

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting  
November 19, 2019

**Item C-1-a**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 19, 2019, at 5:32 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  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

**Also present were:**

Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent  
Dan Redding, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

**A. CLOSED MEETING #1:**

Ms. Talento announced that Ms. Van Doren was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

*Ms. Talento moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the appointment of Principal, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Program as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), 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.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 5:54 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. 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. Talento called for a brief recess, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 6:02 PM.

**Also present were:**

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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.

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
Jeannette Allen, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Catherine Ashby, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Tyrone Byrd, Director, Secondary Education  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Dan Redding, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Jason Mathewson, Video Systems Specialists, Information Services  
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management  
Wendy Pilch, Director, Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
Zachary Pope, Emergency Manager

## **CLOSED MEETING #2:**

Dr. Kanninen arrived at 6:03 PM.

*Ms. Talento moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting for discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to public safety as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(19), seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The motion was adopted in a vote 3 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady, and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:42 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. 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. Talento called for a recess, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 7:01 PM.

## **B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:**

1. Call to Order and Presentation of the Colors

Ms. Talento called the meeting to order and announced that Ms. Van Doren was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

2. Recognitions

Mr. Goldstein, as the liaison, introduced Maureen Nesselrode, Campbell Elementary School Principal, and Kristina Kyles Smith, Regional Director from Expeditionary Learning (EL) Education, to recognize Campbell for becoming

an EL credentialed school under an exemplary model that focuses on student achievement.

Ms. Ingrid Gant, President, Arlington Education Association, presented a proclamation that November 19 will be recognized as Education Support Professionals Day as part of American Education Week.

3. Announcements

- *November 20-22, 2019 Virginia School Boards Association Annual Convention, Williamsburg, VA*
- *November 25, 2019, Closed Meeting, School Board Selection Advisory Committee, 7:30 PM, School Board Conference Room*
- *December 3, 2019 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session, 6:30 PM, County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201*

Ms. Talento announced that the School Board would award a contract to a search firm to assist with the new superintendent search in early December.

4. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson announced that the American Education Week was the week of November 18. She encouraged student participation in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2020 Literary & Visual Arts Contest and community feedback on the 2020-21 school year calendar survey. In addition, she spoke briefly about inclement weather procedures.

Ms. Johnson then gave an update on the 2019-2020 School Board Action Plan, which included the status on the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer vacancy, the 2020 Your Voice Matters Survey, elementary planning for 2021 and the FY 2021 Budget.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:46 PM)**

*Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. O'Grady. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:*

1. Minutes:
  - a. October 22, 2019 Work Session on English Learners Program Evaluation
  - b. November 4, 2019 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL  
1 Change in Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

3 Appointments

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

3 Appointments

6 Changes In Position/Salary

3 Resignations

1 Retirement

3. Reappointment to the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent, the Board reappointed Cristina Diaz-Torres to the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission and that Shana Curtis was appointed Principal of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Program.

**D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:55 PM)**

The following speakers addressed the Board opposing the elementary planning for 2021 proposal to move Arlington Traditional Elementary School to another location:

*Joseph-Leitmann-Santa Cruz, ATS parent*

*Zaileen Rahim, ATS parent*

*Katarina Lesandric, ATS parent*

*Paula Eguino Medina, parent*

*Yassmina Hassoun, ATS parent*

*Yoanna Zavera, ATS parent*

In addition, the following speakers addressed the Board:

*Melanie Mickelson-Graham, ATS parent: elementary planning for 2021 community survey*

*Kelly Gisselman, McKinley parent: opposing the elementary planning for 2021 proposal to move McKinley Elementary School*

**E. MONITORING ITEM: (8:41 PM)**

1. Graduation Taskforce Update

Dr. Laura Newton, Director, Student Services, presented an update on the Graduation Taskforce, sharing that the APS on-time graduation rate is 92.5%, reviewing data related to different student subgroups, identifying strategic plan objectives, and speaking about the progress, strategies, and support toward eliminating opportunity gaps. In addition, former Career Center student Hailey

Rodriguez spoke about her experience as an immigrant student and the support she received to graduate.

