

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
January 21, 2021

Item C-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:00 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
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member
Reid Goldstein, Member
David Priddy, 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, asking that schools not reopen until all safety measures are in place and clear guidance is provided. Some speakers encouraged collaboration in planning, and others spoke of stress caused by 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.

unknown. Speakers also asked for transparency in plans and communications about reopening:

Jeff Martin, spouse of APS teacher
Molly Haines, teacher
Wendy Pizer, parent
Melissa Daddio, parent
Cynthia Cuttier, parent
Catherine Frum, teacher
Lee Harper-Chen, parent and nurse
Faylinda Kodis, teacher
Elizabeth Allen, teacher
Hope Lambert, staff
Anjy Cramer, parent
Alan Aldana, 4th grade student
Patty Tuttle, middle school teacher

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking that schools reopen and students receive in person instruction, and requesting clear plans for the return. Some speakers provided suggestions on how to open safely:

Jennifer Cory, parent
Allison Silver, parent
Miranda Turner, parent
Christina French, parent
Aude Rabault, parent
Aaron Asimakopoulos, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Kevin Hughes, parent: asking Board to allow APS students to participate in all Season 2 sports.

Bill Van Evera, parent: asking for vaccinations for all staff.

Josh Folb, Teacher, parent, AEA Compensation committee chair: concerned that closeout dollars from lapse and turnover are not reallocated to compensation, and asking that staff not be brought back to work until they are vaccinated.

Peter Anderson, teacher: stating concerns about focusing on achievement only as the reason to reopen schools and sharing concerns about standardized testing. He also spoke to other factors affecting students during virtual learning.

4. Recognitions

Dawn Smith, Department of School & Community Relations, introduced the Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary and Visual Arts contest winners, sharing a video of the students talking about their entries in the contest.

Ms. Carolyn Jackson, Supervisor, Office of Excellence and Equity, introduced four APS students who received POSSE Scholarships, and the Board and Superintendent congratulated them on their hard work and success.

5. Announcements

- *January 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 4:30 PM, Syphax Education Center*
- *January 23, 2021 School Board Retreat, 9 AM – 2 PM, Syphax Education Center Rms. 452-454-456*
- *January 25, 2021 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *January 26, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 6:30 PM*
- *January 28, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*

Ms. Diaz-Torres announced events happening at two of her liaison schools. Dr. Kanninen congratulated Washington-Liberty student James Licato who was chosen to participate in the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

Ms. O’Grady briefly spoke to plans for the Board to return to in-person Board meetings and shared an update on communications that have been received recently by the Board.

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán announced Principal Appreciation Week, provided an update on APS meal services, and invited families to participate in Kindergarten Information Night. He also shared information about the division-wide equity team meetings and upcoming calendar dates. He then provided a brief update on initiatives in the School Board’s 2020-2021 Action Plan, including the APS-SRO Work Group, the school naming/renaming process, and the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways. Additional updates on operational planning were shared.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:33 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- a. September 24, 2020 School Board Meeting
- b. October 8, 2020 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- c. October 13, 2020 Equity Committee of the Whole Meeting
- d. October 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting on the IPP

- e. December 16, 2020 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- f. January 11, 2021 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

7 Appointments

2 Resignations

2 Resignations (With Prejudice)

1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

1 Change In Position/Salary

3 Resignations

1 Retirement

- 3. School and Community Relations Brief
- 4. Revisions to School Board Policy L-9 Accreditation of Schools
- 5. Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices
- 6. Appointments to the New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee

Ms. O’Grady confirmed that the Board approved the School and Community Relations Brief. The Board also made an appointment to the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices, approved the Naming Committee for the new elementary school at Reed, and approved revisions to School Board Policy L-9 Accreditation of Schools.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:36 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán presented the update, reviewing health and operational metrics, vaccination plans, and the new health screening platform for employees. He also spoke about sharing exclusion data with the staff and community. Dr. Durán then reviewed plans for the phased return to school, speaking to staff preparations and timelines. He also reviewed the student return-to-school timeline, highlighting plans for CTE students to return on February 2. Dr. Durán also provided an update on transportation plans and efforts being implemented to provide support to

students in terms of mental health and social/emotional learning. In closing, he gave a financial update.

The group discussed guidance from the Governor on reopening and the staffing needed to reopen. Also discussed were professional development plans, how decisions are made on staff requests for accommodations, and transportation management for the reopening. Staff provided additional information about plans for the CTE students and how the concurrent instructional model was selected for the upper elementary students. Board members acknowledged community concerns and encouraged all to work together civilly to address these concerns. Staff provided clarification on how concurrent learning will be implemented for both students and teachers. Other topics discussed included allowed uses of CARES or other funding, how decisions were made concerning vaccination scheduling, and ensuring that families know where to look for help with concerns or issues.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (10:08 PM)

1. Middle School and High School Program of Studies

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

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board approve the Middle School and High School Program of Studies for the 2021-2022 School Year, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4-1. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Nay; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

2. Summer School Report and Fees: (10:11 PM)

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

The group briefly discussed how funding for summer school is handled and what part of the summer school program is funded by fees.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved approve the 2021 Summer School Fees as presented, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

3. FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan Direction: (10:22 PM)

Ms. Stengle provided a brief summary of two changes that have been proposed for the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) direction that was presented for Information.

Mr. Chadwick provided more information about projects that are included in the CIP direction, such as air quality work that is needed. Some Board members stressed the importance of focusing funding on seat needs and also stated concerns about needed work at the Career Center.

