

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
October 22, 2020

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:04 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications 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
Claudia Mercado, Deputy 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
Daryl Johnson, Communications Coordinator, School & Community Relations
Heather Davis, Coordinator, Student Services
Cathy Lin, Director, Facilities and Operations
John Mickevice, Director, Internal Audit
Pope Zachary, Emergency Manager, Administrative Services

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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.

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

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Nick Jackson, parent: supporting county-wide elementary boundary changes in the future.

Alexandra Bakaj, teacher: supporting delaying reopening of schools and risks of COVID-19.

Mike Flood, parent: concerning proposed elementary boundary changes.

Christine Bolon, teacher: supporting delaying reopening of schools and risk of COVID-19.

Lily Israel, student: supporting distance learning model until there is less risk of virus infection.

Courtney Fox, parent: supporting teacher safety and prioritizing students.

Maxwell Merck, student: supporting distance learning model.

Miranda Turner, parent: supporting reopening of schools.

Julie Hilt Hannink: supporting reopening of schools.

Dan Carroll, teacher: supporting distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Kaila Leonberger, teacher: supporting delaying reopening of schools due to ventilation issues.

Marissa Mulholland, teacher: supporting better collaboration between parents and teachers.

Danielle Anctil, teacher: supporting delaying reopening of schools.

Meili Haan, student: supporting delaying reopening of schools.

Katie Jefcoat, parent: supporting better data and decision transparency.

Laura Holtry-Hughes, parent: concerning teacher return to hybrid model.

Norman Gorcys, parent: concerning McKinley Elementary boundary changes.

Sheila Kelly, parent: supporting the urgency of reopening schools.

Lisa Richman, parent, supporting teacher choice on returning to school.

Anjy Cramer, parent: supporting distance learning model.

Bill Van Evera, teacher: supporting delaying reopening of schools.

Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association: supporting delaying reopening of schools in support of teacher safety

Sharon Purdy, parent: concerning elementary boundary changes and over capacity at Glebe Elementary School.

Erin Neal, speaking on behalf of other parents: concerning interventions for special education services and returning students to school who are falling behind.

Melissa Daddio, parent: supporting the distance learning model.

Susi Menazza, parent: concerning elementary boundary changes and walkability of proposed planning unit moves.

Alexandra Cozell, teacher: supporting delaying reopening of schools.

Jeff Martin, community member: supporting delaying reopening schools and concerns about risks to teachers' health.

4. Recognitions

Heather Davis, Counselor Coordinator, Student Services, recognized Bullying Prevention Month, sharing information about efforts in APS to address bullying.

5. Announcements

- *October 27, 2020 Virtual Work Session on the Instructional Program Pathways, 6 PM*
- *October 29, 2020 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *October 29, 2020 Virtual Work Session on Elementary Boundaries, 6:30 PM*
- *November 2, 2020 -Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*

Mr. Goldstein shared information about events and activities at his liaison schools that support their communities, including Barcroft Elementary, Arlington Science Focus Elementary School, and Arlington Traditional Elementary School. Dr. Kanninen thanked APS staff for their assistance in making sure the community was informed about the 2020 Census. She proudly announced that Arlington's census response is 99.98%. She also congratulated Dr. Durán on his election as president of The Association of Latino Administrators & Superintendents (ALAS).

Ms. O'Grady announced that Red Ribbon Week (October 21-31) promotes a mission of drug-free lifestyle. She encouraged parents to speak to their children

about drugs and their dangers. She also shared about Gunston Middle School's food distribution program to families in the community. Ms. O'Grady then provided a summary of recent communications received by the Board, announced Open Office hours, and encouraged community members to consider applying to serve on School Board advisory committees.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán thanked staff and the community for feedback on the return to school plan and elementary boundary changes. He encouraged the school community to remain united during this difficult time and to be mindful about criticism and negative comments towards teachers and staff. He thanked the community for their patience during the recent network outage. He also thanked Project Headphones for their donation of \$110,000 to purchase headphones for students to use during distance learning. He congratulated Andrea Fitch on receiving the 2020 Canvas Elementary Educator of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding educators who embrace distance learning and support student success and achievement. In addition, Dr. Durán shared upcoming deadlines and important academic calendar information and briefly provided an update on the School Board's Action Plan.