The Board discussed some of the data presented, the Virginia Profile of a Graduate, and finding different opportunities and resources for students.

**F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:41 PM)**

1. 2020 Legislative Package

Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison for APS, summarized the proposed legislative package, noting an edit since this item was presented for information that includes adding that sales tax for e-cigarettes and vaping be dedicated to public education.

The Board conversed about the process of the legislation timeline.

*Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the 2020 Legislative Package as presented, seconded by Ms. O’Grady. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively.*

2. Middle and High School Program of Studies:

Mr. Byrd reviewed the 2020-21 Secondary Program of studies which informs students, family members, and postsecondary institutions of course offerings at APS, supports the strategic plan, and aligns to the Virginia Department of Education Standards of Learning and Graduation Requirements. He informed the Board about course changes and deletions, and budgetary considerations.

Board members inquired about the progress of the storytelling course. In addition, the Board discussed staffing needs, class size and enrollment, curriculum rigor, Arlington Tech, and other courses offerings. The Board discussed the implications of delaying acting on this item.

Dr. Kanninen made a motion to delay the vote on the Middle and High School Program of Studies, seconded by Mr. Goldstein, which was subsequently withdrawn by Dr. Kanninen.

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

*I move that the Board approve the changes to the Middle and High School Program of Studies as presented, and as listed in the documents accompanying the presentation. I further move that the following revisions be included in the Program of Studies document:*

*First, the paragraph titled Alternative Course Selections on the Program Planning page of the POS will be amended to read:*

*All courses listed in the Program of Studies are available for student requests. When completing the final course schedules, courses that have fewer than 15 students may not be offered based on student interest and budget considerations. Therefore, proper planning also includes consideration of alternative course selections. Scheduling conflicts may necessitate scheduling alternative course selections. If a course is cancelled at the home school, a student may enroll in the course at another school in the county provided space is available. Transportation may need to be provided by the parent. Every effort will be made to accommodate student interests and needs when courses are canceled, or conflicts occur. In some cases, additional budget considerations may require that courses may not be offered in a given year and impacted students should select an alternative course. Additionally, courses with insufficient enrollment may be offered through distance or online learning.*

*Second, the following statement will be added to the introductory statement for each curricular area:*

*Note: Courses that have fewer than 15 students may not be offered based on student interest and budget considerations. In some cases, additional budget considerations may require that courses may not be offered in a given year and impacted students should select an alternative course. Additionally, courses with insufficient enrollment may be offered through distance or online learning.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Talento.

Ms. Talento called for a vote on the motion it was defeated in a vote of 2 – 2, with Ms. O’Grady and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively, and Mr. Goldstein and Dr. Kanninen opposing.

## **G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:31 PM)**

### **1. Retirement of Select School Board Policies**

Mr. Pope proposed that the Board retire School Board Policies E-2 Emergency and Disaster Planning, E-2.1 School Safety Audits and Security, E-2.2 Threat Assessment Team, and I-10.31 Counseling Crisis Management due to the restructuring of policies, as the content was incorporated into School Board Policy E-3.31 Health and Safety and associated policy implementation procedures.

Ms. Talento discussed her concerns related to the threat assessment program and compliance.

### **2. FY 2021-2030 Capital Improvement Plan Direction:**

Mr. Chadwick presented the Direction for FY 2021-2030 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) directing the Interim Superintendent to address and balance capacity needs as specifically outlined in the School Board’s FY 2021-2030 CIP Direction

dated November 19, 2019. The direction supports the School Board priorities and the 2018-24 Strategic Plan.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

*Monica Day*, immersion teacher, elementary school boundaries

The Board discussed the proposed sites for design studies and editing the language of the direction for clarity.

**F. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Tannia Talento, Chair  
Arlington School Board