

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
April 23, 2020

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 7:05 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, using Microsoft Teams.¹

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
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
Jeanette Allen, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Zachary Pope, Emergency Manager

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Talento called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Announcements

- May 5, 2020 Budget Work Session, 5 PM, Virtual Meeting
- May 5, 2020, Public Hearing on the School Board’s Proposed 2021 Budget, 7 PM – Location TBD

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.

Ms. Talento acknowledged the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and reviewed how the Board will conduct business through the rest of the school year. She commented on how the Board will receive public comment during the closure and how documents are added to the public record. She also confirmed that virtual Open Office Hours will be held on Mondays from April 27 through June 15. She then provided an update on the superintendent search.

Ms. Van Doren thanked the staff for their efforts to honor graduating students. She confirmed that Board members return phone calls to concerned community members and encouraged parents to reach out to their child's teacher or principal with concerns. Mr. Goldstein congratulated staff who were recognized as Principal, Teacher, and Support Staff of the year. Dr. Kanninen encouraged everyone to continue to take all precautions to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and to be kind to each other. Ms. O'Grady confirmed that APS is providing food to families during the pandemic. Ms. Talento highlighted the Jefferson Garden and the gardeners who are planning to share all the food they grow with those in need.

3. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson announced Teacher Appreciation Week and congratulated the Principal, Teacher, and seven Support Staff members of the Year. Mr. Pope shared an update on community supports in place, highlighting the Grab-and-Go Meals program and other initiatives to provide food to families. Ms. Loft presented an update on the continuous learning plan, highlighting the At Home with APS Video instruction and speaking to preliminary plans for the fall. Mr. Adusumilli explained how Information Services staff are supporting distance learning and telework. Ms. Johnson then shared updates on school options and transfers and progress made on the 2019-2020 School Board Action Plan in the areas of the CIP timeline, planning for boundary changes, and policy revisions and updates.

The group acknowledged the quality and variety of instructional materials being provided to families and discussed how to keep students motivated and engaged. They also discussed where parents can go for assistance. Board members appreciated all efforts to ensure students are supported and discussed how to ensure that all families have internet access and connectivity for learning.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:05 PM)

Ms. Talento moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O'Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes: NONE
2. Personnel Actions:

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

3 Resignations

1 Retirement

D. ACTION ITEMS: (8:06 PM)

1. School Board's Proposed 2021 Budget:

Ms. Talento summarized budget messages that have been sent to the School Board concerning the proposed budget since the Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 21. Ms. Peterson then presented a brief review of changes made to the Interim Superintendent's Proposed budget in terms of both revenues and expenditures. She then described three scenarios that were provided for the Board to consider to adopt as the School Board's Proposed 2021 Budget.

Board members confirmed that they have worked on this diligently since the Interim Superintendent's Proposed Budget was presented on April 16.

Ms. O'Grady made the following motion:

I move that the School Board amend the Interim Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2021 Revised proposed Budget Option 3 as follows and adopt the amended version as School Board's Proposed FY21 Budget.

Restore the following items totaling \$3,047,119 and 4.4 FTEs:

- 1. \$2.26 million to eliminate a one-day furlough for all staff, resulting in no furlough days for staff during FY21*
- 2. \$60,000 to restore crew transportation*
- 3. \$91,000 to restore the Adobe Creative Suite license renewal*
- 4. \$15,000 to restore band transportation*
- 5. \$84,695 to restore Humanities Project funding*
- 6. \$141,500 to restore half of the proposed cut for the non-renewal Communities in Schools contract*
- 7. \$325,557 to restore the 3.4 Attendance Specialists*
- 8. \$69,367 to restore the 1.0 administrative assistant for the Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer*

Reduce the \$5 million contingency built into the Interim Superintendent's Revised Proposed FY21 Budget that is intended to offset any possible further revenue loss from the state and county by the \$3,047,119 needed to restore the above items, leaving \$1,952,881 in the proposed contingency.

The School Board also directs the Superintendent to continue looking for additional savings as we enter and through Fiscal Year 2021. Some suggestions are: consider an opt out program for parents receiving paper documents in the mail (i.e. bus information, report cards); encourage the school system to look for other savings

that could come from potential contract renegotiations with vendors and contractors as a result of the current economic crisis; and expand income brackets for extended day fees.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Dr. Kanninen moved to amend the main motion by adding \$28,800 to restore SmartNotebook and funding it by further reducing the \$5 million contingency by \$28,800, seconded by Ms. Talento.

Dr. Kanninen explained why she proposed the amendment, noting that this software is valuable to instruction and needed by teachers. Ms. O’Grady, Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Van Doren stated that they do not have sufficient information to support this amendment at this time. Dr. Kanninen agreed to withdraw the motion to amend, and looked forward to receiving the requested information.

Dr. Kanninen moved add \$30,000 to restore TDM and funding it by further reducing the \$5 million contingency by \$30,000, seconded by Ms. Talento.

Dr. Kanninen spoke to the value and benefits to staff of the Transportation Demand Management program. Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Goldstein asked for additional information before making a decision on the amendment. Ms. Van Doren and Ms. Talento felt that reduction is needed and is a minor adjustment to the program, so they would not support the amendment.

Ms. Talento called for a vote on the motion to amend, and the motion failed by a vote of 1-4. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – No; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – No; Ms. Talento – No; and Ms. Van Doren – No.

Board members then discussed the main motion. They recognized the time and effort of staff in drafting a vastly different budget than initially presented, and appreciated that the budget maintains the focus on student support. Mr. Goldstein stated that he did not support all of the items included in this proposed budget, but confirmed he supports the elimination of the proposed furlough and adding back administrative support for the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer. He also spoke to the need for additional revenues, and stated he will bring proposals forward to increase income from Extended Day and Aquatics operations. Dr. Kanninen acknowledged the work of the staff and her colleagues, appreciated Mr. Goldstein’s proposals, and encouraged continued work to address concerns as the budget process continues. Ms. O’Grady spoke to her priorities and how the budget supports students and staff as much as possible, and thanked the community for their support during this process. Recognizing the difficult times, Ms. Talento spoke to challenges ahead and confirmed she will support this proposed budget. She highlighted several items that were added back in the proposed budget, and how they will help keep APS strong and more resilient moving forward.

Ms. Talento then called for a vote and the main motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 1. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – No; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.

2. Amendment to Sun Tribe Solar Comprehensive Agreement: (8:50 PM)

Mr. Chadwick presented the proposed amendment to the comprehensive Sun Tribe Solar Agreement, reviewing background information including how schools were selected to be part of this initiative. He summarized additional costs by school of this work, and presented the staff recommendation to approve the amendment, identifying the specific changes this amendment entails. In closing, he summarized the benefits to APS of the solar photovoltaic systems.

Board members appreciated the additional information that was provided, and Mr. Chadwick shared data on the savings that these systems provide.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve change order 1 to Sun Tribe Solar’s Comprehensive Agreement 01FY18 as presented. She further moved that the Board authorize the School Board Chair to sign leases for 4 new sites, terminate the existing lease and sign a new lease for Tuckahoe Elementary School.

The motion was seconded by Ms. O’Grady. Board members appreciated the work that has taken place to implement these sustainable efforts, and acknowledged their county colleagues for supporting these initiatives.

Ms. Talento called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.

E. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

Board members thanked the community and the state legislators who have passed several bills that provide needed funding for the schools.

F. ADJOURNMENT: 9:09 PM

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board