

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
February 6, 2020

Item C-1-e

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 6:01 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. 6:03 PM)
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 for the discussion of the terms of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body Code §2.2-3711(A)(29); and to consider the appointment of Assistant Principal, Gunston Middle School, and Interim Supervisor of Special Education as authorized by Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Mr. Goldstein. 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 6:42 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 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. Van Doren and was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye. Dr. Kanninen was not present at the vote.

Ms. Talento called for a recess and the Board reconvened at 7:03 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
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

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

Ms. Talento congratulated the JROTC for winning first place in a regional drill competition. The Jefferson Middle School Chorus performed the Black National Anthem in recognition of Black History Month. Students from APS secondary programs were then honored as Black History Month Student Leaders.

3. Announcements

- *February 11, 2020, School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM School Board Conference Room*
- *February 11, 2020, School Board Work Session on the Annual Update, Projections and the CIP, 6:30 PM, Rooms 254-256-258*
- *February 12, 2020, Closed Meeting, 5 PM, School Board Conference Room*
- *February 18, 2020, School Board Presentation to Civic Federation, 7 PM, Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center, 1701 N. George Mason Drive*

Ms. Talento shared the letter sent to APS families on the importance of demonstrating tolerance for all and then provided an update on the Superintendent Search.

4. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson celebrated school counselors, Black History Month, and Crossing Guard Appreciation Week, congratulating Mr. Taffesse from Taylor Elementary, who was selected as a Most Outstanding Crossing Guard in Virginia. She also shared highlights of school activities and announced upcoming events. Mr. Chadwick presented plans to address accessibility at Fleet Elementary School. Ms. Johnson then gave an update on progress on the 2019-2020 School Board Action Plan. She also spoke to the importance of honoring differences, practicing tolerance and celebrating inclusion.

Ms. Van Doren encouraged all to fill out the "Your Voice Matters" survey.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:45 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. November 19, 2019 School Board Meeting
 - b. December 19, 2019 School Board Meeting
 - c. January 30, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E SCALE PERSONNEL
2 Changes in Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL
2 Appointments
2 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL
2 Appointments
2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
2 Changes In Position/Salary
1 Termination

3. ACI Mid-Year Update Brief

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Wilson Ramirez Assistant Principal, Gunston Middle School, and Elizabeth Walsh Interim Supervisor of Special Education, Department of Teaching and Learning.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:50 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Josh Folb, Chair, Arlington Education Association Compensation Committee: commenting on the upcoming budget process and encouraging the Board to ask the County for full funding to support staff, students and programs.

Julius Spain, Jr., NAACP President: Stating concerns about recent hate crimes in the community and at some schools, and encouraging APS to respond appropriately.

The following speakers addressed the Board with concerns about accessibility at Fleet Elementary School. Speakers stated that Fleet does not include enough features to

accommodate all students and described challenges for students with disabilities. Speakers noted the shortage of handicapped parking, access to elevators, and the need for chair lifts. One speaker also commented on traffic issues at the Fleet/Jefferson campus:

David Priddy, Fleet and Jefferson parent

Christine Brittle, Fleet parent

Genevieve Heighberger, Fleet parent

Nadia Facey, ASEAC Chair

Maura McMahon, CCPTA President

Allison Stewart, Fleet parent

E. MONITORING ITEM: (8:07 PM)

1. Report from BWP Associates

Dr. Wayne Harris and Dr. Kevin Castner presented the results of focus groups and community forums held in January to gather input to help the School Board develop a leadership profile for the superintendent search. Dr. Castner described the community engagement process and shared survey results. The results identified the strengths of APS, the most important issues or concerns, and the skills the superintendent should have. Feedback on the desired experience and characteristics the community would like to see in a superintendent was also presented.

Dr. Harris summarized the engagement meetings and forums held, which were attended by 240 people. He presented the attributes that participants were interested in seeing in a superintendent in terms of instruction, communication, management, personal qualities, and leadership attributes. After sharing challenges, issues, and concerns expressed by participants, Dr. Harris explained how the Board will use the feedback and he provided a draft profile based on the information gathered. Dr. Castner reviewed next steps and provided guidance to the Board on how to finalize the profile, which will inform consideration of applicants.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Ingrid Gant, President, Arlington Education Association: commenting that hiring the superintendent is one of the most important actions of a board and confirming the superintendent will need to lead and advocate for the school division.

