

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
September 24, 2020

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:02 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, using Microsoft Teams.¹

Present were:

Monique O’Grady, Chair (participated virtually)
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 and announced that as she was not feeling well, and turned the meeting over to Dr. Kanninen, as Vice Chair.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting the return to school, commenting on issues with virtual learning and benefits of in-person instruction, and suggesting safety measures to manage risks. Many speakers appreciated the

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.

efforts of teachers to provide virtual instruction, and some asked about the metrics that informs decisions:

Katie Sunderland, parent
Nathan Zee, parent
Julie Hannink, Oakridge parent
Morgan Ziegenhein, parent
Anna Chenoweth, parent
Melissa Thierry, parent
Russell Laird, parent
Maureen Klovers, parent
Deanna Caputo, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board, stating concerns that virtual instruction does not meet the needs of students with special needs, and asking for a plan to provide needed instruction and support to these students:

Anjy Cramer, parent
Alicia Keenan, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Natalie Foley, parent: asking APS to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day, explaining the importance of recognizing and including all peoples who make up the country.

Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association: speaking on the return to school, recognizing the challenges and concerns that students and staff are facing and asking the Board and Superintendent to consider all stakeholders in plans.

5. Announcements

- *October 1, 2020 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *October 6, 2020 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Noon*

Dr. Kanninen announced the passing of former Superintendent Arthur Gosling, acknowledging his many contributions to APS and the community. Mr. Goldstein shared information about events at his liaison schools. Ms. Talento encouraged the community to apply for vacancies on School Board Advisory Committees. Dr. Kanninen then summarized communications received by the Board.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán thanked staff for their work during the closure and highlighted celebrations for Hispanic Heritage Month and National Custodial Workers Day. He provided information about Suicide Prevention Month, National Addiction

Professionals Day, and the work of APS substance abuse counselors. He also provided an update on the APS policy review process.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:53 PM)

Ms. Talento 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. May 5, 2020 Public Hearing School Board Proposed Budget
- b. May 28, 2020 Capital Improvement Plan Work Session #2
- c. July 1, 2020 School Board Organizational Meeting
- d. July 18, 2020 School Board Retreat
- e. July 23, 2020 Closed Meeting
- f. September 3, 2020 Closed Meeting
- g. September 8, 2020 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 13 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 8 Resignations
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 2 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 6 Appointments
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Termination

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 5 Changes In Position/Salary
- 6 Resignations
- 2 Retirements
- 1 Termination

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:

- a. Project Headphones FY21-Grant
- b. Hydroponic Garden Grant for Fleet

4. New Elementary School at Reed Temporary Change to Project Funding
5. License Agreement for School Bus Parking at the Trades Center West Lot
6. Amendment of Memorandum of Understanding with The Children's School
7. Appointment of Audit Committee Chair

Dr. Kanninen announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Frank Bellavia as Director of Communications and Melaney Mackin as Principal, Carlin Springs Elementary School.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:57 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Recognizing the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, Dr. Durán thanked staff, students and families for their support and suggestions to help prepare for returning to in-person learning. He shared the APS COVID Dashboard where the most current information related to health and safety of students and staff would be posted. He described four levels for the return to school, with level 1 focused on students with special needs; level 2 for PreK-3, ELs, CTE, and all other students with disabilities; level 3 for students who choose the hybrid model; and level 4, all students in school full time. He described each level in terms of timing, students eligible to participate, the rationale for the groups, and the schedule. Transportation considerations as well as health and safety expectations were also shared.

Dr. Durán then reviewed the survey process for staff and families at each level. He spoke to instructional resources being made available to families to help support virtual learning. A technology update was provided with information on connectivity and devices. Dr. Durán then summarized the status of operations including meal services, childcare, air quality, cleaning and maintaining healthy environments, and operations. In closing the presentation, Dr. Durán reviewed the APS financial projections and budget status.

