

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
December 3, 2020

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7:02 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, using Microsoft Teams.<sup>1</sup>

**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 were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
Jeannette Allen, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
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

**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:**

The following speakers addressed the Board:

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

*Brady Krohl*, Washington-Liberty student: describing the Wheels for Africa charity and encouraging community members to donate unused bikes.

*Wendy Pizer*, parent: concerning the level 3 return to school, sharing concerns relating to lunches, metrics and other issues.

*Michael Rauseo*, parent and spouse of teacher: speaking of the challenges that teachers face and providing suggestions to help staff with virtual instruction.

*Christina Headrick*, parent: speaking about the importance of good ventilation to help prevent the spread of COVID and encouraging the use of HEPA filters.

*Natalie Foley*, Discovery parent: thanking the Board for their work, and appreciating the proposal to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

*Ingrid Gant*, President, Arlington Education Association: Asking for better communication from the administration on data including incidences of COVID in the schools and encouraging better safety measures for staff.

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking that school be reopened, sharing data in support of opening and the negative consequences not returning children to school:

*Chris Myers*, parent  
*Anjali Jolly*, parent  
*Anne Benjaminson*, Long Branch parent  
*Katie Sunderland*, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board on the elementary boundary proposal, noting concerns with some of the proposed changes. Some speakers suggested revisions to better balance enrollment in the schools:

*Casey Nolan*, parent  
*Reem Akkad*, Arlington Science Focus School  
*Steven Leutner*, parent  
*Nellie Carr*, parent  
*Dima Hakura*, Arlington Science Focus School

#### 4. Recognition

Miles Mason, Bond Co-Chair presented the report on the fall 2020 Bond Campaign. He thanked APS and community members for supporting the campaign. He briefly reviewed the projects the bond funding will support, and highlighted outreach efforts. In closing, he thanked his Co-Chair, Lois Thomas Koontz for her contributions to this effort.

The Board thanked Mr. Mason and Ms. Koontz for their work, acknowledging the especially challenging circumstances this year and appreciating the community support of providing funding for the schools.

5. Announcements

- *December 7, 2020, Virtual Legislative Meeting– 8:15 AM*
- *December 8, 2020 Committee of the Whole on CIP Framework, 6 PM*
- *December 10, 2020 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *Dec. 10, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting on Program of Studies, 6:30 PM*
- *December 14, 2020 -Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*

Mr. Goldstein announced events and activities at some of his liaison schools and shared information about a year-long conference sponsored by the Student Minority Achievement Network. Ms. Van Doren appreciated the parents who participated in her last Open Office Hours meeting and shared some feedback she received. Ms. O’Grady summarized communications the Board has received recently.

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán congratulated Dr. Shantha Smith of Gunston who was selected for the Mary Peake Award for Excellence in Education Equity. He also congratulated Wakefield students for participating in an art exhibition at Marymount University, and encouraged students to enter the Martin Luther King, Jr. Arts Contest. After providing an update on meal services and highlighted upcoming dates, he then shared progress on the 2020-21 School Board Action Plan, including updates on the elementary boundary process, the APS-School Resource Officer (APS-SRO) Work Group, policies, and the Instructional Program Pathways.

Ms. Van Doren introduced Dr. Julie Shedd, the facilitator who will help lead the APS/SRO Work Group. Dr. Shedd spoke to the work ahead and Mr. Stockton highlighted plans for student participation. Board members appreciated this effort.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:08 PM)**

*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. September 17, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- b. November 2, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- c. November 2, 2020 Closed Meeting
- d. November 12, 2020 Closed Meeting
- e. November 16, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

2 Appointments

1 Change In Position/Salary

1 Resignation

1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

2 Changes In Position/Salary

1 Resignation

3. Minor Construction/Major Maintenance Brief
4. Long Branch Playground License Agreement
5. Appointments to the Aquatics Committee
6. ~~Appointments to the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission~~ Removed from agenda
7. 2021 Calendar Revision – Inauguration Day Holiday
8. 2021 Legislative Package

Ms. O’Grady confirmed that the Board approved the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance briefing report, made appointments to the Aquatics committee, and approved the addition of the Inauguration Day holiday to the 2021 calendar.

**D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:10 PM)**

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán shared health, safety, and operational metrics and presented an instructional update. He described the new Distance Learning Task Force that will work on concerns related to academic performance and social-emotional growth during distance learning. He also shared K-2 PALS disaggregated data on literacy skills and confirmed that APS is also working on a comparative analysis of secondary grades during distance learning. Dr. Durán then presented an update on the Return to School plan and shared an overview of the proposed hybrid model, as

well as considerations related to athletics. Operational efforts highlighted included high air quality standards, the use of air purification units, and determining classroom capacities based on air quality. In closing, Dr. Durán reviewed changes to the financial projections for the current year. He also reviewed the projections for the FY 2020 closeout and reiterated his recommendation for using some of this closeout to address the current year deficit.

