

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Legislative Breakfast  
December 9, 2019

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board sponsored a legislative breakfast on Monday, December 9, 2019, at the Syphax Education Center, 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia, with public remarks beginning at 8:35AM.

**Present were:**

Tannia Talento, Chair  
Monique O’Grady, Vice Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Member  
Barbara Kanninen, Member  
Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

The breakfast was also attended by Virginia Delegates, Senators, and legislative aides, as well as School Board members and staff from the Alexandria and Falls Church school systems.

As the APS Legislative Liaison, Dr. Kanninen welcomed attendees and introduced Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison to the school districts. Ms. Wise summarized issues of interest and shared highlights from the APS Legislative Package. These included support for consolidating the At-Risk Add On and Prevention, intervention, and remediation funds into an Equity fund within the Standards of Quality; funding for school-based support services staff; and support for eliminating mandatory reporting of misdemeanors and status offenses by students to law enforcement for school-based incidents.

Dr. Noonan, Superintendent of Falls Church City Public Schools, described his Board’s positions proposing that the legislature raise or remove caps on solar energy and asking the state to pay for the VRS rate change with surplus funds, instead of asking districts to cover the costs.

Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent, commented on Alexandria’s initiative to add legislation requiring mold remediation that includes state funding to support these efforts. He also reiterated Alexandria’s support for eliminating all unfunded mandates.

Other topics of interest and initiatives supported by the legislators were discussed. These included support for solar energy, and an interest in taxing e-cigarettes and vaping supplies, with the taxes dedicated to education. Senator Favola described efforts underway to create a new identification category for older students who enroll in public schools but drop out before graduation, so that these short-term students do not negatively affect accreditation. Members of the group also spoke to support for in-state tuition for DACA students, refugees and immigrants. Also suggested as possible initiatives were revenue sharing of on-line betting income, training for staff on the appropriate use of seclusion and restraint, and alternative measures of achievement such as performance-based assessments.

In closing, Ms. Wise thanked the participants and invited continued dialog and collaboration. The educators and legislators thanked Ms. Wise and Dr. Kanninen for facilitating the discussion and supporting efforts on behalf of students.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 AM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Tannia Talento, Chair  
Arlington School Board