

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board and Executive Leadership Team Retreat
June 29, 2020

Item C-1-e

The Arlington School Board convened on Monday, June 29, 2020, at 12:02 PM. The meeting was held by electronic communication means, using Microsoft Teams, due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Ralph Northam in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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 was:

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
Lizette Torres, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
JulieAnne Jones, Clerical Assistant, School Board

Dr. Durán, Ms. Talento, and Ms. O’Grady welcomed all participants and reviewed the agenda. Objectives of the retreat included discussion of specific work that might be paused in 2020-21, identifying priorities for the Board’s Action Plan, reviewing the status of equity work, and defining ways to improve collaborations.

The group discussed work that departments proposed putting on hold while staff prepares for the reopening of schools. Suggestions included pausing policy review work, program evaluations, and research requests from external organizations. Board members were concerned about delaying the policy review process, and it was agreed that policies already scheduled for review will be shared with the Policy Subcommittee, who would then determine whether the reviews could be paused. The Board also asked that the compensation study continue. Also discussed was the importance of providing emotional support as to all staff and families throughout the pandemic.

Attendees then participated in break-out groups in areas identified in the School Board Action Plan, including student success, student well-being, engaged work force, operational excellence, and partnerships. Groups discussed performance objectives that were priorities in the 2019-20 school

year, and brought back recommendations for priorities for 2020-2021. This feedback will be used to develop a draft Action Plan for 2021 to be further refined at the August planning work session.

The breakout groups then met to consider and discuss the definition of equity and reconvened to share their feedback and comments. Mr. Gregory then reviewed his draft equity work plan and Board members provided input for consideration.

In closing, Dr. Durán asked that all attendees submit feedback on collaboration between the School Board and ELT for future consideration. Ms. O’Grady and Dr. Durán appreciated the work that was accomplished and looked forward to continued efforts.

B. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board