

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
March 12, 2020

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7:10 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

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
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Talento announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and guidelines on public gatherings, the Recognitions planned for this meeting and the Presentation of the Colors by the Career Center JROTC were postponed.

2. Announcements

- March 17, 2020, School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM, School Board Conference Room
- March 17, 2020, School Board Committee off the Whole Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- March 19, 2020, Closed Meeting, 5 PM School Board Conference Room
- March 25, 2020, School Board Committee of the Whole Meeting – Budget, 5-7 PM – School Board Conference Room

Ms. Talento acknowledged the difficult circumstances the community is facing. She stated that the Interim Superintendent and staff are participating in daily briefings with County staff, public health experts, and other school divisions to develop plans as the situation changes, with a focus on making the best decisions for the schools and community. She recognized challenges that will occur if schools close, as well as the challenges of not closing in a timely manner. She

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.

encouraged families to follow APS on social media and confirmed that should parents choose to keep their children at home, their absences will be excused. In closing, she affirmed that the safety of students, staff and the school system are the top priority. Ms. Talento then provided a brief update on the Superintendent search and shared a special event that took place at Jefferson Middle School.

3. Interim Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson also spoke to the challenges being faced with the Coronavirus and shared updates on efforts to combat its spread. She reiterated that excused absences will be allowed for students whose parents keep them at home. She reviewed important steps to take to prevent spreading the virus and plans being developed to provide needed services if schools close. She summarized where families can go to see updates on APS plans. Ms. Johnson then announced events and topics of interest, encouraging all to participate in the 2020 Census, and shared highlights from her recent school visits. She commented on Women’s History month recognitions, Extended Day and Summer School registration, and secondary neighborhood transfers. She then updated the Board on progress on the 2019-20 School Board Action Plan.

C. **CONSENT AGENDA: (7:37 PM)**

Ms. Van Doren moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. 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 5, 2019 School Board Meeting
- b. January 16, 2020 Work Session on English/Language Arts
- c. January 28, 2020 ACI Work Session
- d. January 30, 2020 Public Hearing on Elementary School Planning
- e. February 6, 2020 School Board Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Resignations
- 1 Reclassification Request
 - Director of Facilities and Operations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 7 Resignations
- 4 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

14 Appointments

2 Resignations

3 Retirements

3. Arts Education Brief
4. Additional Funding for Fleet Elementary School for Accessibility Improvements

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:39 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Washington-Liberty Robotics Team members: sharing the team's participation in their first contest, and sharing information about the Robotics team and encouraging the community to support the team.

Josh Folb, Arlington Education Association Compensation Committee Chair: encouraging the Board to provide employees with appropriate compensation, noting that APS salaries are lagging compared to other local jurisdictions.

Deanna Caputo, elementary parent: recognizing the concerns about the pandemic, but stating her belief that keeping students in school is safer than keeping them at home, and commenting on the difficulty this will cause for parents who must work from home.

The following speakers addressed the Board concerning the Coronavirus, encouraging APS to close to minimize the impact of the pandemic, noting that there is no way to know if individuals are infected, and stressing the importance of keeping students and staff safe:

Marcio Silviera, parent

Brandon Derflinger, teacher

Ingrid Gant, Arlington Education Association president

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:44 PM)

1. Pre-K to Grade 12 Student Support Update

Dr. Laura Newton, Director, Office of Student Services, introduced the update, reviewing office staff and confirming that their work aligns with the Strategic Plan and School Board priorities. She shared good news about on-time graduation rates for 2019 and explained how Student Services supports student success. Data on enrollment in advanced courses, enrollment by ethnicity, dual enrollment, and student enrollment in Career and Technical Education courses, was highlighted. Dr. Newton then shared the action plan to support increased student success.

Pam McClellan, Supervisor, School Counseling Services, outlined efforts to support academic achievement and social/emotional learning, and to reduce

opportunity gaps. She described how the Your Voice Matters and Youth Risk Behavior survey data will inform work, and shared preliminary data on bullying. Ms. McClellan spoke to actions being taken to address substance abuse, including the Second Chance program. After sharing survey data on personal stress, anxiety, and sadness, she highlighted planned action steps to provide support. A video on a suicide prevention initiative was shown, and Wakefield students described their experiences in this program. Data was also shared on students feeling they can identify a trusted adult in their school.

Wendy Carria, Supervisor of Psychology and Social Work, then spoke to professional learning for staff that focuses on student success and well-being. Community partnerships that support student well-being were also highlighted. In closing, Ms. McClellan reviewed next steps, which include the work of the new partnership coordinator, and she highlighted plans to address recommendations in the English Learner and Special Education evaluation reports. In closing, she shared what staff has learned, opportunities for improvement, and bright spots.

Board members appreciated the work done by Student Services. Staff confirmed that the surveys referenced in the presentation are done every 2 years, and as data is finalized, it will be shared with the Board. The group discussed how to measure success in supporting social/emotional learning, and staff recognized challenges with building student trust. Also discussed was the need for additional substance abuse counselors and for more efforts to address eating disorders.

2. Transportation Update: (8:54 PM)

Ms. Kristin Haldeman, Director of Multimodal Transportation Planning, presented the update. She provided an overview of bus service, including the number of buses, routes, drivers, and bus stops in the County. She also shared data on bus ridership eligibility and participation. Information was presented on current projects in the areas of policy and policy implementation revisions, the Transit Pilot program, hub stops, and collaboration with County partners. Ms. Haldeman then highlighted data on participation, performance, and areas where additional information is needed. Areas for improvement were noted, such as additional transportation office support, improved communications, and improvements to specialized transportation as well as athletics and activities transportation. Ms. Haldeman outlined the impact of enrollment growth on transportation, routing challenges, call center volumes, and improvements needed for specialized transportation. Next steps include focusing in these areas.

Board members appreciated the expertise and efforts of the Transportation staff to address concerns and needs. The group discussed bus ridership, transportation required by the state, and how to make bus routes more efficient. Responding to questions, Ms. Haldeman provided additional information about the Transit Pilot, and shared some possible next steps for expanding the program.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (9:32 PM)

1. Revisions to School Board Policy B-3.6.30 School Board Advisory Committees

Ms. Talento summarized the proposed changes made to the School Board policy on advisory committees, noting that since this was presented for information, the description of the Aquatics Committee and language clarifying that joint advisory committees may advocate to the broader community were added to the policy.

Ms. Van Doren moved to adopt the proposed revisions to School Board Policy B-3.6.30 School Board Advisory Committees, seconded by Dr. Kanninen, and 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.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:35 PM)

1. Education Center Reuse Final Design and Construction Contract

Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, presented the Education Center reuse final design. He outlined parameters of the project, confirming it will provide an additional 500-600 high school seats. He provided a brief update, confirming that the project is on time and describing changes that will be made to the existing site. Details were shared on how the new space will connect to the Washington-Liberty building, and he described internal and external features of the site. After confirming that the educational specifications for the building have been slightly revised, he reviewed cost drivers and cost management efforts for the project. In closing, he summarized the project funding and budget, and shared next steps and the recommendations for Board action to move the project forward.

Board members appreciated the work on this project, and Mr. Chadwick confirmed that all efforts are being made to ensure that the facility will be fully accessible. Mr. Chambers described the value engineering process and how it is used to inform decisions. Also discussed was ensuring that advisory groups were informed during the planning process, the design of the ramp from Washington-Liberty High School, and the status of plans for the Planetarium.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board