The Board appreciated the update, thanking staff for their efforts. Acknowledging community concerns with the virtual model, the Board confirmed that the goal is to return students to the classroom in a safe and supported way. The group discussed staffing for in-person learning and how staff members with health concerns will be accommodated. Staff shared additional details on communications to families as well as how staff needs and preferences will be managed. Also briefly discussed were transportation, the VPI program, and the financial challenges being faced, as well as ensuring strong communications.

2. Update from the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families: (9:36 PM)

Michael Griffin, Chair of the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families (APCYF), presented the update, assisted by Alicia Guajardo, Co-Chair of Youth Mental Health & Wellness Committee; Kim DeBlauw, Co-Chair of Youth Mental Health & Wellness Committee, and members of the Teen Network Board. The group presented data focused on student mental health from the Fall 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey and from the recent Your Voice Matters survey. The presentation focused on data that corresponds with areas of focus in the School Board's proposed 2020-2021 Action Plan. Partnership members also shared recommendations to address concerns identified through the surveys.

Board members appreciated the information and recommendations, and discussed how to move forward to address the concerns identified by APCYF. Additional topics discussed included how the data was disaggregated and social/emotional supports provided to students and families by APS. Board members supported the suggestion for adding a program evaluation of Student Services.

3. Elementary Boundary Process Update: (10:30 PM)

Dr. Durán provided an overview of the planning for the elementary boundary process that had taken place, and acknowledged that due to the challenges of the pandemic, the scope of the boundary process was being limited to minimize the impact on families. He confirmed that the focus is to keep as many students in their current schools and to limit reassignment of students as much as possible. He also described future work needed to balance enrollment throughout the County. Ms. Stengle then provided more detail on the boundary process, identifying schools that will be part of the process and describing the data that is being used to plan. She also outlined changes made to improve efforts and respond to community input, and also reviewed community engagement opportunities.

The Board appreciated the update and supported the effort to minimize the impact on families during the pandemic. Some Board members spoke to the importance of respecting all families and the need to continue efforts to balance diversity while supporting and providing equal opportunities to all. A suggestion was made to take a separate, broader look in the future at how to address diversity apart from the boundary process. The group also discussed how to manage schools that are over capacity as part of this process and changes to option schools to consider.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (11:21 PM)

1. School Board's 2020-2021 Action Plan:

Dr. Kanninen confirmed that no changes have been made to the proposed plan since it was presented as information.

Ms. Talento moved that the Board adopt the proposed School Board 2020-2021 Action Plan, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Board members highlighted the work that went in to developing this plan and looked forward to implementing this work.

Dr. Kanninen called for a motion, and it 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.

2. Transportation Staff Facility Construction Contract Award: (11:24 PM)

Dr. Durán confirmed that no changes have been made to the item since it was presented as information.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board award the Transportation Staff Facility construction contract to The Matthews Group, Inc. in the amount of \$1,847,427; approve the proposed project budget as illustrated in Exhibit A; and approve transfer of the \$1.2 million in remaining approved funding from the Capital Reserve to the project, seconded by Ms. Talento. 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.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:26 PM)

1. Arlington Traditional School, Key School, and McKinley Elementary School Refresh and Kitchen Renovation Project Funding:

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, summarized the work to be done to prepare for the 2021 program moves to these facilities. He also summarized the proposed project funding.

Ms. Peterson provided some clarifying information about bond funding that will be used for these projects.

2. Charge for Arlington Public Schools and School Resource Officer Work Group: (11:33 PM)

After thanking staff, community members, and Ms. Van Doren as Board liaison to this work, for their contributions, Mr. Stockton presented and overview of the timeline for the work group. He also described the recommended makeup of the group and confirmed it will include a professional facilitator. He then shared the proposed charge and spoke to engagement opportunities that will be available to the full community to contribute to this effort.

The Board appreciated the information and looked forward to the continued work.

H. NEW BUSINESS: (11:45 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved that in the case of Student appeal SY21-11, the Board grant the appeal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Talento and adopted in a vote of 4 – 1. The

voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Nay; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board