

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on English/Language Arts Academic Update
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 7:03 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
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Judy Apostolico-Buck, Principal, Barcroft Elementary School
Kim Graves, Principal, Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School
Sam Klein, Supervisor, English Learners
Dr. Kelly Krug, Supervisor, ATSS
Dr. Donna McConnell, English/Language Arts Specialist
Lori Silver, Supervisor, English/Language Arts
Anne Whipp, Middle School Reading Specialist, Hamm Middle School

Ms. Silver began the Work Session by providing an overview of the agenda. She then presented detailed information on the English Language Arts (ELA) program at APS. She explained the alignment of ELA and the 2018-24 Strategic Plan to ensure student success. The presentation consisted of a lengthy review of relevant data collection and the assessments used to measure success including

- Standards of Learning (SOL) Data
- Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) Data
- Rapid Automatic Naming (RAN) Screener Information and Data
- Reading Inventory (RI) Data

Ms. Graves and Ms. Apostolico-Buck spoke about ELA at their schools. They shared about highlights and complexities related to literacy instructional support. Ms. Whipp spoke about her experience as a reading teacher and the impact the curriculum has in the classrooms.

Furthermore, Ms. Silver also shared recommendations to improve the ELA program, support core instruction, and provide professional development. Lastly, she talked about recommendations from the ELA program evaluation and actions steps to achieve each initiative.

The Board discussed concerns related to identifying struggling readers, interventions and resources to accommodate the diverse student demographic, civil right challenges, professional development, and writing. The Board also discussed the different assessment tools and student achievement, and budget implications.

In closing, the Board and the Interim Superintendent thanked staff for their work and leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board