Mr. Priddy moved to approve the proposed FY2021 Capital Improvement Plan Direction as presented, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

Dr. Kanninen made the following motion:

I move that the CIP Direction be amended as follows:

Under CIP Direction: Projects and Details: Move item 5 to item 2 and delete the words, "Additional Items: Consider," so that item 2 reads: "Additional facility improvements to support the needs of full-time students currently enrolled at the Career Center..."

The motion to amend was seconded by Mr. Priddy.

Dr. Kanninen explained that her motion to amend will move the Career Center work up on the priority list, as the Board has shared their support for this effort. Mr. Goldstein stated his concern that this would not be a good use of staff time. Other Board members supported the proposed amendment as it will move needed work forward. Ms. O'Grady spoke to the importance of planning for capital needs.

The motion to amend was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O'Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

Dr. Kanninen made the following motion:

I move to amend the CIP Direction as follows:

Under the Notes section: Add as the last item in this section: "Finally, consider whether it is a more efficient use of resources to work on a 10-year CIP to be approved in June 2022 rather than a 4-6 year CIP to be approved in June 2021 and, if so, bring a recommendation accordingly."

The motion to amend was seconded by Mr. Goldstein.

Dr. Kanninen asked for clarification on staff's ability to provide a concept design for the Career Center. She suggested that if staff does not provide a concept design, plans cannot be developed on this CIP timeline, so she proposed this language to provide flexibility to staff. Some Board members felt it was important to move forward with this direction and let staff to take responsibility for needed planning.

The motion failed in a vote of 2-3. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Nay; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Nay; and Mr. Priddy – Nay.

Ms. O’Grady then called for a vote on the main motion as amended, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 1. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Nay; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

4. FY 2020 Final Fiscal Closeout and Status Report: (11:49 PM)

Ms. Peterson summarized the Final Fiscal Closeout Status Report. Responding to questions, she explained that most of the closeout funds result from lower insurance costs, and also confirmed that the Board can reallocate these funds as needed.

Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board adopt the following resolutions:

- 1. *To carry forward funds remaining from FY 2020 to FY 2021, it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #1):*

The School Board requests the appropriation and increase in County Transfer of \$26,974,566 to the School Operating Fund which represents the combination of budget savings from FY 2020 in the amount of \$26,998,973 less a decrease in local tax revenue from FY 2020 in the amount of (\$24,407) which is below the amount anticipated and budgeted for in the FY 2020 Adopted School Board Budget.

- 2. *To provide for the purchase orders/incomplete projects encumbered as of June 30, 2020, that will be paid in FY 2021, it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #2):*

The School Board requests the re-appropriation of encumbrances and budget increases to the FY 2021 Schools Budget as indicated below:

<i>School Operating Fund.....</i>	<i>\$6,607,920</i>
<i>Capital Projects Fund.....</i>	<i>\$13,772,714</i>
<i>Community Activities Fund.....</i>	<i>\$280,552</i>
<i>Food & Nutrition Services Fund.....</i>	<i>\$816,516</i>

- 3. *To continue the special projects/grants and construction projects for which the budget period does not coincide with the school year, it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #3):*

The School Board requests the re-appropriation to FY 2021 of the balances in both the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund and the Bond Construction Fund as follows:

<i>Grants and Restricted Programs Fund.....</i>	<i>\$4,594,239</i>
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Bond Construction Fund..... \$54,081,639

4. *To retain the current fund balance reserves (balances as of 6/30/20), it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #4):*

The School Board requests the carry forward of the following fund balance reserves:

In the School Operating Fund:

*\$19,974,087 – FY 2021 Adopted Budget use of reserves
(\$233,182) – Future Budget Years Reserve
\$1,412,239 – VRS Reserve
\$3,812,296 – Compensation Reserve
\$414,474 – Future Debt Service Reserve
\$2,000,000 – Separation Pay Reserve
\$1,000,000 – Health Insurance Reserve – self insurance*

In the Food & Nutrition Services Fund:

\$4,088,731 – Fund Balance

In the Capital Projects Fund

\$28,165,912 – Capital Reserve

These reserves will be carried on the books of Arlington Public Schools until the School Board authorizes the use of these reserve funds.

5. *To authorize the use of the funds appropriated from Arlington County to Arlington Public Schools in Resolution #1, it is recommended that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #5):*

The School Board authorizes the Superintendent to use the amount appropriated from the County in Resolution #1 and carried over to FY 2021 as follows:

- Allocation to FY 2021 to reduce shortfall \$15,000,000*
- Addition to Future Budget Years Reserve \$11,974,566*

Total authorized uses of carryover funds \$26,974,566

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:07 PM)

1. 2021 School Moves Project Temporary Change to Project Funding

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, presented the proposal, confirming it is a temporary action to address cash flow needs, and outlined specific work that this funding will support.

The group briefly discussed what would happen to this funding if bond sales do not take place, and whether reserve funds could be used instead of bond funding.

2. Revisions to School Board Policy M-8 Internet: (11:16 PM)

Mr. Adusumilli presented the proposed revisions to policy M-8 Internet, confirming that the change will align the policy with state code requirements for content filtering and internet safety. He confirmed that this policy must be reviewed every two years. He also highlighted changes staff is proposing to the affiliated policy implementation procedures.

The group briefly discussed the importance of providing good guidance to students on acceptable use.

G. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS: (11:20 PM)

1. Amendment to School Board Policy I-11.6.1 Locally Awarded Verified Credit:

Ms. Loft explained the proposed amendment to this policy which applies to special circumstances under Emergency guidelines: Locally Awarded Verified Credits. She presented the staff recommendation for the timeline for this proposed amendment and described the programs and students that this policy change will affect.

Board members appreciated this effort to help students be successful.

Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the proposed amendment to School Board Policy I-11.6.1 Locally Awarded Verified Credit, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board