

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
May 21, 2020

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 6:06 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
Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

A. CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Talento moved to that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the appointments of Principal, Barrett Elementary School; Director of Special Education – Elementary; and Director of Special Education – Secondary, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), 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.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM and Ms. Talento called for a brief recess. The Board reconvened in an open meeting at 7:07 PM.

Also present were:

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
Dr. Jeanette 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
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

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.

1. Call to Order and Certification of Closed 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 just held, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening this closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren and 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.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Recognitions:

Clerk of the Circuit Court for Arlington County, Paul Ferguson, administered the Oath of Superintendent to Dr. Francisco Durán.

Pam Farrell, Supervisor, Arts Education, presented a celebration of Visual and Performing Arts in the schools, highlighting art teachers’ efforts to engage students during the closure. Brian Bersh, Yorktown Band Director, shared a video of a special performance of a rendition that memorialized the 10-year anniversary of the Space Shuttle Columbia. This performance was created in a collaboration between students and community groups. Dr. Kanninen then congratulated ATS for being selected as a 2019 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

4. Announcements

- *May 27, 2020 CIP Work Session #1, 5-7 PM – Virtual meeting*
- *May 27, 2020 Public Hearing on the Proposed Capital Improvement Plan, 7 PM, School Board Room/Virtual meeting*
- *May 28, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting 5 PM Virtual meeting*
- *May 28, 2020 Closed Meeting, 7 PM – Virtual meeting*
- *June 2, 2020 CIP Work Session #2, 5:30 PM – Virtual meeting*

Ms. Talento shared plans for public comment at future meetings and confirmed that virtual Open Office Hours will be held. The Board encouraged community members to apply to serve on an APS advisory committee. Ms. O’Grady thanked her liaison school PTAs for joining her in a recent virtual meeting.

Board members thanked Ms. Johnson for serving as the Interim Superintendent. They acknowledged her willingness to step in and take on that role and appreciated her focus on supporting the students, families, staff, and the community through an unusually challenging year. Board members especially appreciated Ms. Johnson’s dedication, thoughtfulness, and extraordinary work and leadership as the Interim Superintendent.

Ms. Johnson appreciated the Board comments and thanked her family and the APS staff for supporting her throughout the year. She particularly appreciated the Board members and the Executive Leadership Team for their trust and support, and looked forward to continuing to participate in the important work done by APS.

5. Interim Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Ms. Johnson apologized to the Yorktown community for a banner meant to celebrate graduating students that was found to be offensive, and confirmed that the administration is working with students to address their concerns. She then celebrated the Teachers of the Year and provided an update on food assistance for families during the closure. Ms. Loft updated the Board on summer learning plans and on school options and transfers for preschool students. Ms. Johnson congratulated Mr. Adusumilli for being recognized by the Consortium for School Networking for his excellent work. Mr. Adusumilli then updated the Board on efforts to ensure all students have access to online learning.

Ms. Johnson then presented an update on progress made on initiatives in the Board's 2019-2020 Action Plan in the areas of the budget, hiring of the new superintendent, work on capital improvements, and planning for growing enrollment in 2020-21. In closing, Ms. Johnson again confirmed that the top priority for all of this work is supporting students.

Ms. Johnson then presented an overview of work underway to prepare for the return to school. She identified essential starting points and overall guidance as well as considerations related to health and safety, instruction, and technology. She also highlighted planned summer work for online learning, food distribution, and social services for families and students. She then outlined scenarios being developed for consideration for reopening schools and spoke to anticipated impacts in areas such as special education, transportation, school operations, and staffing. In closing, she outlined next steps for community engagement, planning for possible future closings, and creation of a Task Force to develop the reopening plans.

Responding to questions, Ms. Johnson and staff described the makeup of the proposed Task Force, plans to meet student and family needs during the closure, and opportunities for community involvement to help with plans for moving forward. The group discussed what guidance might come from the state, and staff provided clarifying information on plans for summer learning, especially for students who are below grade level in key subjects. Ms. Loft described how staff will work with these students and how families can follow up on concerns. The Board appreciated the update and encouraged these efforts to continue.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (9:19 PM)

Ms. Talento moved to adopt the consent agenda, 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. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. February 27, 2020 School Board Meeting
2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL
1 Resignation
3 Changes in Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL
25 Resignations
11 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL
2 Retirements

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
1 Appointment
3. Professional Learning Brief
4. English/Language Arts Brief
5. Right of Way Agreement with Dominion Energy at Discovery Elementary School

Ms. Talento announced that as part of consent the School Board appointed Ragan Sohr as Principal, Barrett Elementary School, Dr. Kelly Krug, Director, Special Education – Elementary, and Heather Rothenbeuscher, Director of Special Education – Secondary. She also encouraged all to read the Professional Learning and English/Language Arts briefing reports.

D. ~~CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:~~ Removed from agenda

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (9:21 PM)

1. Boundary Process Timeline for 2020 Update

Ms. Stengle presented proposed timelines for the middle and high school boundary processes as well as elementary planning for 2021-22. She reviewed the Boundary policy that guides decisions and spoke to challenges with the capital improvement plan that may delay adding capacity at the secondary level. After sharing a proposed revised timeline for the secondary boundary process, she described elementary planning, providing details on the concurrent transitions planned for 2021-22. She then outlined the timeline and next steps for the elementary boundary process and confirmed Board plans to act on new elementary boundaries in December 2020.

