Expansion Educational Specifications document dated November 6, 2019 as presented with one addition, to include the principle of Universal design in the Design Principles section. She further moved that the Board direct staff to provide

an update on the Ed Specs (highlighting any refinements) concurrent with the proposed Concept Design in March 2020.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Mr. Chambers responded to clarifying questions about how educational specifications are used, and how the Board will be informed of any refinements.

Ms. Talento then 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.

2. Hamm Middle School Change to Construction Contract and Project Funding: (9:07 PM)

Mr. Chadwick briefly summarized this item, noting one change that was made after the item was presented for Information.

In response to a comment, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Chadwick confirmed the staff commitment to continue to negotiate and work to reduce the costs as the process goes forward.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the School Board approve the following actions:

- *Approve the transfer of an additional \$3,900,000 from Capital Reserve to the Hamm Middle School project;*
- *Approve revised project funding as proposed in Exhibit A having a grand total funding available of \$43,050,000;*
- *Direct staff to pursue additional funding from Arlington County to the extent that increased costs are applicable to agreed jointly funded items.*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen, and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

3. Heights Building Change to Construction Contract and Project Funding: (9:13 PM)

Mr. Chadwick briefly summarized this item, highlighting a change that was made after the item was presented for Information.

Ms. O’Grady moved that the School Board approve the following actions:

- *Approve transfer of additional \$5,600,000 from Capital Reserve to project;*
- *Approve revised project funding as proposed in Exhibit A having grand total funding available of \$106,600,000; and*
- *Pursue additional funding from Arlington County to extent that increased costs are applicable to agreed jointly funded items.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren, and the item 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: (9:16 PM)

1. Legislative Package

Ms. Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, provided a brief update, confirming that the Montessori licensure guidelines proposed last year are moving forward. She also explained that the Virginia Department of Education has revised the standards of quality, which will positively impact funding and programs in all school divisions. Ms. Wise then reviewed the proposed legislative package, noting continuing positions as well as three new issues that have been proposed. These are mandatory reporting of misdemeanors and status offenses, decriminalizing disorderly conduct, and either a statewide or local tax on e-cigarettes and vaping materials, that can be dedicated to education. In closing, she acknowledged the support that Arlington receives from their legislators.

Board members thanked Ms. Wise for her work. Ms. Van Doren shared background information on the disorderly conduct and mandatory reporting items, and she looked forward to advancing these initiatives. She also recommended adding dyslexia funding to the next legislative package, commenting on the connection between dyslexia and criminal behavior. Additional topics of discussion were the plans to address staffing to provide more support to English language learners, support for in-state tuition for students, and dual-enrollment credit issues. Dr. Kanninen commented on the importance of the additional funding that Ms. Wise referenced, and summarized feedback that was provided for the package.

2. Middle School and High School Program of Studies: (9:47 PM)

Mr. Byrd presented the proposed middle and high school Programs of Studies (POS), describing the purpose of the documents and the decision-making process on what courses to offer. The POS is focused on expanding curricular pathways, improving consistency of access, and responding to student interest. Mr. Byrd described the additions and deletions recommended for middle school and high school, providing the rationale for these changes. He then summarized possible budgetary impact of the proposed changes, noting that the costs presented were estimates. He highlighted benefits of the proposed high school courses and shared information about efforts to address middle school rigor. This will include providing opportunities for students to take advanced courses in several areas and the development of a professional learning framework for staff to strengthen instruction. He also spoke to rigor in high school, sharing information about intensified classes available and data on student participation in those classes.

Responding to questions, Mr. Byrd explained how decisions are made to expand pilot courses and how course additions are selected. The Board discussed how

staffing is managed for additional courses, and alternatives, such as online courses, that are available if a course cannot be offered on site due to low enrollment. Some Board members asked that the POS documents clearly state the possibility that courses may not be offered if there is insufficient enrollment or funding. There was significant discussion of the increased staffing needs and estimated costs for the proposed additions, and some Board members were very concerned about approving these additions before the SY 2021 budget is developed. Staff agreed to provide more information on costs prior to Board action on this item. Also discussed was the timing needed for POS approval to prepare for the upcoming course selection process. The group discussed the curriculum, course offerings, and requirements at Arlington Tech and changes that have occurred there without Board action. Mr. Byrd also agreed to provide the Board additional information about student enrollment in the storytelling course that was piloted this year.

3. ~~FY 2021-2030 Capital Improvement Plan Direction~~: REMOVED FROM AGENDA

F. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board