

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
July 16, 2020

**Item C-1-a**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, July 16, 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:**

Monique O’Grady, Chair  
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Member  
Tannia Talento, Member  
Nancy Van Doren, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
Catherine Ashby, 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

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. **Citizen Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items:**

The following speakers addressed the Board, supporting the phased reopening of school and sharing concerns about in-person learning. Some speakers were staff who shared concerns about health risks and suggestions for virtual learning:

*Karli Boothe*, teacher and parent

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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.

*Marchal Magee*, parent  
*Dana Crepeau*, teacher and parent  
*Alesandra Bakaj*, Yorktown teacher  
*Ginny Hutcheson*, teacher  
*Kim Graver*, teacher  
*Abigail Crain*, teacher  
*Ryan Zito*, teacher  
*Emily Spellman*, teacher  
*Christina Smith*, EL teacher  
*Madison Azzara*, teacher  
*Leigh Buckley Altice*, SPED teacher

The following speakers addressed the Board, opposing virtual learning, noting concerns with this model, supporting opening schools and asking for data that is informing decisions. Some speakers encouraged special support for young children and children with special needs:

*Cindy Lersten*, parent  
*Reginald Goeke*, parent  
*Edward Brown*, parent  
*Rene Gutel*, Abingdon parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

*Christopher Myers*, parent: appreciating the challenges faced by APS and supporting both full time school and distance model options for families.

*Ingrid Gant*, President, AEA: thanking the Superintendent for his staff-focused Town Hall meeting and for listening to educators, families, and students as he makes these important decisions.

*Kathleen Horenberg*, teacher: appreciating the revised plan, and sharing questions to be answered before students and staff are brought back to school.

*Paul Brickley*, parent: recognizing challenges and encouraging continued work to develop solutions, and suggesting creating taskforces to guide decisions.

*Courtney Fox*, parent: asking for a plan to provide quality instruction to all students, and commenting on concerns with implementing two models at once.

4. Recognitions: NONE

5. Announcements

- *July 18, 2020 Virtual School Board/Superintendent Retreat, 9 AM*
- *July 23, 2020 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *July 28, 2020 Virtual School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Noon*

Ms. O’Grady summarized correspondence received by the Board and encouraged all to visit the Engage Webpage to learn about current topics. She clarified that the Board will vote on changing the school calendar as required by law and confirmed that operational matters including the instruction model are the Superintendent’s responsibility. She confirmed that the Board fully supported Dr. Durán’s decisions.

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán provided a brief update on the Grab-and-Go Meals program, summer distance learning, and the Let’s Talk Summer Series for students on advocating for change. He also reviewed the development of a new Equity policy, which will be brought forward for Information on July 30 and Action on August 20. He confirmed that after approval of the policy, staff will develop policy implementation procedures.

Responding to Board questions, staff provided more information about summer school registration processes.

C. **CONSENT AGENDA:** (8:04 PM)

*Ms. Van Doren moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. 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. May 12, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- b. May 28, 2020 Closed Meeting
- c. June 10, 2020 Closed Meeting
- d. June 11, 2020 Closed Meeting
- e. June 16, 2020 Closed Meeting
- f. June 18, 2020 Closed Meeting
- g. June 23, 2020 Closed Meeting
- h. June 26, 2020 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 5 Appointments
- 24 Changes In Position/Salary
- 17 Resignations
- 2 Retirements
- 1 Termination

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Resignation

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

2 Retirements

3. Revision of School Board Policy M-10 Planetarium
4. Proposed School Board Policy K-2.3.30 Media Relations
5. K-6 Distribution of Non-school Materials
6. School Health Advisory Board Brief
7. Appointment of Budget Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. O’Grady announced that as part of consent, the Board approved the revision of policy M-20 Planetarium, Policy K-6 Distribution of Non-school Materials, and new policy K-2.3.30 Media Relations. The Board also appointed Melanie Bowen as Chair and Anthony Rush as Vice Chair of the Budget Advisory Council.

The Board also made the following appointments: Michele Micael, Assistant Principal, Abingdon Elementary; Amin Littman, Assistant Principal, Barrett Elementary; Cory Mainor, Assistant Principal, Arlington Career Center; Denise Santiago, Assistant Principal, Key Elementary; Amy Hailey, Supervisor, Library Services; Jonathan Turrisi, Director, Strategic Planning; and Darlene Carr-Greene, Interim Operations Manager, Transportation.

**D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:14 PM)**

1. Return to School Status Update

Dr. Durán presented an update on plans to return to school, recommending starting school in a full virtual model on September 8. He shared information about how this decision was made and described the phased approach to in-person instruction being developed, which will include continuous monitoring of health data and other factors to ensure safety of all. He confirmed the goal of offering in-school learning in mid-October and encouraged families to indicate their preference for in-school or virtual learning if they have not yet done so.

