

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
November 17, 2020

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:01 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
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
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Cathy Lin, Director, Facilities and Operations
Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

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.

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting the reopening of schools:

Reg Goeke, parent
Alison Babb, parent
Rene Gutel, parent, Abingdon Elementary School
Sheila Kelly, parent
Deanna Caputo, parent
Ivy O'Connor, student, Yorktown High School
Elizabeth Galotto, parent
Lisa Troiano, parent and APS secondary teacher
Mary Anne Gray, parent, Claremont Immersion Elementary School
Brendan Branon, parent
Daniel Simpson, parent
Paul Brickley, parent, Yorktown High School
Julie Hannink, parent
Katie Sunderland, on behalf of Emily Lozano, parent
Parker Williams, student
Alice Hogans, parent
Lisa Movik, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting delaying the reopening of schools:

Christine Bolon, teacher, Yorktown High School
Courtney Fox, on behalf of *Lee Harper-Chen*, parent, McKinley
Melissa Daddio, parent, Discovery Elementary School
Trish Madden, parent and APS substitute
Josh Folb, parent, teacher, Chair of Compensations Committee, Arlington Education Association
Ingrid Gant, President, Arlington Education Association
Ian Blumenfeld, parent, McKinley Elementary School

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the proposed elementary boundary changes:

Mike Flood, parent, Planning Unit 14070 and 14080, reassigned to the Reed site

4. Recognition

Ms. Talento announced that on November 18, 2021, APS recognized National Education Support Professionals Day and thanked the many Educational Support Professionals throughout APS for their dedication and contributions to the schools.

Dr. Durán and the School Board honored Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, on her retirement after nearly 35 years with APS.

5. Announcements

- *November 23, 2020, Virtual Closed Meeting 5:15 PM*
- *November 30, 2020 -Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *December 1, 2020 Work Session – Special Education Update 5:15 PM*
- *December 1, 2020 Public Hearing on Elementary Boundary Proposal, 7:30 PM*

Ms. O’Grady shared a summary of plans for upcoming Board meetings, and also provided an update on communications the Board has received.

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán provided information on the Parent Academy, meal distribution services for the Thanksgiving holiday, and important academic calendar reminders. He also presented an update on the School Board’s 2021 Action Plan.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:32 PM)

Ms. Talento moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Dr Kanninen. 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 16, 2020 Work Session on the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan
 - b. October 29, 2020 Closed Meeting
 - c. November 6, 2020 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 1 Declined Offer
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

3 Appointments
3 Changes In Position/Salary
3 Resignations

3. CTAE, Arlington Tech and Internships Brief
4. Memorandum of Understanding with Arlington County Board for Student Internet Access
5. Appointment to Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee

Ms. O’Grady announced that Eli Berg was appointed student representative to Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee and that Dr. Jeannette Allen was appointed Interim Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services. She also announced that the Board received the Career & Technical Education Brief.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:36 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán first explained the revised health, safety, and operational metrics being used as the guiding criteria in the decision-making process for APS operations in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Virginia Department of Health, and Virginia Department of Education. Then he provided an instructional update focusing on access and connectivity, student progress, and interventions. He also spoke about the return-to-school plan by levels and other in-person support for students. Dr. Durán shared information about air quality, air purification, and lunch options. Lastly, he provided a financial summary.

Board members discussed connectivity, student progress, re-surveying parents on their preferred instructional model, contact tracing protocols, resources to support mental health, concerns about air quality, Extended Day funding and their role in the distance learning model, and concerns about extracurricular activities.

E. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:11 PM)

1. Barcroft Calendar:

Ms. Ashby presented the Superintendent’s proposal to align the Barcroft Elementary School calendar with the calendars of all other elementary schools beginning in 2021-22. Ms. Stengle shared background on the modified calendar that was proposed in 2002 and Ms. Loft spoke on the evaluation of the Modified School Year Calendar by the Office of Planning and Evaluation. The findings showed that there was no evidence that maintaining a separate calendar achieved increased student achievement, the costs to maintain the modified calendar were significant, and adopting a consistent, countywide practice across the schools is

recommended. Ms. Ashby reviewed the community engagement process to inform the Barcroft staff and families of the proposal to adjust the calendar and supports needed to transition from the modified school year calendar.

The Board discussed concerns with the community engagement process, acknowledging feedback from the Barcroft community voicing apprehension with ending the modified calendar. The Board also discussed costs and the school's instructional focus.

2. 2022 School Calendar:

Mr. Redding presented the proposed 2022 calendar options, outlining the development process for the instructional calendar, calendar requirements to comply with Virginia Code and other considerations, and community survey feedback. He also proposed a revision to the current 2021 calendar to close school for students and staff on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 for Inauguration Day.

The Board discussed compliance of instructional time with the Virginia Department of Education and waivers due to the pandemic. They also briefly discussed the proposed revision to close on Inauguration Day and guidelines for snow days while students are in the distance learning model.

3. Legislative Package:

Ms. Wise presented a summary of the proposed bills the Board supports, an update on the General Assembly, and some of the work she had done to lobby legislators on behalf of APS.

The Board thanked Ms. Wise for her advocacy work.

4. Long Branch Playground License Agreement:

Ms. Lin requested that the Board authorize the Long Branch APS/DPR Playground Easement License Agreement to allow APS to install, construct, maintain, repair and/or remove playground equipment and associated facilities and utility equipment on a portion of Arlington County property at Fillmore Park.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 AM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board