

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preliminary Work Session on Capital Planning
May 13, 2020

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, May 13, 2020, at 5:33 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, using Microsoft Teams.

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:

Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
Dr. Jeannette 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
Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Robert Ruiz, Planner, Planning and Evaluation
Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction
James Meikle, Director, Maintenance
Michael DePalma, Planner, Facilities and Operations

Ms. Talento called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being held electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency. Ms. Talento and Ms. Johnson welcomed participants.

Ms. Johnson provided an overview of resources and the economic uncertainty that is making it challenging to propose the usual 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ms. Peterson shared budget details and outlined the County’s plan to take a multi-phase approach to capital planning over the next few years. She then highlighted how the economy has impacted APS planning and confirmed that APS will take the same approach as the County, with a focus on short-term needs at this time.

Ms. Stengle reviewed information used to identify CIP recommendations and highlighted urgent priorities for the FY2021 CIP, such as addressing enrollment at the elementary level, continuing to address needs for Arlington Tech at the Career Center, completing development of The Heights, and completing phase 2 of the Transportation Staff Facility Project. Next tier priorities included funding for the Education Center and Career Center projects, options to address middle school needs, funding for Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM), and other projects. She then reviewed priorities and planning needed to prepare for future CIPs.

Mr. Chadwick presented an update on the status of current capital projects and explained how timelines will be adjusted. Mr. Ruiz shared a comparison of projected school enrollment to school seats at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. He also described how delaying certain projects could affect high school seats. Ms. Stengle then reviewed the CIP development and approval timeline and community outreach efforts.

Responding to questions, Ms. Peterson explained that the budget will not be determined until bond capacity can be identified based on the County's estimates for future revenues. She also confirmed that there are unknown factors that may affect bond referenda over the next few years. Also discussed was a potential timeline for renovation of the Education Center, how project delays could affect seat deficits and potential boundary changes, and how planned capacity will be managed at the Career Center. The discussion focused on how to move forward with the Career Center expansion project concept design. The group held an extensive discussion of the cost of this project, how changes to the timeline may affect schools and programs, and how instruction must inform construction planning.

After a brief discussion of using MC/MM funding for handwashing stations in schools, Ms. Stengle reviewed possible timelines for upcoming boundary processes at all levels. Also noted was the need to focus on instruction, including the immersion visioning process, as boundary processes proceed. Staff then provided information on funding in the proposed FY 2021 CIP to address urgent priorities.

Board members thanked staff for their work, recognized the challenges ahead, and appreciated the work session as a foundation for moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board