

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
January 23, 2020

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 5:46 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Tannia Talento, Chair
Monique O’Grady, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member (arr. 7:00 PM)
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent
Dan Redding, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
John Cafferky, Attorney

A. CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Talento moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider Staff Grievance SY 20-01 and Staff Grievance SY 20-02; and to consider the appointments of Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations; Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Interim Director of Special Education – Elementary; and Interim Director of Special Education – Secondary as authorized by Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), 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. Ms. Van Doren was not present at the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:55 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 7:04 PM.

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.

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

Also present were:

Dr. Jeannette Allen, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Catherine Ashby, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

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

Dawn Smith, Department of School & Community Relations, introduced the Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary and Visual Arts contest winners.

3. Announcements

- *January 25, 2020, School Board Retreat, 10 AM – 2:30 PM, Phoebe Hall Knipling Outdoor Lab, 5554 Beverleys Mill Road, Broad Run, VA 20137*
- *January 28, 2020, ACI Work Session, 6:00 PM, Rooms 254-256-258*
- *January 30, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting, 5-7 PM, School Board Conference Room*
- *January 30, 2020, Public Hearing on Elementary Boundary Changes and Program Moves, 7 PM, Rooms 254-256-258*

Mr. Goldstein shared highlights from a successful fundraiser for Special Olympics held at Kenmore Middle School. Dr. Kanninen celebrated students who were recognized at the recent CCPTA Reflections Ceremony, and appreciated student participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

Ms. Talento announced that Arlington Community High School's alternative accreditation plan was approved and congratulated the staff and students. She thanked all principals for their work in recognition of Principal Appreciation Week. She then provided an update on the superintendent search and encouraged all to participate in the community forums being held as part of this process.

4. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson welcomed Ms. Loft and Mr. Gregory to the Executive Leadership Team and appreciated the work and commitment of principals in recognition of Principal Appreciation Week. She introduced two students who talked about having a trusted adult they can reach out to at school. After announcing upcoming activities and events, Ms. Johnson provided updates on access to

report cards and the Your Voice Matters survey. In closing, she gave an update on progress on the 2019-2020 School Board Action Plan.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:48 PM)

Dr. Kanninen 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. ~~December 19, 2019 School Board Meeting~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
 - b. January 14, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

E-SCALE PERSONNEL
4 Changes In Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL
1 Appointment
4 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL
5 Appointments
2 Changes In Position/Salary

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
2 Appointments
5 Changes In Position/Salary
1 Retirement
1 Termination

3. Yorktown High School/Greenbrier Park Land Exchange

4. Amendments to School Board policy I-7.2.3.34 Communication – Student Progress and Grading

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Catherine Ashby as Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations; Dan Redding as Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Dr. Kelly Krug Interim Director of Special Education – Elementary; and Heather Rothenbuescher Interim Director of Special Education – Secondary.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:55 PM)²

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Josh Folb, Chair, Arlington Education Association Compensation Committee: commenting on the Code of Virginia and the importance of providing sufficient funding for a needs-based budget, to include funding for staff compensation.

Symone Walker, NAACP Education Committee: asking for Board endorsement of House Bill 332 for reading diagnostic tests and intervention and to add support for this bill to the legislative package.

Ryann Divitian, Key parent: asking for more information about how the proposed elementary moves will affect the immersion program and encouraging the Board to work with the community to address concerns and make the best decision for all students.

Todd Kohr, Ashlawn parent: recognizing capacity challenges and appreciating staff and Board work to address them; encouraging a decision that minimizes changes.

E. MONITORING ITEM: (8:06 PM)

1. Student Rights, Discipline, and School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding (SRO MOU) Update

After recognizing retiring School Resource Officer Jackie Pagan, Dr. Allen was joined by Captain Wayne Vincent and Lieutenant Elesio Pilco of the SRO Unit to present the update. Dr. Allen and Capt. Vincent reviewed the MOU between Arlington Police and APS, noting key elements of the MOU and how it guides the work of the SROs. Ms. Allen also provided an update on the Know Your Rights brochure that educates students about their rights and promotes active engagement and civic responsibility.