Board members appreciated the update. Dr. Durán provided more information on how health metrics are used to inform decisions and the group discussed the PALS data. Mr. Chadwick provided clarification on determination of classroom capacity with social distancing and ventilation management. Also discussed was bus capacity, reinstating some athletics and music programs, and efforts to improve air quality. The group also discussed plans to address learning loss, delivery of social/emotional supports and continued efforts to improve virtual learning.

#### **E. ACTION ITEMS: (9:33 PM)**

##### **1. Elementary Boundaries:**

Ms. Stengle summarized the proposed elementary boundary changes, highlighting planning unit reassignments and School Board adjustments that have been made to the Superintendent's recommendation. She also reviewed the grandfathering recommendations that have been incorporated into the proposal.

Board members thanked staff for their hard work, recognizing that this boundary process had to be adjusted due to the unusual circumstances at this time.

*Dr. Kanninen made the following motion:*

*Due to the pandemic and stress on families, APS narrowed the focus of this process to make only boundary adjustments needed as a result of the Fall 2021 opening of a new neighborhood school at the Key site and the new building at the Reed site, as well as the need to place ASFS within its boundaries.*

*The Superintendent's recommendation with School Board adjustments reassigns 33 Planning Units and a projected 1,040 K-5 students to other neighborhood elementary schools beginning in SY 2021-2022, and preserves flexibility for a broader, countywide elementary school boundary process in Fall 2022.*

*The Superintendent's recommendation with School Board Adjustments:*

- *Creates a new attendance zone for a new neighborhood elementary school at the Key site and an adjusted attendance zone for most of McKinley in the new building at the Reed site*
- *Places all schools within their attendance zones*

- *Preserves flexibility for a broader countywide elementary school boundary process in 2022*
- *Allows for instructional visioning and the FY 2022 CIP and FY 2023 CIP to be used as guidance in the next elementary school boundary process*

*Therefore, I move that the School Board approve the Superintendent’s recommendation with School Board Adjustments. This recommendation will reassign the following Elementary School Planning Units as presented in the table displayed on the screen:*

ASFS to Taylor	24010, 24011, 24020
Taylor to ASFS	23170, 23190, 23180, 23200, 23210, 23211
Ashlawn to ASFS	23220, 23230, 23231
McKinley to Ashlawn	14100, 14101, 14110
Tuckahoe to McKinley at Reed site	16061
ASFS to new school at Key site	24050, 24051, 24060, 24070, 24071, 24130, 24031, 24030, 24033, 24032, 24090, 24040, 24041, 24042, 24043, 24081, 24082

*These elementary boundary adjustments will apply in SY 2021-2022 for current SY 2020-2021 students in grades K-4 and to all subsequent students in the attendance zones for Ashlawn, ASFS, new school at the Key site, McKinley at the Reed site, Taylor, and Tuckahoe.*

*I also move that current Grade 4 students at Ashlawn, ASFS, McKinley, and Taylor who were affected by a boundary reassignment will be eligible for grandfathering for grade 5 in SY 2021-2022.*

*Current Grade 4 students who are attending ASFS through Team and Sibling transfers will be eligible to remain at ASFS for grade 5 in SY 2021-2022.*

*All students attending Ashlawn, McKinley, Taylor, and Tuckahoe through transfers can continue at their current schools.*

*In addition, all current Grade K-4 Tuckahoe students who reside in PU 16061, which is reassigned to McKinley at the Reed site, will be eligible to be grandfathered at Tuckahoe through SY 2022-2023.*

*Transportation will not be provided for grandfathered students.*

*I further direct the Superintendent to:*

- *Implement a mechanism to reduce Abingdon’s enrollment that will take effect in SY 2021-2022*
- *Undertake a countywide process to manage elementary school enrollment in SY 2022-2023 that will take effect in SY 2023-2024 and will include boundary changes and other tools*

Notes:

- *Students who are eligible to remain at their current school due to grandfathering would still have the option to attend their newly-assigned neighborhood school in SY 2021-2022.*
- *Students must be enrolled in APS as of Dec. 7, 2020 to be eligible for grandfathering.*
- *In addition to notifying current families in the Planning Units involved, APS will also reach out to families of Grade 4 students in the reassigned PUs who withdrew on or before Dec. 7, to confirm whether their student will reenroll for 2021-22 and if they want to be grandfathered with their current neighborhood school.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Ms. Talento shared concerns about this proposal but recognized the need to begin addressing capacity issues, and she outlined challenges and suggestions to address needs moving forward. Mr. Goldstein explained his opposition to this proposal and confirmed he will not support it. Dr. Kanninen appreciated the work of her colleagues and the staff in developing this proposal and stated her belief that it was the most appropriate action at this time. Ms. O’Grady also thanked the Board and staff for their work, but also acknowledged her concerns with the proposal.

