

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
May 7, 2020

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:03 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, using Microsoft Teams.<sup>1</sup>

**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  
Dr. Jeanette Allen, Acting 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 Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Announcements

- *May 12, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM – Virtual meeting*
- *May 13, 2020 Preliminary Work Session on 2021-2030 CIP Planning, 7 PM – Virtual*

Ms. Talento shared procedures the Board has implemented for community engagement through the rest of the school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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.

She also encouraged community members to apply for School Board Advisory committees for coming school year. She then announced that May is Mental Health Month; recognizing mental health challenges that many are feeling now during the pandemic, she shared information about where to go to find help.

In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, Mr. Goldstein acknowledged and thanked the teachers and staff for their commitment, and especially for the extra work they are doing during the closure.

### 3. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson appreciated staff for their efforts during the closure and shared highlights of Teacher Appreciation Week. Dr. Allen and Mr. Pope gave an update on food distribution and confirmed efforts are underway to continue providing food to families through the summer. Ms. Loft presented an update on continuous learning. She confirmed that the final day of instruction would be June 12, and described plans for professional learning to prepare for reopening the schools. She also described plans for Summer School. Mr. Adusumilli then spoke to efforts to provide technology to students and staff.

Ms. Johnson then presented an update on progress made on the initiatives in the School Board's 2019-2020 Action Plan, including the 2021 Budget, the capital improvement plan, and elementary planning. In closing, she again acknowledged all the work of staff and families to support learning. The Board appreciated the update and thanked staff for the information and efforts to address concerns.

## C. SPECIAL ACTION ITEM: (7:53 PM)

Ms. Talento confirmed that after a thorough search, the Board is ready to appoint a new superintendent for Arlington Public Schools.

*Ms. Talento moved that the School Board appoint Dr. Francisco Durán as Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools effective June 1, 2020 and enter into a written agreement with Dr. Durán to serve as Superintendent of the Arlington Public Schools for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024. She further moved that the School Board enter into a temporary one-month agreement with Dr. Durán to serve as Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools beginning on June 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2020, in order to facilitate a smooth and effective transition of the leadership of APS with the support and collaboration from Interim Superintendent Cintia Johnson.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Grady. 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.

Board members congratulated Dr. Durán, recognizing his experience and skills, and looked forward to working with him as he leads APS into the future. They also thanked Ms. Johnson for her thoughtful, compassionate leadership and her commitment and efforts as Interim Superintendent. Ms. Talento was recognized for her leadership through the

Superintendent search and other challenges of the past year. APS staff were also appreciated for their work and support, and Board members thanked their colleagues for their cooperation throughout the year.

Ms. Talento spoke to the many challenges the Board has faced in the past year, confirmed the Board's belief that Dr. Durán was the best person for the position of Superintendent, and looked forward to working with him going forward. She thanked the community, her colleagues, Ms. Johnson, and all APS staff for pulling together over the past year. Ms. Johnson then thanked all for their support and appreciated the opportunity she had to work together with the Board and staff to do what was best for APS.

Dr. Durán shared his enthusiasm for joining Arlington Public Schools and looked forward to working collaboratively to meet the instructional and social needs of the students. He spoke to the strengths of APS, shared his background and experience in education, and commented on the importance of community engagement and supporting teachers and staff. He looked forward to meeting the community and working together to sustain and improve education in Arlington. He also looked forward to this opportunity and confirmed he will always be there to listen, to serve, and to work together.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:24 PM)**

*Ms. O'Grady 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:
  - a. ~~February 20, 2020 School Board Meeting~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
  - b. ~~February 27, 2020 School Board Meeting~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
  - c. February 27, 2020 Budget Work Session #1
  - d. March 19, 2020 Closed Meeting
  - e. April 9, 2020 Closed Meeting
  
2. Personnel Actions:  
  
P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL  
1 Resignation  
  
T-SCALE PERSONNEL  
4 Resignations  
6 Retirements  
  
A-SCALE PERSONNEL  
1 Retirement
  
3. World Languages Brief

4. Special Education Brief
5. Sustainability Brief
6. Amended Resolution to Implement Emergency Practices & Procedures for the Continuity of the Arlington School Board's Operations for the Duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Talento summarized the amended resolution on emergency practices and procedures, explaining that changes allow the Board and advisory committees to continue their important work during the emergency closure. Ms. Van Doren recognized staff members who recently left APS, noting that because of the pandemic, traditional celebrations to thank them were not possible.

