

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
February 20, 2020

**Item C-1-a**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:05 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Tannia Talento, 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. CONVENE IN CLOSED MEETING:**

Ms. Talento called the meeting to order and announced that Ms. O’Grady was not present due to illness.

*Ms. Talento moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the appointment of Interim Supervisor Arlington Tiered System of Support, as authorized by Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 - 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the vote.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:17 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; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.*

Ms. Talento called for a recess and Board members then attended a reception for National Board Certified Teachers.

The Board reconvened in an open meeting at 7:01 PM.

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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.

**B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:**

**Also present were:**

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
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

1. Call to Order and Presentation of the Colors

Ms. Talento called the meeting to order and announced that Ms. O’Grady was not present due to illness.

2. Recognitions

The Board congratulated seventeen APS teachers who have achieved or renewed their National Board Certification. The Board then recognized the School Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk for Appreciation Week.

3. Announcements

- *February 25, 2020, School Board Work Session: Mathematics Evaluation and Mathematics Academic Update, 7:00 PM, Rooms 254-256-258*
- *February 27, 2020, Superintendent’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget Presentation and Budget Work Session #1, 7 PM, School Board Room*
- *March 5, 2020, School Board Committee of the Whole Meeting on the Budget, 5-7 PM School Board Conference Room*

Ms. Van Doren shared information about a special “Smart Talk” meeting held at Dorothy Hamm Middle School, which focused on the smart use of devices. Mr. Goldstein shared highlights of activities at his liaison schools. Ms. Talento then provided a brief update on the Superintendent Search.

4. Interim Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson shared highlights of events, congratulating the Virginia Crossing Guard of the Year and celebrating School Social Work Week. She announced March celebrations including School Breakfast Week and Arts in the Schools Month. Mr. Redding announced the upcoming Instructional Recruitment Fair. Ms. Johnson encouraged participation in the Your Voice Matters survey and the APSGo survey, and highlighted other upcoming events and activities. She then gave an update on the 2019-2020 School Board Action Plan. Mr. Redding described progress on the Partnership Coordinator Position.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:44 PM)**

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

1. Minutes:

- a. January 9, 2020 School Board Meeting
- b. January 23, 2020 School Board Meeting
- c. January 25, 2020 School Board Retreat
- d. February 12, 2020 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Change in Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

6 Appointments

1 Resignation

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

3 Appointments

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

2 Changes In Position/Salary

2 Resignations

1 Termination

- 3. Heights Building Change to Architecture and Engineering Contract
- 4. Dorothy Hamm Middle School Change to Architecture and Engineering Contract
- 5. Contract Award for Kenmore Roof Coating Restoration Project
- 6. Contract Award for Washington-Liberty Roof Coating Restoration Project
- 7. Revisions to School Board Policy D-1.32 Financial Management – Debt Management

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent, the Board approved four facilities items. She also announced that the Board appointed Kelley Hyner as Interim Supervisor, Arlington Tiered System of Support.

**D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:46 PM)**

The following speakers addressed the Board concerning the lack of training for bus drivers about students who have health issues as well as other concerns about appropriate transportation services to students with special needs:

*Wendy Pizer*, ASEAC member and parent

*Tauna Szymanski*, APS parent: reading statement for Caroline Levy

*Reade Bush*, Tuckahoe parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

*Jenn Seiff*, parent: commenting on the need for evacuation devices for disabled students during emergencies and fire drills.

*Alisha Alford*, APS parent: appreciating that accessibility concerns at Fleet are being addressed, but asking the Board to be more proactive and plan for accessibility prior to construction, and to audit current facilities to see if changes are needed.

*Josh Folb*, Arlington Education Association: sharing concerns about a problem with timely pay for an APS employee.

*Ingrid Gant*, AEA President: supporting the parents requesting appropriate transportation and appropriate staffing for students with special needs, as well as commenting on other issues faced by staff and students.

**E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:04 PM)**

1. FY 2020 Mid-Year Fiscal Monitoring Report

Ms. Peterson presented the Mid-Year Fiscal Monitoring Report for 2020, which provides an update of the status of the budget for the year. She highlighted changes to revenue and expenditures to date, confirming that the figures are a conservative estimate, and may change before the end of the fiscal year. She confirmed that there are no staff recommendations related to this report at this time.

Ms. Peterson responded to Board questions, clarifying the information presented, including providing more information on the Salaries Non-Contingency (lapse and turnover) and contingency staffing funding. She also explained how carry-over funds function as part of the budget.

Ms. Peterson then presented the FY 2020 Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MCM) financial update. She highlighted minor construction projects, noting several were completed below budget, and also reviewed the major maintenance projects being undertaken during this fiscal year.

Board members appreciated the work and confirmed that detailed information is posted on BoardDocs.

To accommodate student attendance at the meeting, the Board agreed to reorder the next two monitoring items and present the Career Center Animal Program Update first.