Lt. Pilco shared highlights of the SRO efforts in the schools, explaining the relationship between SROs and school administrators and the importance of ongoing communication. He also shared areas of focus going forward. Lt. Pilco and Ms. Allen then described how the MOU aligns with Strategic Plan priorities in the areas of Student Well-Being and Partnerships.

Dr. Allen presented data on suspensions and offenses including offenses that must be reported to law enforcement. She also provided data on offenses referred to law enforcement, noting that the majority do not result in police action. Additional data was shared on the disposition of cases referred to the police and juvenile arrest statistics in recent years. Opportunities for improvement were reviewed related to data collection, use of resources and professional development (PD). Areas of focus

² Written comments on any Meeting Agenda item (including Citizen Comment on Non-Agenda Items) that have been submitted to the Board 'for the record' are filed in the official Meetings notebook kept in the Board Office.

for moving forward include developing a common language, expanding PD opportunities, reviewing staff allocations, and coordinating with the Commonwealth Attorney, particularly in terms of restorative justice. Dr. Allen noted legislative positions the School Board supports related to student discipline, and in closing highlighted several bright spots.

Board members appreciated the presentation and the wealth of data shared. Lt. Pilco and Dr. Allen responded to questions and the group discussed how to expand efforts to provide interventions to students who have multiple disciplinary instances. Other topics discussed were resident and non-resident juvenile arrests, the Know Your Rights brochure and how it is accessed by families, and alternatives to suspension. Dr. Allen also described the Second Chance Program and the group discussed the referral process, how participation in Second Chance affects a student's record, and other options for helping students with substance abuse issues. The group then discussed how SROs work with administrators to address concerns, and the training provided to ensure that the MOU is being followed appropriately. The group also discussed how to implement restorative practices.

F. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

G. INFORMATION ITEM: (9:51 PM)

1. School Calendar

Mr. Redding presented staff recommendations for the 2020-2021 School Calendar. He reviewed the calendar development process, noting that the calendar committee considered starting both before and after Labor Day. Three calendar options were developed and shared with the community, and based on feedback, a fourth calendar was then prepared. Mr. Redding reviewed calendar parameters that were considered, such as Code of Virginia requirements and calendars for neighboring divisions, and he confirmed that staff worked to align calendars for all APS programs and schools. He presented survey feedback received from the community, students, and staff on the proposed calendars, and highlighted additional considerations that informed calendar development. He confirmed that the Superintendent's Recommendation is Calendar 4, which starts on August 31, includes a 2-week winter break, and allows some floating professional development days for staff.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Josh Folb, member, School Calendar Committee and AEA representative: supporting the proposed calendar and the benefits it provides to staff and students.

Melissa Shwaber, Claremont parent: asking for two full teacher conference days at Claremont, to allow both classroom teachers to meet with parents.

Mr. Redding responded to questions about the request for two full conference days at Claremont. The Board discussed calendar challenges such as how APS meets the

state requirement for 180 instructional days, whether to include Inauguration Day as a holiday, and how starting earlier in the fall affects facilities preparations. Mr. Chadwick spoke to the importance of allowing sufficient time to prepare buildings for the start of school, especially for new facilities. Mr. Redding confirmed that APS plans to start developing future calendars earlier than traditionally done. Board members appreciated the presentation and looked forward to receiving some additional information related to the calendar development.

F. NEW BUSINESS: (10:40 PM)

Ms. Talento announced that there were two items for board action under new business. She also announced that Ms. Van Doren would recuse herself from these votes, as she was not able to be present during the closed meeting related to these actions.

Ms. Talento moved that in grievance no. SY20-01, the Board finds that good cause exists, and denies the relief requested, 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. Talento moved that in grievance no. SY20-02, the Board finds that good cause exists, and denies the relief requested, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board