**E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:30 PM)**

1. Capital Projects Update Based on COVID-19 Crisis

Mr. Chadwick updated the Board on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on current projects. At Dorothy Hamm Middle School, he confirmed that the project is nearly complete and is fully funded, so staff recommends continuing as planned. The pandemic has disrupted plans for the Career Center/Arlington Tech project; Mr. Chadwick reviewed its funding status and planned enrollment, and he shared recommendations to proceed with limited construction in the existing building. For the Columbia Pike Library, which is part of the Career Center project, staff is recommending proceeding with the work as soon as reasonable, coordinating with the County on this project as needed.

Mr. Chadwick confirmed that construction of the new elementary school at Reed was on schedule, but additional funding was needed. He noted issues that would result from delaying this project and recommended moving forward with funds currently allocated to the Education Center project. For the Education Center, staff recommended delaying the work as there is not sufficient funding available. Staff also suggested renegotiating the construction manager at-risk contract for this project to take advantage of possible declines in construction costs. Mr. Chadwick then reviewed the Career Center Expansion project and confirmed it cannot be completed using unspent funds, so recommended delaying the work. In closing, he confirmed that staff will bring forward additional information on these projects.

Mr. Chadwick responded to questions, providing clarity on funding availability and the timeline for the Career Center project. Board members shared a few questions concerning the recommendations and it was confirmed that the projects will be explored in depth at the upcoming work session on capital planning.

2. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Annual Update: (8:55 PM)

Isabel Messmore, FACE Specialist, updated the Board on her work in APS over the past year. She shared the FACE program profile and policy goals, noting that

much of her work has been to support families through the pandemic. She described work with partnerships, professional learning, Parent Leadership workshops, and development of academic Parent-Teacher teams to support student success. Ms. Messmore also described phase III of the Telenovela that was created to teach families how to navigate special education services. Additional initiatives ahead include policy updates, continuing support for families in the pandemic, and expanding the bilingual family liaison program. In closing, Ms. Messmore shared highlights, opportunities for improvement and bright spots.

Responding to Board questions, Ms. Messmore explained how FACE is supporting families during the pandemic, and Ms. Johnson and Mr. Gregory described plans for collaboration between the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and FACE. Also discussed was collaboration with the Offices of Professional Learning, Equity and Excellence, and English Learners. Board members appreciated these outreach efforts to underrepresented communities.

#### **F. ACTION ITEMS: (9:20 PM)**

##### **1. School Board's Final 2021 Budget:**

Ms. Peterson provided a brief update on state revenue changes from the April 22 General Assembly veto session which affected the School Operating Fund, Food & Nutrition Services Fund, and Grants & Restricted Programs Funds. She then explained how the changes will be incorporated into the budget. She also described changes to revenues and expenditures in the Board's proposed final budget.

*Ms. O'Grady made the following motion:*

*I move that the Arlington School Board adopt its Fiscal Year 2021 School Board Budget totaling \$670,274,629. The School Board's FY 2021 budget requires an on-going County Transfer of \$524,628,986, a Beginning Balance or Carry Forward of \$3,500,000, and funding from Reserves of \$16,476,194, broken into the following:*

- 1. The School Operating Fund at a total of \$559,933,853, requiring a County transfer of \$458,728,402, a beginning balance or carry forward of \$3,500,000, and funding from reserves of \$15,433,694.*
- 2. The Community Activities Fund at a total of \$19,756,037, requiring a County transfer of \$5,756,576.*
- 3. The Debt Service Fund at a total of \$56,905,740, requiring a County transfer of \$56,635,740 and funding from reserves of \$270,000.*
- 4. The Food and Nutrition Services Fund at a total of \$11,321,748, requiring a County transfer of \$0.*
- 5. The Capital Projects Fund at a total of \$2,040,843, requiring a County transfer of \$1,286,343, and funding from reserves of \$772,500*
- 6. The Children's Services Act Fund at a total of \$4,225,000, requiring a County transfer of \$2,239,925.*

7. *The Grants and Restricted Programs Fund at a total of \$16,091,408, requiring a County transfer of \$0.*

*I further move that the Arlington School Board authorize the advance placement of purchase orders for productivity software, IT devices, and device cases that are funded in the adopted FY 2021 budget. These orders will be placed only after the Finance Office verifies that the funds have been designated in the School Board's adopted FY 2021 budget. These items should be neither received nor invoiced until on, or after, July 1, 2020.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Ms. Peterson responded to clarifying questions and confirmed that the budget includes the changes the Board requested in their proposed budget.

