

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
October 8, 2020

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:12 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
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
Tannia Talento, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present was:

John Cafferky, Counsel

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Ms. O’Grady moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider Staff Grievance SY 21-01 as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Ms. O’Grady moved to certify that to the best of her knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was seconded by Ms. Talento and 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.

Ms. O’Grady called for a brief recess. The Board reconvened in an open meeting at 7:07 PM.

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations

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.

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: 7:07 PM

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

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking them to open schools and sharing concerns about virtual learning and the benefits of in person instruction. Some speakers asked about data being used to guide decisions. Some speakers spoke to the impact of virtual learning on middle and high school students:

Alison Babb, parent
Julie Hannink, Oakridge parent
Jason Ramboz, ATS parent
Reginald Goeke, parent
Anna Chenoweth, parent
Joey Neely, parent
Ashley Callen, Williamsburg and Tuckahoe parent
Ashley Nguyen, Jamestown parent
Deanna Caputo, parent
Daniela Sicuranza, Discovery parent

The following speakers addressed the Board, sharing concerns about stresses teachers face, limited survey options available for staff, and concerns about health risks of returning to in-person instruction. Some speakers confirmed that virtual learning is effective and protects staff and students. Other speakers commented about the inequity of the proposed return to school and the stress that the hybrid model will put on assistants:

Karli Boothe, Barrett teacher
Ginny Hutcheson, Barrett teacher
Alessandra Bakaj, Yorktown teacher
Molly Haines, Hoffman-Boston teacher
Christine Bolon, Yorktown teacher
Danielle Anctil, teacher
Kiki Delli, APS teacher
Mary Madden, teacher

Mary Beth Donnelly, teacher
Abigail Crain, special education teacher
Kaila Leonberger, teacher
Erika Enright, Wakefield teacher
Kimberly Klaus, Elementary teacher
Rebecca Pettinelli, Ashlawn teacher
Frankie Haan, parent assistant

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Rene Gutel, parent: appreciating changes that have been proposed for in-person learning, especially for children with special needs, and supporting the current return to school plan.

Karen Simpson, Swanson parent: appreciating the adjustments that have been made to the return to school plan but sharing concerns about middle and high school students adapting to the changes of moving to in-person learning.

Courtney Fox, parent: speaking of a proposed model to meet the needs of all staff and families, stating concerns about the lack of options and appropriate PPE for staff, and appreciating staff efforts in spite of the challenges.

Kendra Ervin, McKinley parent: Stating concerns about considering boundary changes while families are struggling with virtual learning and the pandemic, and suggesting postponing boundary changes until students are back in school.

4. Recognitions

Dulce Carillo, Coordinator of Community Engagement, presented a recognition of Latinx student leaders from each secondary program in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Ms. Talento congratulated the students and acknowledged the many APS students who are accomplishing great things in spite of challenges.

5. Announcements

- *October 13, 2020 Committee of the Whole, 2110 Washington Blvd., 6-8 PM*
- *October 15, 2020 Virtual Closed Meeting – 5:15 PM*
- *October 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole, 2110 Washington Blvd., 6-8 PM*
- *October 19, 2020 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *October 21, 2020 Virtual Joint School Board/County Board Budget Work Session, 5 PM*

Mr. Goldstein shared events and activities at several of his liaison schools.

Ms. O’Grady spoke briefly about the speaker process and other options for the community to provide input to the Board. She also summarized communications

received by the Board, announced Open Office Hours, and encouraged community members to consider applying for School Board advisory committees.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán appreciated staff's commitment during the pandemic and acknowledged National Principals Month. He highlighted partnerships with Community in Schools NOVA and Amazon and announced the upcoming Dyslexia Conference. He shared information about Employee Benefits Open Enrollment, the Annual Online Verification Process, and student enrollment in the 2020-21 school year. He then provided a brief update on progress to address the priorities in the School Board Action Plan.

C. **CONSENT AGENDA:** (8:47 PM)

Ms. O'Grady announced that Ms. Van Doren asked that Personnel Actions be removed from consent and she confirmed that the Board would act on Personnel immediately following the Consent vote.

Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the consent agenda, 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. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. July 16, 2020 School Board Meeting
 - b. July 30, 2020 School Board Meeting
 - c. September 17, 2020 Closed Meeting
 - d. September 23, 2020 Closed Meeting
2. Personnel Actions: REMOVED FROM CONSENT
3. Grants and Restricted Programs:
 - a. ISAEP Grant – GED Program
 - b. Race to GED Grant

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Dr. Kanninen moved to approve the personnel actions, seconded by Ms. Talento. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 - 2. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Nay; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O'Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Nay. The following actions were approved:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

5 Appointments
1 Resignation
1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment
1 Change In Position/Salary
1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

1 Change In Position/Salary
1 Retirement

Ms. Van Doren and Mr. Goldstein clarified that they voted against this motion due to concerns with personnel processes only, rather than concerns about the individual personnel actions.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:49 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Recognizing the 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 an update on health, safety and operational metrics, including data available on the COVID Dashboard. He also shared health and safety actions being implemented by APS and summarized key health and safety takeaways.

Dr. Durán then reviewed feedback on the proposed return to school timeline and model. He described revisions that have been made to the hybrid models, reiterating that plans are subject to change based on circumstances. He also spoke to student grouping adjustments and considerations that affect the return to school. The survey process and plans for repurposing staff, as well as updates on technology and access, food services, childcare, and transportation, were also shared. After highlighting plans for athletic activities, Dr. Durán then outlined efforts to evaluate air quality, ventilation in facilities, and building readiness plans. In closing, he provided updated revenue and cost projections.

Board members appreciated the update. Ms. Van Doren encouraged the community to continue providing input through the Engage webpage. Staff provided additional information about plans for lunch in schools and managing expanded walk zones. Ms. Talento shared suggestions related to communications about return to school plans and concerns about the staff survey and expectations. Board members encouraged sharing more information about the hybrid model, and the group discussed staffing plans and other aspects of hybrid learning. Additional topics discussed were use of outdoor space, changes to transportation, availability of technology for families and staff, and PPE and other safety measures for staff.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (10:55 PM)

1. Charge for Arlington Public Schools and School Resource Officers Work Group:

Dr. Durán confirmed that there have been no changes to the proposed charge since it was presented as information. Ms. Van Doren shared next steps in this process.

Ms. Van Doren moved that the School Board adopt the Charge for the Arlington Public Schools and School Resource Officers work group, seconded by Dr. Kanninen.

Board members acknowledged the work that has resulted in this charge and looked forward to this work commencing.

Ms. O’Grady called for a vote and 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.

2. ATS, Key, McKinley Refresh and Kitchen Renovation Project Funding: (11:00 PM)

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

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the following actions for the 2021 School Moves project: Approve the transfer of \$2.6 million in funding from the Capital Reserve to the project, in accordance with the FY 2021 CIP; confirm \$10.25 million in total funding, in accordance with the FY 2021 CIP; and; approve an architecture/engineering team fee of \$757,230 for VMDO Architects.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Talento and 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: (11:02 PM)

1. Internal Audit Plan:

Mr. John Mickevics, Audit Director, provided an overview of the APS Internal Audit process, then presented the proposed Audit Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. He outlined the criteria used to select the projects included in the proposed audit and the challenges faced in the current year due to the pandemic. Proposed areas of focus include payroll, the Career Center seats, potential efficiency and revenue opportunities, and the registration and Welcome Center process.

Board members appreciated the proposed plan. Ms. Talento suggested looking at the mechanism available to track student registrations as part of the registration and Welcome Center process review.

2. Education Center Reuse Final Design and Construction Contract Award: (11:22 PM)

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, presented the Education Center Reuse Final Design and Construction Contract Award, reviewing background information and confirming that the project was delayed due to the pandemic. He provided a brief overview of the planned renovation, highlighting impacts of the pandemic on the timeline and funding and confirming that the delay resulted in lower costs than estimated in March when the project was delayed. In closing, he presented the proposed project funding and next steps.

The group discussed costs and funding, the impact of the delay of this project, funding sources, and possibly bringing back options that were considered during the design phase.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board