Board members appreciated the report and looked forward to continuing this process. Dr. Harris provided additional information about community feedback on the need for instructional experience. Board members also appreciated the community interest and involvement in this work.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:56 PM)

1. School Calendar

Mr. Redding briefly reviewed the proposed 2020-2021 School Calendar, confirming that no changes have been made since it was presented for information.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Terri Schwartzbeck, parent: appreciating the earlier start to school, noting benefits of starting early and encouraging a creative approach to future calendars. She recognized that some families may have difficulty adjusting to the change.

Zeynep Hanley, Swanson parent: expressing concerns about the earlier start, including issues with the long Labor Day break that is required and the impact on childcare and vacation plans.

John Schoenecker, parent: expressing concerns about starting early this year, as this late decision gives families little time to adjust summer plans already in place.

Responding to questions, Mr. Redding confirmed that if schools start before Labor Day, state code requires that the Friday before Labor Day is a holiday. He also confirmed that APS policies provide flexibility to principals to allow students whose families cannot change plans to make arrangements for this absence. He confirmed that principals will be reminded of this option for these families.

Mr. Goldstein spoke to the proposed calendar, recognizing the challenge that trying to add conference days presents, as some parents have suggested. He stated that while he agrees with the goal of starting school before Labor Day, the six-month notice of this change is not sufficient for planning.

Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board adopt the Superintendent's recommendation with the change that schools start on Sept. 8, 2020 and adjust the effective dates of the other elements of the Interim Superintendent's calendar recommendation accordingly. The motion was seconded by Ms. Talento.

Mr. Goldstein clarified that his motion would start school on September 8, and the additional days needed would be added in June. He confirmed that this calendar would retain five pre-service days for staff.

Ms. Talento called for a vote and the motion failed by a vote of 1-4 with Mr. Goldstein voting affirmatively and Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren opposing.

Ms. O'Grady moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's Recommended Calendar, labeled Option 4, for the 2020-2021 School Year, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Board members appreciated the calendar committee's work, noting the flexibility included for teacher professional development. Acknowledging community concerns, they also recognized timing issues with this decision. Mr. Redding

responded to interest in adding parent conference time at certain schools, confirming that staff is working with principals to look at how to accommodate this request. He also explained how the proposed calendar supports learning, for example adding class time before assessments such as AP and IB exams and providing additional access to enrichment in June. Ms. Talento recognized that the late Labor Day this year caused difficulties in planning and confirmed her support for the proposed calendar. In order to accommodate families who already have late summer plans, she made the following motion:

Ms. Talento moved to amend the motion by adding the following: The Board directs the Superintendent to work with principals to provide families with alternate arrangements for students who will not be able to attend prior to Labor Day, seconded by Ms. O’Grady.

The group discussed how to ensure that all administrators are aware of the option, which is codified in a policy implementation procedure (PIP), to allow families to make arrangements for some absences. The group also discussed how to communicate this option to new families. Dr. Kanninen and Ms. O’Grady stated they would not support the amendment because they believed the action was unnecessary. Ms. Van Doren stated her support for the motion, noting this is an unusual situation. Mr. Goldstein stated additional concerns about both the motion and the amendment. Ms. Talento reiterated her reasons for the proposed motion.

Ms. Talento then called for a vote on the motion to amend, and the motion was defeated in a vote of 2-3, with Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, opposing.

Ms. Talento called for a vote on the main motion and it was adopted in a vote of 4-1, with, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively and Mr. Goldstein opposing.

2. Elementary School Planning: (9:42 PM)

Ms. Stengle summarized the proposal for Elementary School Planning, highlighting the school moves that have been proposed. She confirmed the moves would take effect concurrently with new elementary boundaries and address imbalance between seats and students across the county. She then outlined how this plan provides seats where there is the greatest need, builds a foundation for the upcoming boundary process and reinforces the commitment to options. Ms. Gladis Bourdouane, Planner, then described community engagement for this process and summarized the input provided by the community. Ms. Stengle then described challenges that APS would face if these moves are not made. In closing, she described next steps in preparing for the 2021-22 boundary process.