He then described plans for distance learning, noting how these plans differ from the distance learning model used in the spring. He shared sample schedules, outlined plans for professional learning for staff, and described how services will be provided for students with special needs, English learners, and gifted students. He then spoke to health and safety plans being developed in collaboration with the County Government and County Public Health Division. He also spoke to communications efforts and encouraged all to maintain a civil discussion of the

situation, and focus on doing what is best for the whole community. In closing, he reviewed the next steps.

The Board appreciated the update and encouraged continued communications as plans progress. Dr. Durán shared timelines and how information will continue to be considered as plans move forward. Ms. Talento thanked families for providing feedback and shared some parent suggestions. She also recognized mental health challenges caused by the pandemic. The group discussed possible staffing issues with the two models and noted the importance of flexibility. Other topics briefly discussed included student course selections, school start times, providing social/emotional support to students, and childcare for the community. Additional information was shared concerning devices and connectivity, staffing decisions, how to support staff, students and families going forward, and ensuring equity in efforts. Ms. O’Grady highlighted continuing communications for the community and recognizing these trying times, again encouraged all to work together.

**E. ACTION ITEMS: (9:38 PM)**

1. Arlington Career Center Contract Award for Columbia Pike Branch Library Renovation:

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, provided a brief review of this project, noting minor adjustments made since it was presented for information. He outlined added capacity that will result from this project, reviewed planned work and shared communications plans. He then summarized the project budget and recommendations to the Board.

The Board discussed the loss of the wifi hot-spot at the Career Center site, and staff confirmed that they are working to address this issue.

*Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board Approve an individual change order for the library conversion in the amount of \$3,116,366 to Gilbane Building Company; Establish the revised construction contract sum of \$4,008,113 as the basis of which to evaluate future change orders; and Approve the proposed project budget as shown in Exhibit A and authorize staff to encumber funds as necessary to meet the project schedule. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen.*

Ms. O’Grady 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/ACTION ITEMS: (9:51 PM)**

1. Revised 2021 School Calendar:

Mr. Redding presented the proposed calendar revision to move the start date for students to September 8. He confirmed that professional development and training will take place during the weeks before September 8 to better prepare staff for

virtual instruction. He explained that by utilizing the state attendance requirement of 990 hours, no additional days will need to be added to meet that requirement. Ms. Loft then described plans for professional learning that will take place during this additional time prior to the students' return to school.

The group discussed how virtual learning might affect the number of instructional hours provided and whether that would impact the required 990 instructional hours. Staff agreed to apply for any relevant waivers allowed by the state.

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the School Board adopt the proposed revisions to the 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented, utilizing the hours of attendance to meet required seat time, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. 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.*

## **G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:11 PM)**

### **1. Swanson Right of Way Dedication:**

Mr. Chadwick presented this request from the County to access APS property while improving a sidewalk near the school, sharing a summary of the temporary easement being proposed.

Staff responded to Board questions about the agreement and will provide clarification on some aspects of the proposed agreement.

### **2. Long Branch APS/DPR Playground Easement Lease Agreement and 3. Long Branch APS/DPR Relocatable License Agreement: (10:18 PM)**

Mr. Chadwick presented these two items together. He described the work planned at Long Branch for playground improvement and placement of a relocatable on the site. He shared drawings of the site and confirmed both agreements have been reviewed by legal counsel. He also confirmed that the playground equipment being planned for this site is more accessible to children with disabilities.

Responding to questions, Mr. Chadwick provided additional information about plans to communicate with the principal and parents for input on the equipment to be purchased. The group discussed collaborating with the County on better management of the property maintenance, and staff agreed to provide clarifying information to the Board concerning capacity at the site.

### **4. Career Center/Columbia Pike Lease Agreement; and Career Center/Columbia Pike Memorandum of Understanding: (10:40 PM)**

Mr. Chadwick presented these two items together, reviewing the original memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Columbia Pike Library, and sharing the proposed revision to the current lease agreement. He then presented the

proposed MOU and the design for the building renovation and discussed how the space will be shared between the two entities. He also outlined work done to date to prepare for the renovation at the site.

Board members provided feedback on these two items, with some expressing concern about the length of the lease agreement. Board members also acknowledged the community's interest and support in this joint arrangement.

6. 2020-2021 Primary Montessori and Community Peer Program Tuition Fee Reduction: (10:57 PM)

Wendy Pilch, Supervisor, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, presented some options for the Board to consider related to reducing tuition fees for two preschool programs during the pandemic closure, as the students will not be receiving instruction on-site. She described input from families resulting in this proposal and the financial impact of this proposal.

Board members were very concerned about the cost of this proposed fee reduction and discussed how virtual learning would be provided to these students. Also discussed were the wait-lists and how they would be handled. Also discussed was how this proposal would affect the VPI program, special education students in the program, and program staffing. Board members agreed to consider the suggestion, but again expressed concerns about the financial impact of the proposal.

**G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**H. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Monique O'Grady, Chair  
Arlington School Board