3. Career Center Animal Science Program Update: (8:28 PM)

Kris Martini, Director, Career, Technical and Adult Education, shared an update on the Animal Science Program. He reviewed the program profile including staffing and course offerings, and shared good news about the program. Data on course enrollment, state required competency attainment, and state approved credentials were also shared. Mr. Martini then discussed the review process underway to coordinate program needs with plans for the new Career Center facility. He described steps in the process including consideration of career opportunities, competency credentials, and space needs, that will help determine the design. Also described were the current facilities, the equipment and options for Animal Science, and requirements for enrolling in local veterinary programs. Mr. Martini reviewed next steps such as purchasing equipment and software for the program as well as identifying and providing opportunities for students to gain credentials. He confirmed areas of need to be incorporated into the new facility, and the focus on small animals as required by the competencies. Summarizing what was learned, he recognized the need to involve all stakeholders in the visioning process for all Career Center programs, and summarized opportunities for improvement.

The following speakers addressed the Board on the benefits this program provides to students beyond instruction and certification received, and stated concerns about how moving the larger animals out of the program will negatively affect them:

*Anne Merica, and Alex Merica, parent and student*

*Julie Payes, Wakefield student*

*Allison Gregg, student*

*Louis Odum, student*

*Ingrid Gant, AEA President*

Responding to questions, Mr. Martini described Animal Science courses and credits that can be earned, and how the proposed program change may affect options for students. Ms. Van Doren spoke to the importance of multiple pathways for student success and noted her concern that the change eliminates a current pathway. Mr. Martini recognized this concern and shared options being explored to provide experience with large animals for the students. The group also discussed how the review process will be applied to all Career Center programs as the plans for the new facility are developed, to ensure that all program needs are met. Also discussed was the construction schedule, credentialing, and detailed plans for delivery of instruction. Staff agreed to provide additional information on the decision to remove the large animals, and the group recognized the confluence of construction and instruction, and how to balance these with aspects of the programs.

2. Update on the 1:1 Digital Device Model: (9:38 PM)

Dr. Kellogg from the Friday Institute, which conducted a study of the 1:1 Digital Device model, presented the results of phase II of the study. After summarizing the scope of work and Phase I findings, he shared Phase II findings such as the amount of device use in the classroom and the devices used by the students. He also shared data on student outcomes, areas of greatest impact, barriers and supports for devices, and professional development needs. In closing, Dr. Kellogg presented recommendations on a shared vision and plan for use of devices, professional development, additional time to experiment with technology, appropriate use of devices, and a plan for improving technical support and materials.

Sarah Putnam, Director of Instruction, then described plans to use the study data and how APS will further implement the 1:1 model. She confirmed that technology is used to address the opportunity gap, transform instruction, support personalized learning, and prepare students for workforce needs. Heidi Smith, Principal of Hoffman Boston Elementary School, and Dorothy Hamm Middle School Principal Ellen Smith then shared examples of how digital devices are used in their schools. Ms. Loft described how devices support and expand personalized learning and Daryl Joyner, Instructional Technology Integration Analyst, then shared information about the devices provided to students and how they are used, as well as some feedback from classroom experiences.

Mr. Adusumilli provided additional information on implementation of the initiative, reviewing budget information, device break-fix turn-around time, and safety and student data protection. Ms. Putnam then reviewed areas of focus going forward including developing a shared vision, professional learning needs, support from Instructional Technology Coordinators, and appropriate use. In closing, Ms. Loft highlighted opportunities for improvement such as ongoing support for digital literacy, balancing screen time with instructional time, and systemizing expectations for the use of devices.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

*Terri Schwartzbeck*, parent: speaking to the importance of digital learning and the flexibility and opportunities it provides to students in many areas.

Board members appreciated the presentation and staff efforts, and it was confirmed that digital learning is a cross-departmental initiative focused on instruction and personalized learning. Some Board members had concerns about implementation, the amount of screen time and use of devices, and the need to balance digital learning with other instruction to meet the social/emotional needs of students. The group discussed the use of keyboards at middle and high school and the appropriate amount of device use at different grade levels. The Board asked for more information on the success of the initiative and teacher feedback on the impact on learning. Ms. Putnam reiterated that devices are tools to support learning, and Ms. Loft explained the difference between mastery and proficiency in the use of devices. Board members requested regular updates and comprehensive data on the initiative, a timeline going forward, and a recommendation on how to continue

implementation. They were also interested in learning how a shared device model might impact learning.

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:22 PM)**

1. Approval of Additional Funding for Fleet Elementary School for Accessibility Improvements:

Mr. Chadwick described the planned improvements for Fleet Elementary School and funding needed. He confirmed the approximately \$500,000 for this item will come from the Capital Reserve and most of the work will be completed in summer 2020.

The following speakers addressed the Board, appreciating the planned improvements and encouraging the Board to approve the work. Some speakers spoke to additional improvements that are needed and the current protocol for evacuation plans and sheltering in place for some students, and asked the Board to work with parents to resolve issues:

*Genevieve Heighberger*, Fleet and Thomas Jefferson parent

*Richard Normington*, Fleet parent

*Christine Brittle*, parent

Board members appreciated the speakers' comments and agreed with the need for a standard procedure to incorporate accessibility in facilities plans. Mr. Chadwick responded to questions concerning how decisions were initially made, and whether additional improvements might be needed. Also discussed was how to move forward to ensure accessibility is part of future project planning.

2. Revisions to School Board Policy B-3.6.30 School Board Advisory Committees:  
(11:55 PM)

Ms. Talento explained the proposed revisions to the policy, which includes adding clarifying language to membership descriptions and creating policy implementation procedures for the individual committees.

**G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Tannia Talento, Chair  
Arlington School Board