

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
June 4, 2020

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, June 4, 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:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
Catherine Ashby, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
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
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Citizen Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items:

Ms. Talento reviewed the speaker process for virtual meetings.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Sue Melki, substitute teacher and parent: encouraging APS to open schools and bring students back soon, commenting on the challenges of learning from home.

4. Recognitions:

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.

Dr. Durán and the School Board congratulated APS retirees and thanked them for their service. The Board congratulated Budget staff for receiving the ASBO Meritorious Budget Award for the 11th year in a row. The Board also celebrated Randolph Elementary School for its designation as a Recognized ASCA Model Program School. Ms. Pam McClellan, Supervisor, Counseling Services, described the designation and acknowledged the APS Counseling staff for their efforts.

Student Advisory Board (SAB) members Hamna Shafiq, Henry Hammer, Abby Dhakal, and Paine Gronemeyer presented the SAB annual update. They reviewed their meeting schedule for the past year and the reorganization of their committee structure. They confirmed that their work focused on budget, transportation and technology. The final activity they have planned will be hosting a Town Hall for students to meet the new superintendent. The students responded to Board questions, sharing additional information about their work and future plans.

4. Announcements

Recognizing the anguish in the community from recent injustices to people of color, Ms. Talento read a letter the School Board and Superintendent sent to the community concerning this issue. Ms. O’Grady spoke to the challenges of systemic and institutionalized racism that she and others have endured. She also spoke to work that APS is doing to address this concern and help students develop the strengths and skills to change society. Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Van Doren shared their support for the comments of their colleagues. Dr. Kanninen agreed with the sentiments and confirmed that the Virginia School Boards Association and the Virginia High School League are speaking out in support of efforts to end racism.

Dr. Kanninen also shared information about Wear Orange movement to eliminate gun violence, and described how community members can contribute to this effort.

Ms. O’Grady congratulated Arlington Science Focus School teacher Stephanie Lin for being chosen as the NOVA District PTA Educator of the Year.

- *June 10, 2020 Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM – Virtual meeting*
- *June 11, 2020 Closed Meeting, 5:00 PM – Virtual meeting*
- *June 12, 2020 Committee of the Whole, 8 AM – Virtual meeting*
- *June 16, 2020 Policy Subcommittee meeting, 2 PM – Virtual Meeting*
- *June 16, 2020 CIP Work Session #4, 5:30 PM – Virtual meeting*
- *June 16 2020 Closed Meeting, 8 PM – Virtual Meeting*
- *June 23, 2020 - Joint CIP Work Session, 5 – 6:30 PM – Virtual meeting*

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán spoke about the APS statement on race and equity and the work that APS needs to do to address systemic prejudices and biases, and to provide students the

social/emotional supports they need in this difficult time and going forward. He promised that this will be at the forefront of the work done by the school division.

Dr. Durán then shared updates on the Grab and Go Food program and important end of year dates, celebrations, and other items of interest. He announced Town Hall meetings he will hold to get to know the community. He then presented an update on progress made on the initiatives in the School Board's 2019-2020 Action Plan, including work on capital improvement, planning for growing enrollment in 2020-21, and policy review and updates.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:18 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 27, 2020 School Board Meeting
2. Personnel Actions: REMOVED FROM CONSENT
3. Profile of a Graduate Brief
4. ESEA Program Applications
5. Amendment of School Board Policy I-11.6.1 Locally Awarded Verified Credits

Personnel Actions: (8:19 PM)

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL
1 Change In Position/Salary
2 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL
15 Resignations
3 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL
2 Resignations

Ms. O'Grady moved to approve Personnel Actions, seconded by Dr Kanninen. The motion was 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.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (9:21 PM)

1. Return to School Status Update

Dr. Durán presented an update on planning for the return to school, highlighting state guidance and essential starting points and priorities. He shared health and safety measures to be implemented and gave an update on summer school planning. He then outlined three scenarios being considered for opening schools in the fall. Working groups have been established to plan in the areas of instruction, operations, activities, and communications and a reopening task force that will include a diverse group of staff, students, parents, and advisory group representatives is being formed. In closing, he shared opportunities for community engagement in this process and the timeline for this work.

Board members appreciated the update and encouraged involving additional parent and advisory groups as this work moves forward.

2. FY 2020 3rd Quarter Fiscal Monitoring Report: (8:35 PM)

Ms. Peterson presented the 3rd Quarter fiscal monitoring report, highlighting the status of FY 2020 revenues and expenditures and confirming that revenues are down significantly. She presented the projected year-end deficit and highlighted efforts to limit expenditures through the end of the year including the recommendation to forego the annual Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust contribution.

Ms. Peterson responded to questions on addressing a possible year-end deficit and explained the purpose of the OPEB Trust. She also spoke to the use of closeout funds and carry-forward funds for future budgets. It was noted that much of the projected deficit results from APS continuing to pay all staff.

Ms. Peterson then gave a financial update on Major Construction and Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) projects. She reviewed the status of major construction projects and the MC/MM projects identified for FY 2020. In closing, she responded to questions on funding and the status of projects underway.

3. Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL) Annual Report: (9:14 PM)

Dr. Kanninen introduced ACTL co-chairs Dana Millburn and Rebecca Hunter to present the annual report. Ms. Millburn reviewed work done during the year, including redesigning roles for members and increasing connections between ACTL committees. Priorities were volunteer recruitment, outreach to PTAs and community groups, and continued coordination with other advisory groups. Ms. Hunter described the Advisory Committee Forum and shared highlights of ACTL's work. Plans for 2020-21 were presented, as well as feedback on consistency and accountability, equity, and evidence based-instruction. The co-chairs commented on changes to ACTL's work due to COVID-19 and their plans for the future.

Updates on recommendations from the 2018-19 school year were posted for Board review. In closing, Ms. Hunter and Ms. Millburn thanked the ACTL members, staff and Board for their support.

Ms. Loft, Board members and Dr. Durán appreciated the work of ACTL, and thanked Ms. Millburn, Ms. Hunter and all of the committee members and supporting staff for their work to improve instruction for all students.

4. Internal Audit Annual Report: (9:52 PM)

Ms. O’Grady provided a brief review of the 2019-2020 audit plan. John Mickevics, Director, Internal Audit, then presented the annual report. Audits performed included review of overtime costs to identify efficiencies, savings and possible revenues; evaluation of employee expense reimbursement controls and compliance with policies; and assessing the level of compliance with the English Learner settlement agreement requirements. Mr. Mickevics shared the results and recommendations for these audits and shared next steps for the coming year.

Board members thanked Mr. Mickevics for his thorough and detailed work and report. The group discussed the overtime audit and appreciated Mr. Mickevics’ recommendations on reducing costs. The Board encouraged the Audit committee to continue following the English Learner settlement agreement in the coming year.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (10:15 PM)

1. Jefferson Middle School Gymnasium Roof Replacement:

Mr. Chadwick provided a brief overview of this project, explaining the need for the new roof that will include truss augmentation to support solar panels. He reviewed the project funding, the bid process, and the staff recommendation.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board authorize staff to award Contract 17FY20, Jefferson Gymnasium Roof Replacement Project, to Northeast Contracting Corporation in the amount of \$1,116,854, seconded by Ms. O’Grady.

Ms. Van Doren and Mr. Goldstein asked that the County be asked to share in the cost of this project because Jefferson is a joint use facility.

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.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:26 PM)

1. School Board’s Proposed 2021 Capital Improvement Plan:

Dr. Durán introduced the School Board’s proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ms. Peterson then reviewed the projects included in the CIP that are focused

on enrollment and capacity, improvements at existing facilities, and other needs. She also reviewed funding for the proposed CIP which includes bond funding and funding from other sources, including the use of capital reserves. Changes to the Interim Superintendent's proposed CIP were highlighted along with additional direction from the Board on planning for enrollment growth. In closing, Ms. Stengle shared next steps in the CIP process.

Board members expressed interest in adding back some work at The Heights that was removed from the proposed CIP. Ms. Van Doren suggested asking the County to share in the cost of the fields at The Heights, as they will be used by the community. Mr. Chadwick shared plans for relocatables at the Career Center and provided background information concerning the additional seats planned for that site. The Board encouraged oversight of the design funding for adding capacity in this CIP and suggested topics for discussion at the next work session. In closing, Ms. Talento summarized the next steps in the CIP process.

2. Proposed Revision of Barcroft calendar for 2020-2021 School Year due to COVID 19 Pandemic (11:15 PM):

Mr. Redding presented the proposed calendar revision to align Barcroft with the calendar followed by other elementary schools. This change will avoid issues if distance learning or a hybrid model is implemented for the fall. He confirmed that proposed change is for the current year only, and Principal Apostolico-Buck will establish a community engagement process if future changes to the Barcroft calendar are considered. In closing, Mr. Redding reviewed key dates for families.

Mr. Redding responded to questions such as how staff contracts would be affected by the new calendar, how changing the Barcroft calendar would be considered in development of the SY2022 calendar, and how staff would move forward with possible future changes to the Barcroft calendar.

3. Approval of Wakefield High School Geothermal System Purging and Flushing Project (11:38 PM):

Mr. Chadwick described issues with the HVAC system at Wakefield that need to be addressed, and he confirmed that this project is the final step needed to finish this work. He then reviewed funding for this work and the staff recommendation.

Mr. Chadwick responded to questions about costs related to the HVAC system at Wakefield, and provided additional information about why the work is needed. He confirmed that delaying this work could affect the return to school, and agreed to provide additional information prior to the Board voting on this item.

4. Amendments /Revisions to select School Board Policies (12:08 AM):

Matt Smith, Special Projects Coordinator, presented proposed amendments and revisions to School Board Policy J-5.3.30 Admissions and Placement and Policy J-

5.3.31 Options and Transfers. He summarized work done by staff to review and reorganize the content into three policies: J-5.3.30 Admissions, J-5.3.31 Options and Transfers, and J-5.3.33 Administrative Placements. Mr. Smith then reviewed the rationale for the policy content reorganization and highlighted specific changes.

The Board discussed topics in the associated policy implementation procedures related to the sibling transfers as well as the Montessori lottery parameters and possible adjustments to consider if there was Board interest.

5. School Board Policy M-12.4 Information Security (12:41 AM):

Mr. Adusumilli presented the proposed new policy on information security. He explained that this policy creates governance that aligns with the Virginia Information Technology agency information security structure, and how it will keep student data safe and secure.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 AM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board