Ms. O’Grady called for a vote and the motion was 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.

2. Barcroft Elementary School Calendar Alignment: (10:21 PM)

Dr. Durán confirmed that the proposed Barcroft Elementary School Calendar alignment proposal had no substantive changes to the proposal. Responding to a question, Ms. Loft explained how staff is looking to determine the best use of the intersession time.

*Ms. Talento moved that the Board approve the Superintendent’s proposal to align the Barcroft school year calendar with the calendars of all of APS elementary schools beginning in the 2021-22 school year, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.*

Board members acknowledged that some Barcroft community members do not support this change, but stated that they believed this change will support long term growth and stability in the schools.

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

3. 2022 School Calendar: (10:35 PM)

Dr. Durán confirmed that this proposal has not changed since it was presented for information.

Mr. Redding responded to questions on how the calendar committee was involved in the development of the proposed calendar.

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's Recommended 2021-2022 School Year Calendar as presented, 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.*

4. Revisions to Select School Board Policies: (10:48 PM)

Mr. Chadwick presented the proposed policy revisions to Policy F-1 Financial Management-Capital Improvement, and Policy F-5.7 Construction and Maintenance. He highlights changes that were made to these policies and related policy implementation procedures that reflect feedback from Board members after the policies were presented for information.

Board members appreciated the work done to reorganize and refine these policies and made a few minor suggestions to the policy implementation procedures.

*Ms. Talento moved that the Board adopt the proposed revisions to School Board Policy F-1 Financial Management – Capital Improvement Plan and School Board Policy F-5.7 Construction and Maintenance, 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*

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:08 PM)**

1. In-House General Counsel

Ms. Peterson and Mr. Redding presented the proposal to hire in-house General Counsel. Ms. Peterson reviewed the current model for legal services and explained that this proposal will reduce the costs while meeting the division's need for legal services. She then described the services to be provided and the proposal to add two positions in the first year and a third position a year later. Mr. Redding shared the expected benefits of an in-house counsel, as well as possible concerns with this model. He also spoke to how APS would transition from the current model to the in-house counsel.

Board members appreciated the proposal.



2. New Elementary School at Reed Project Changes Due to Phase 1 Stormwater Improvements: (11:28 PM)

Mr. Chambers presented the proposed change order for the new elementary school at the Reed site. The County has requested use of this site for these stormwater improvements, and the project will be funded by the County. Mr. Chambers then described the proposed work, the project schedule, and the recommended actions.

The group discussed the aspects of the project, including how the work will affect recreational use of the site. The Board asked that the work be completed as quickly as possible and to address community concerns about the site. Mr. Chambers reiterated that this will not delay the school project timeline.

3. The Heights Schematic Design Studies Funding: (11:56 PM)

Mr. Chambers presented the proposed plan for Schematic Design studies at The Heights. He explained that this item is to develop design options for a capital project to provide the permanent athletic field, parking, pick-up and drop-off facilities, and covered entrance at the site, that were discussed during the FY 2021 CIP. He outlined the scope, proposed funding, and staff recommendations for this project.

Staff responded to Board questions, clarifying the source of the proposed funding, and providing information about the need for the new schematic design studies.

**H. NEW BUSINESS: 12:11 PM**

*Ms. Van Doren made the following motion:*

*School Board policy D-15, External Funding – Commercial Activities, establishes that “Arlington Public Schools assesses fees, tuition and other charges for services for a number of reasons and in support of a number of programs.” and further states that, “The School Board sets these fees, tuition and charges for services on an annual basis. “In response to current requests to adjust Pre-K fees, the School Board directs the Superintendent to maintain fees for Pre-K programs for the 2020-2021 school year, as approved in the School Board FY 2021 budget. The Superintendent is further directed not to consider child care expenses as an extenuating circumstance for providing emergency relief for parents enrolled in our Pre-K programs.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein.

Ms. Van Doren spoke to this motion, recognizing the stress in the community due to the pandemic. She acknowledged the request from some parents for an adjustment of the fees but noted that this would be unfair to the entire community to provide relief to a small number of families. Ms. Talento and Mr. Goldstein also stated concerns with this proposal, including noting the impact that implementing this fee reduction would have on staff.

Dr. Kanninen and Ms. O’Grady felt that the motion was not an appropriate direction to give to the Superintendent, as it was not an action before the Board and could interfere with the Superintendent being able to address other concerns in the community. Ms. O’Grady stated she will abstain from the vote. The group also briefly discussed the process for setting fees and the opportunity to consider extenuating circumstances to address issues.

Ms. O’Grady called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 3-1 with 1 abstention. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Nay; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye. Ms. O’Grady abstained.

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 AM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Monique O’Grady, Chair  
Arlington School Board