The following speakers addressed the Board expressing concerns about the proposed changes, stressing the negative impact the moves would have on students at McKinley, Key and ATS, including making the programs less accessible to

current students and their families. Two speakers read letters from Key families who could not attend the meeting:

Colin McQueen, McKinley student
Alicia Rich, Key parent
Symone Walker, Arlington NAACP Education Committee
Erin Freas-Smith, Key parent
Anjy Cramer, Key parent
Emmi Olson, Key parent
Geoff Olinde, Key parent
Siobhan Dupuy, Key parent
Terri Schwartzbeck, parent
Laura Keneally, Key parent
Jenny Rizzo, Key and Gunston parent
Steven Krieger, Key parent
Rod Mackler, parent
Diana Salgado, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Wells Harrell, future APS parent: supporting the proposed program moves, noting that it would affect fewer students than other options:

Maura McMahon, CCPTA President: speaking to the challenge, the role that CCPTA has taken, and assuring the Board that the CCPTA will work to help support whatever decision is made.

Staff responded to questions on the process and information considered throughout this process, including how staff looked at alternative proposals that were received from the community to address issues. It was confirmed that implementing a transportation hub stop model with this proposal can reduce the need for buses as well as travel time for students, and that efforts will be made to address parent concerns related to being able to access their child's school. Also discussed was how APS will approach balancing diversity with these changes.

Mr. Goldstein spoke to upcoming county-wide boundary changes and noted that this proposal is based on last year's projections, which have been updated. He recognized that it adds more seats in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, but was concerned about balancing enrollment in 2025 and beyond and noted that projections show that some schools will be under-enrolled. He asked staff for a concept that will show how APS will address the projections for 2025 and beyond, noting that the concept should also use capacity planning tools such as program moves, targeted transfers, and relocatable as well as boundary changes.

Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board table the vote on the program moves until a future date, as determined by the Chair and the Superintendent, when we can learn from Planning and Evaluation staff a concept for the neighborhood school

boundary change phase that does incorporate the current 10-year projections released in December 2019, seconded by Ms. Talento.

Dr. Kanninen asked for more information about the need for seats in the Courthouse/Rosslyn corridor, and what the newer projections show. Ms. Stengle reviewed the data staff considered in developing this plan and confirmed they will continue to look at options to balance enrollment throughout the County, such as reviewing locations for pre-K programs to ensure that they are more accessible throughout the county. She also stressed that staff is tracking housing expansion and how that will affect enrollment.

Ms. Talento called for a vote and the motion failed by a vote of 1-4 with Mr. Goldstein voting affirmatively and Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren opposing.

Dr. Kanninen made the following motion:

As Arlington Public Schools (APS) expects to welcome 30,000 students in 2021, it is essential that all schools are used efficiently.

Since Spring 2018, APS Planning has worked to address the following long-term challenges:

- *To use elementary school buildings efficiently, given the imbalance between where students live and the available neighborhood school seats across the county*
- *To meet capacity needs posed by rapid growth expected along the Rosslyn-Ballston, Columbia Pike and Route 1 corridors, and*
- *To establish elementary school attendance zones that help manage the growing demand for APS bus services and resources*

A four-phase process has been established to address these challenges:

- *Phase 1, began in the Fall 2019: To address the imbalance between where students live and where there are available seats*
- *Phase 2, coming up this Spring 2020: To prepare planning unit projections and preliminary planning for program moves and school moves if action is confirmed*
- *Phase 3, in the Fall 2020: To develop boundaries for neighborhood elementary schools*
- *Phase 4, in the Spring 2021: To support schools in preparing for transitions once action is confirmed*

Phase 1 of the Elementary Planning Process focuses on the challenge of creating attendance zones, given the imbalance between where students live and where there are available neighborhood school seats. To manage growing enrollment and use all available space efficiently, APS has been exploring countywide solutions that involve potential school moves in advance of the Fall 2020 boundary process.

To be effective for year 2021-22, concurrent with new elementary school boundaries expected to be established in fall 2020, and the opening of the new 725-seat elementary school at the Reed site, the Superintendent's recommendation includes:

- *A majority of McKinley students moving to the Reed site;*
- *Arlington Traditional program moving to the McKinley site;*
- *Key Immersion program moving to the ATS site; and*
- *Key site becomes a new neighborhood school.*

The recommendation addresses the urgent need for neighborhood seats in the Rosslyn/Courthouse area, allowing APS to ease overcapacity at some schools and develop more compact boundaries, while positioning APS to address future capacity needs in a dense, fast-growing area.