The group discussed how the pandemic might impact enrollment and capacity needs. Ms. Stengle highlighted lessons learned in the last boundary process that will help guide the process going forward, and also acknowledged the need for flexibility. Board members appreciated the focus on demographics and acknowledged staff work to improve boundary processes. Other topics discussed included relocatables, option schools, pre-kindergarten classes, possible name changes, and how the recent increase in class size might impact capacity.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (9:58 PM)

1. Fleet Elementary School Additional Funding:

Mr. Chambers briefly summarized additional funding required for work on Fleet, describing the items these funds will be used for and confirming that the work is not related to the accessibility improvements that the Board recently approved. In closing, he summarized the proposed project funding.

Ms. O’Grady asked about the timing of the new elevator, and Mr. Chambers confirmed plans to have it installed by the start of the school year.

Dr. Kanninen move that the Board approve an individual change order of \$137,500 to Whiting-Turner Contracting Company for installing the new elevator; approve transfer of \$700,000 from Capital Reserve to project; and approve revised project funding totaling \$60,450,445, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

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: (10:12 PM)

1. Proposed Revised 2020 School Calendar:

Mr. Redding shared the recommendation to adjust the calendar to end the school year earlier than previously approved. The changes were proposed to accommodate plans to allow staff additional time to prepare for virtual instruction during the pandemic and to ensure student and staff safety. He also reviewed end of year plans and key dates for students and families.

Ms. Loft confirmed that devices will be provided to students as needed for summer school and Ms. Talento summarized input received by the Board on this proposal.

Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board adopt the revised 2020 School Calendar as presented, seconded by Dr. Kanninen, 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.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:22 PM)

1. Interim Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2021 and Future CIPs

Ms. Johnson presented an overview of factors that informed development of the proposed CIP, which is a one-year proposal instead of the usual ten-year CIP. She confirmed that this proposal results from the uncertain budget situation. Ms. Peterson summarized the economic environment, reviewing the County's CIP plans. Confirming that this CIP will focus on near-term needs, she acknowledged the impact of growing enrollment and the need to consider cost escalation for future construction. Ms. Stengle next summarized work done to begin preparing the proposed CIP, noting the importance of financial flexibility in the plan.

Mr. Chadwick highlighted the status of projects funded in the FY 2019-2028 CIP, such as the new school at Reed and renovations of existing buildings. He also shared urgent priorities in the proposed 2021 CIP such as refreshing elementary facilities, plans for additional middle and high school seats, completion of the Heights Building, phase 2 of the Transportation staff facility project, and continued major infrastructure needed to maintain facilities.

Ms. Peterson then summarized the funding in the proposed FY 2021 CIP. This presentation included funding already approved and funding that will be included in the FY 2020 Bond referendum. She confirmed that this proposal remains within the target debt service ratio. Ms. Stengle then highlighted the next tier of CIP priorities for future consideration. Robert Ruiz, Planner, then reviewed enrollment projections at the different school levels that inform CIP planning and Ms. Stengle summarized next steps.

Ms. Peterson provided clarifying information about bond funding and Board members shared questions to be discussed at the upcoming CIP work session.

2. Arlington Career Center Expansion Project Concept Design: (11:11 PM)

After thanking the community members and staff who have been involved in the project, Mr. Chadwick presented the Arlington Career Center Expansion Concept Design. After reviewing the project charge, overview, and process to date, he shared the education specifications for the facility. Confirming that the facility houses multiple programs, he outlined plans including considerations of on-site parking, and shared preliminary parking recommendations.

Mr. Chadwick then described the programs housed in the Career Center and the plans for the expansion and phasing of the renovation to support these programs. After reviewing the design, he shared the cost estimates of the initial renovation design which were significantly high, and described how staff looked at options to revise the design to reduce costs. Mr. Chadwick then shared drawings of the original design and the revised, less costly concept design that was developed. He

summarized cost estimates of the revised design, including costs with various garage options and with and without an auditorium. In closing, he summarized why the project costs were high and shared staff recommendations. Because the estimated total project costs for the revised design still greatly exceeds funding approved for the project, staff is recommending postponing the approval of the design and looking for other options to provide needed seats.

Board members recognized the challenges and concerns about the expectations for the facility and the costs. Dr. Kanninen shared a letter from the Building Level Planning Committee Chair, Ted Black, and encouraged staff to continue to work with staff and the community to find a way to support the programs at the Career Center and the neighborhood. Board members shared aspects of the project they would like to discuss, and Ms. Talento agreed to look for an additional opportunity to further consider how to move forward with this project.

3. Jefferson Middle School Gymnasium Roof Replacement: (12:14 AM)

Mr. Chadwick presented the proposed Jefferson Middle School gymnasium roof replacement, explaining why this work is needed and the project timeline. He then summarized the costs of the project and staff recommendations. Responding to questions, he clarified which portion of the roof will be replaced and agreed to look into working with the County on costs, as this is a joint use facility.

4. Amendment of School Board Policy I-11.6.1 Locally Awarded Verified Credits: (12:23 AM)

Mr. Tyrone Byrd, Director, Secondary Education, presented the proposed amendment of School Board Policy I-11.6.1 Locally Awarded Verified Credits, which provides an accommodation to allow award of verified credits in spite of the cancellation of Standards of Learning exams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Talento requested that when this item is presented for action that the Policy Implementation Procedure be shared with the Board at that time. Ms. Talento confirmed that the policy amendment will be brought back for action on May 21.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 AM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board