

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Item D-1-a

Work Session on the Annual Update, Projections and FY 2021-2030 CIP
February 11, 2020

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 6:34 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Tannia Talento, Chair
Monique O’Grady, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent
Catherine Ashby, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Robert Ruiz, Principal Planner
Michael DePalma, Facilities Planner

Ms. Talento called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Ms. Johnson reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the annual update is required by the options and transfer policy.

Annual Update and Discussion

Ms. Stengle summarized the content of the update and described contributions made by departments and schools. She reviewed tools for managing enrollment and highlighted those tools being implemented for 2020-21. Next steps in capacity planning for the coming year were shared, and Ms. Stengle previewed upcoming capacity planning processes. Ms. Johnson then described efforts being initiated to balance the site-based management model in APS while maintaining consistency of programming across the district as plans move forward. Departments then provided their feedback in response to several guiding questions on how to move from being a ‘system of schools’ to a ‘school system.’

Members of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) then shared examples of how programs or initiatives are implemented consistently and at the different schools and levels. Examples included how the Arlington Tiered System of Support is implemented, efforts for consistent communications throughout the division, ensuring staffing is managed consistently while meeting different needs at different school, and aligning all management plans with the Strategic Plan.

The group discussed the importance of recognizing the difference between equal and equity, leading with instruction when adding capacity, and ensuring that initiatives are implemented and are effective. Feedback was provided on considering how some schools have more capacity for relocatables than others and providing relocatables in a timely manner. Also discussed was involving the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs in the annual update and the role of the new Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer in this work. The group discussed how the Board can support these efforts and what is needed to move the work forward. Ms. Loft spoke to the importance of professional learning, common planning time, and creating an infrastructure to support the work. Ms. Loft and Ms. Johnson then provided a brief update on the status of the Instructional Program Pathways initiative. The group also discussed the importance of considering both neighborhood schools and option schools in capacity planning and how targeted transfers are managed.

2019 10-Year Projections

Mr. Ruiz reviewed enrollment projections from September 2019 and updates made to date. Also presented was data on current enrollment in context of trends, and Mr. Ruiz noted that although the new kindergarten cohorts have declined slightly, they are still larger than the 12th grade cohorts leaving the school division. He then shared comparisons of projected school enrollment and school seats for elementary, middle and high school. Maps were presented illustrating seats needed at the elementary, middle and high school levels for 2024-2025 and for 2029-2030. Ms. Stengle then summarized the information presented and how it will inform planning.

Mr. Ruiz and Ms. Stengle responded to clarifying questions on preschool enrollment, option schools in projections, and data at the planning unit level. The group discussed the recent decision for program moves and planning for the new seats at Washington-Liberty and how that will affect all high schools. Staff responded to questions about the projected enrollment data on elementary and high school capacity and how this information will inform development of the CIP. The group then discussed how to interpret projections and how they can change due to unknown variables, and how best to use them in planning for increased capacity. Also discussed were additional options that might be considered at existing facilities to add capacity, such as looking at a kindergarten through Grade 8 program at an option school. The group also discussed the pre-K programs in APS, how pre-K projections are done, and how pre-K is important in closing the opportunity gap. The importance of leading with instruction as decisions are made and plans move forward was also recognized.

Board members appreciated the discussion and the information provided, and recognized that it will help inform the upcoming CIP process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board