*Dr. Kanninen moved to amend the main motion by adding \$24,300 to restore SmartNotebook and funding it by further reducing the \$1.5 million contingency by \$24,300, seconded by Ms. Talento.*

Dr. Kanninen explained her motion, noting other reductions that have been made that affect staff, and how this software is an important tool for teachers. Staff confirmed that they are working on ways to provide comparable software at no cost. Based on this information, Dr. Kanninen withdrew her motion to amend.

Mr. Goldstein explained that he was proposing the following motion to address a deficit that has existed related to the County use of APS pools. He provided background information on pool operating costs and explained how the proposed amendment would affect the fees for swimmers.

*Mr. Goldstein made the following motion:*

*In order to address APS' long-standing deficit for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs at APS-owned aquatic facilities, I move that the School Board direct the Interim Superintendent to:*

- (1) establish user fees to recover O&M costs for all community use of APS pools;*
- (2) apply one scale to set user fees for all community swimmers;*
- (3) increase user fees by 5% for FY 2021;*
- (4) continue to discount and reduce user fees according to current practice.*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen.

Mr. Chadwick confirmed that staff would be comfortable implementing this change. Some Board members noted concerns about the factors involved in the determination of pool fees as compared to other local jurisdictions, and the economic impact an increase would have on users. Board members were supportive of working to address the deficit, and suggested it might be addressed through

discussions with the County. Mr. Goldstein shared more detail about the deficit, and the group also discussed how the pandemic may affect use of the pools.

Ms. Talento called for a vote on the motion to amend, and the motion passed by a vote of 3-2. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – No; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – No.

Mr. Goldstein spoke to the current Extended Day bracket structure for fees charged, which he considered inadequate, and stated he believed this fee bracket structure should be expanded to align with the Montessori fee structure.

*Mr. Goldstein moved that the Arlington School Board direct the Superintendent to prepare a fee bracket structure aligned to that of Montessori for Extended Day fees that would take effect in FY22, seconded by Dr. Kanninen.*

Responding to Board questions, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Peterson confirmed that staff agrees with the suggestion to amend the fee scales and confirmed the Board approves all fees in the budget process. Ms. Peterson commented that any additional income raised must be used for Extended Day. The group shared concerns about increasing fees for families at this time and discussed improving the fee structure through this work. Ms. Peterson confirmed staff could explore options to see how the brackets might be expanded without violating policy, and Mr. Goldstein provided feedback on his colleague’s comments.

Ms. Talento called for a vote on the motion to amend, and the motion passed by 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.

*Ms. Talento then moved to adopt the School Board’s FY 2021 budget as amended in the amount of \$670,274,629, seconded by Ms. O’Grady.*

Ms. Van Doren appreciated the efforts that went into this budget and encouraged staff to work to identify efficiencies. Board members also acknowledged some items that were removed from the budget, such as compensation, and expressed regret that reductions had to be made. Ms. Talento shared a summary of input received on the proposed budget. Board members recognized the challenging budget process, appreciated Board and staff work, and commented on the difficult decisions that had to be made.

Ms. Talento called for a vote and the motion passed by 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.

**G. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS: (11:05 PM)**

1. Arlington Tech Summer 2020 Construction Contract:

Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, presented the proposed construction contract, describing the project, the planned work, and the budget. He then summarized staff recommendations, confirming this work is within current funding for the project.

Responding to questions, Mr. Chambers explained that this item was brought for information and action at the same time to allow more time to ensure that the project can be completed for fall. He also clarified that the project is to accommodate growth at Arlington Tech. Staff also responded to questions to how encumbered funds can be used as related to this project.

*Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve an Early Release Construction Work Package contract award in the amount of \$891,747 to Gilbane Building Company; and approve the project budget as proposed in Exhibit A and authorize staff to encumber funds as necessary to meet the project schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein and adopted in a vote of 4 – 1. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Nay.*

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:24 PM)**

**1. Fleet Elementary School Additional Funding Proposal**

Mr. Chambers presented the Fleet Elementary School additional funding proposal, explaining that the funding is needed for a change order for the installation of the new elevator. Additional funding is also needed for closeout expenses and to complete the critical, additional project scope. Mr. Chambers then summarized the funding needed for this project and shared staff recommendations.

Responding to Board questions, staff agreed to bring back detailed costs for this project. Mr. Chambers described some changes that have instructional impacts, and agreed to bring back more detail when the item is presented for action on May 21.

**G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**H. ADJOURNMENT: 11:37 PM**

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Tannia Talento, Chair  
Arlington School Board