The Board thanked Dr. Durán and staff for their leadership during these extraordinary times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

C. **CONSENT AGENDA:** (9:21 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. June 2, 2020 Work Session on the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan
 - b. August 13, 2020 Work Session on Return to School Planning
 - c. October 1, 2020 Closed Meeting
 - d. October 15, 2020 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 3 Retirements

- 3. Appointment of APS Representative to Aquatics Committee
- 4. Grants and Restricted Programs

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (9:22 PM)

- 1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán spoke about the APS COVID-19 Dashboard, operational metrics by return to school levels, updated safety guidance, and staff return-to-work surveys and results. He provided an overview on the return-to-school plan focusing on level 1 and level 2, including transportation planning. He described safety considerations and metrics. Lastly, he shared a financial projections summary.

The Board discussed data on the APS COVID-19 Dashboard, proposed return to school dates for level 1, interventions to address students who need additional supports, teacher preference on returning to school buildings, and support for the distance learning model.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (10:13 PM)

- 1. Internal Audit Plan:

Noting that the Internal Audit Plan focuses on internal audit projects for the 2020-2021 school year, Dr. Kanninen confirmed that no changes have been made since the proposed Internal Audit Plan was presented for information at the October 8, 2020 School Board meeting.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the School Board adopt the Internal Audit Plan for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Ms. Talento 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. Education Center Reuse Final Design and Construction Contract Award:

Dr. Durán confirmed that no changes have been made to this item since it was presented as information at the October 8, 2020 School Board meeting.

Ms. Van Doren made the following motion:

Having carefully reviewed the extensive input from the BLPC, PFRC, civic association leaders and other stakeholders, and the Superintendent's recommendation, I move that the School Board approve the Final Design as generally described in Exhibits A through D in the materials from the October 22, 2020 School Board meeting.

By approving Exhibits A through D, the School Board approves the following aspects of the project:

- Reaffirm basic project criteria to create 500 to 600 new high school seats, to be completed in time for start of school September 2022;*
- Site plan and development conditions of the approved Use Permit. The School Board authorizes the Chair to sign related legal instruments, such as easements, vacations, and dedications, as may be required to comply with conditions of the Use Permit, provided such instruments are first reviewed and approved as to form by APS legal counsel and are shown in the Final Design;*
- Final design for the project as generally described in Exhibits A and B;*
- Revisions to the Educational Specifications as generally described in Exhibit C;*
- Total project budget and funding available as described in Exhibit D;*
- Construction contract award to MCN Build in the amount of \$27,886,537 by increasing the existing purchase order to include the added contract value; and*
- Transfer of \$500,000 from the Capital Reserve to the project funding.*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen 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: (10:19 PM)

1. School Board FY 2022 Budget Direction:

Ms. O’Grady reviewed the proposed budget direction which directs the Superintendent to prepare a FY 2022 budget that maintains the large and diverse school system, focuses on supporting staff, and emphasizes the School Board’s three overarching goals.

The Board discussed the financial challenges APS faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also discussed employee compensation.

2. First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Highland Holdings, LLC:

Ms. Lin presented the proposed First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Highland Holdings, LLC to provide 100 additional staff parking spaces at the Career Center, Arlington Community High School, and the Montessori Public School of Arlington.

3. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy K-14.30 Volunteers and Deletion of Policy K-14.31 Volunteer Programs:

Daryl Johnson, Communications Coordinator, outlined the proposed revisions to Policy K-14.30 to ensure student safety and alignment of the Volunteers and Partners Program to the policy and policy implementation procedures.

The Board appreciated the clarity this revision provides to the volunteer process.

4. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy I-7.2.3.30 Communications:

Ms. Loft explained that the proposed revisions to Policy I-7.2.3.30 align with the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement, update language to reflect the restructuring of the Department of Teaching and Learning, and clarify the process related to translation and interpretation services available to staff and parents.

Ms. Talento requested clarification on the status of the Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students survey that was shared with the Board on previous years.

5. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy J-8.3.1 School Health:

Ms. Loft explained that proposed revisions to Policy J-8.3.1 align with the Code of Virginia § 54.1-3408 regarding administration of naloxone or other opioid antagonists and the authorization of some over-the-counter medications. The revision also adds a section related to Individual Health Care Plans, updates language to clarify the relationship between School Health of Arlington County Department of Human Services and Arlington Public Schools and the services currently provided in schools, and updates language to reflect restructuring of the Department of Teaching and Learning.

The Board briefly discussed over-the-counter medicine practices.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board