The Interim Superintendent's recommendation:

- *Keeps more students together across all schools in the upcoming boundary process*
- *Helps address the imbalance of elementary school seats across the county*
- *Provides much-needed neighborhood elementary school seats in the Rosslyn/Courthouse area for Sept. 2021 without constructing an addition or a new school building*
- *Manages demand for APS bus services and resources by developing boundaries that allow more students to walk to neighborhood schools and minimize bus ride times*
- *Brings a countywide immersion program closer to more Spanish-speaking students throughout the county, helping to encourage their participation, which supports the program's 50-50 dual language model, and*
- *Expands access to the Arlington Traditional countywide option school by allowing more students to enroll at a larger site*

I move that the Board approve the Interim Superintendent's Recommended "Proposal 1: School Moves" effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

"Proposal 1: School Moves," concurrent with new elementary school boundaries expected to be established in the fall of 2020, and 725 new elementary school seats at the Reed site, achieves the following:

- *It moves the majority of McKinley students to the Reed site;*
- *Moves the Arlington Traditional School program to current McKinley site;*
- *Moves the Key Immersion program to the current ATS site; and*
- *Key school site becomes a new neighborhood school.*

- *Capital Projects Fund* \$19,935,639
- *Community Activities Fund* \$ 260,902
- *Food & Nutrition Services Fund* \$ 18,631

3. *In order to continue the special projects and construction projects for which the budget period does not coincide with the school year, it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #3):*

The School Board requests the re-appropriation to FY 2020 of the balances in both the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund and the Bond Construction Fund as follows:

- *Grants and Restricted Programs Fund* \$ 5,074,348
- *Bond Construction Fund* \$87,678,992

4. *In order to retain the current fund balance reserves (balances as of 6/30/19), it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #4):*

The School Board requests the carry forward of the following fund balance reserves:

In the School Operating Fund:

- \$15,149,258 – *FY 2020 Adopted Budget use of reserves*
- \$10,941,029 – *Future Budget Years Reserve*
- \$ 2,512,239 – *VRS Reserve*
- \$ 684,474 – *Future Debt Service Reserve*
- \$ 2,000,000 – *Separation Pay Reserve*
- \$ 1,000,000 – *Health Insurance Reserve – self insurance*

In the Food & Nutrition Services Fund:

- \$5,485,656 – *Fund Balance*

In the Capital Projects Fund

- \$39,459,031 – *Capital Reserve*

These reserves will be carried on the books of Arlington Public Schools until the School Board authorizes the use of these reserve funds.

5. *In order to authorize the use of the funds appropriated from Arlington County to Arlington Public Schools in Resolution #1, it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #5):*

The School Board authorizes the Superintendent to use the amount appropriated from the County in Resolution #1 and carried over to FY 2020 as follows:

- *Addition to Compensation Reserve* \$7,750,994

• For uses in FY 2020	\$ 627,000
Total authorized uses of carryover funds	\$8,377,994

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren and 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: (11:23 PM)

1. Revisions to School Board Policy D-1.32 Financial Management – Debt Management

Ms. Peterson presented proposed revisions to School Board Policy D-1.32 Financial Management – Debt Management. She confirmed the changes included adding monitoring language consistent with current practice, updates to the references section, and other minor wording changes.

2. Dorothy Hamm Middle School Change to Architecture and Engineering Contract: (11:25 PM)

Jeff Chambers, Director, Design & Construction, presented the proposed change to the Architecture and Engineering Contract for Dorothy Hamm Middle School which is needed due to the extended project duration. He confirmed the change is within the current funding.

Mr. Chambers responded to clarifying questions on the funding for the project.

3. Heights Building Change to Architecture and Engineering Contract: (11:30 PM)

Jeff Chambers, Director, Design & Construction, presented the proposed change order for the Heights Building which is needed due to the extended project duration and additional scope of the contract.

Mr. Chambers responded to clarifying questions on the services covered by this contract change.

4. Contract Award for Kenmore Roof Coating Restoration Project: (11:33 PM)

Mr. Chadwick presented the proposed contract award for the Kenmore roof coating restoration project. This work will extend the life of the roof by 20 years and will also have a 20-year warranty, and will also prepare the roof for the solar PPA project. He noted the work will not impact use of the building during the project. He then summarized funding for this project which will come from bond funding.

Mr. Chadwick responded to clarifying questions on this item.

5. Contract Award for Washington-Liberty Roof Coating Restoration Project:
(11:37PM)

Mr. Chadwick presented the proposed contract award for the Washington-Liberty roof coating restoration project, which will extend the life of the roof by 20 years and will also have a 20-year warranty. This work will also prepare the roof for the solar PPA project and will not impact use of the building during the project. He then summarized the timeline and funding for this project which will come from bond funding.

Ms. Peterson confirmed that the funding for these projects is available, and the Board simply needs to authorize the work.

F. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board