

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
February 4, 2021

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:03 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
Claudia Mercado, Deputy 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
Lori Silver, Supervisor, English/Language Arts
Jonathan Turrisi, Director of Strategic Planning, Planning and Evaluation

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:

Jeff Martin, teacher spouse: supporting the Smart Restart APS VITAL report card

Saif Naber, student, Arlington Traditional School: encouraging the use of ultraviolet lights in schools to kill COVID-19

Laura Daly-Sims, parent: supporting vaccinations for teachers

Ian Blumenfeld, parent, McKinley Elementary School: encouraging the use of KF94 masks at schools

Julie Hannink, parent: supporting the reopening of schools and improving distance learning across APS

Amelia Frenkel, parent, Montessori Public School of Arlington: concerning one-on-one student engagement and the hardships of distance learning

Gia Borado, APS teacher spouse: encouraging better safety measures and more transparency to reopen schools safely

Lee Harper-Chen, parent: concerned about the new strains of COVID-19 virus

Melanie Mickelson-Graham, parent: supporting equity in the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways

Alexandra Cozell, teacher: concerning the impact of chronic illnesses and COVID-19

Lakeisha Hill, community member: supporting equity in the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways

Dan Paris, teacher and parent: supporting vaccinations for teachers

Joshua Folb, member, Arlington Education Association: supporting the inclusion of virtual option in the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways and supporting vaccinations for teachers for a safe return to school

Chip Goyette, parent: supporting improving ventilation systems at APS facilities

Anjy Cramer, parent: concerning employee ADA accommodations

Christina Headrick, parent: supporting improving ventilation systems at APS facilities

Aaron Asimakopoulos, parent: calling for the termination of the superintendent and resignations of Board members for the lack of leadership in reopening schools

Courtney Schwartz, parent: supporting Arlington Traditional Elementary School model in the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways

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

Morgan Ziegenhein, parent
Reginald Goeke, parent
Gavin Ramboz, student, Arlington Traditional School
Rene Gutell
Amanda Cuthbertson, parent
Greg Naarden, parent
Natalie Bernstein, student, Yorktown High School
Marianne Gray, parent
Anjali Jolly, parent

4. Recognitions

Carl Seward, Assistant Principal, Gunston Middle School, and APS Chair of the United Way, and Mr. Jeffrey Brown, Manager of Development in the Public Sector of the United Way of the National Capital Area, recognized APS staff for their participation in the annual United Way Campaign and raising almost \$40,000.

5. Announcements

- *February 8, 2021 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *February 9, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 8 PM*
- *February 11, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*

Some Board members shared events and activities happening at their liaison schools. Ms. O'Grady briefly provided an update on correspondence received by the Board and announced the Open Office Hours schedule.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán acknowledged Black History Month, School Board Appreciation Month, and National School Counseling Week. He summarized important upcoming school year dates and highlighted information on meal services. Dr. Durán also spoke about a new pilot program in partnership with Cigna to provide support to students and staff. In closing, provided a brief update on the FY 2022 Budget calendar and the 2020-2021 School Board Action Plan.

Board members appreciated hearing about the Cigna partnership and suggested disseminating that information on the APS website.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:37 PM)

Prior to the vote, Ms. O'Grady announced that item C-3 Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL) Mid-Year Brief was removed from consent so that staff and

committee members could have additional time to discuss recommendations. She also shared that a work session would be scheduled with ACTL in the spring.

Ms. Diaz-Torres 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: 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 10, 2020 School Board Meeting
- b. October 21, 2020 School Board /County Board Joint Work Session
- c. October 22, 2021 School Board Meeting
- d. October 27, 2021 Work Session on the Instructional Programs and Pathways
- e. October 29, 2020 Work Session on Elementary Boundaries
- f. December 8, 2020 Committee of the Whole on the CIP Framework
- g. January 14, 2021 Closed Meeting
- h. January 25, 2021 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- i. January 26, 2021 Closed Meeting
- j. January 28, 2021 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change in Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Resignation

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary

- 3. ~~Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning Brief~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA
- 4. 2021 School Moves Project Temporary Change to Project Funding
- 5. Revisions to School Board Policy M-8 Internet

6. Appointments to the Budget Advisory Council
7. Appointments to the Naming Committee for the new school at the Reed site

Ms. O’Grady confirmed that under consent, the Board made appointments to the Naming Committee for the new elementary school at the Reed site and to the Budget Advisory Council. The Board also approved a temporary change to funding for the 2021 school moves project and adopted revisions to School Board Policy M-8 Internet, confirming that the accompanying policy implementation procedures were updated and approved by the Superintendent. Ms. O’Grady announced the appointed of Dr. Kristin Devaney as Supervisor of Counseling.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:40 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán acknowledged concerns presented during the Citizen Comment and ensured that staff is diligently working to get students back in school. Dr. Durán then presented an update on health and operational metrics, the new health screening platform, Phase 1B vaccinations, ventilation improvements, and outdoor lunch planning. He reviewed the Virginia Department of Health guidance and decision matrix on reopening schools, and the APS return-to-school timeline. Dr. Durán provided an instructional update focusing on the SY 2020-21 reading assessment, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) screener, in grades 3-5. He also provided a financial summary.

The Board discussed return to school dates, logistics associated with getting students back in the classrooms, and the different supports in place to help students. The Board also discussed implementation of DIBELS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers ventilation guidelines. Also discussed were the employee accommodation request process, channels for staff to share comments on the return to school plan, clarification on contact tracing, distribution of materials to students, expenditures related to in-person instruction, and staff vaccinations.

2. Pre-Kindergarten to Adult Education Instructional Programs and Pathways (IPP) Update:

Ms. Loft explained the IPP framework, its importance in creating an instructional visioning to inform APS planning initiatives, and its alignment to the 2018-24 Strategic Plan, Virginia Profile of a Graduate, and the new APS equity policy. She presented the goals of the IPP, policies related to instructional programs, and a highlight of existing APS programs. She spoke about the new features of the IPP process, introducing its name change from the “Instructional Program Pathways” to the “Instructional Programs and Pathways” and expansion to include all PreK to-Adult programs. Ms. Loft then shared how program evaluations will inform the IPP visioning process and the audit of all current instructional programs.

Noting that the IPP is a dynamic and fluid visioning process, Mr. Turrisi described the cycle and process development for next school year and a timeline for community engagement. Ms. Loft and Mr. Turrisi presented a detailed summary of suggestions shared by instructional leaders during their visioning sessions to help identify priority areas for the IPP.

Board members reacted to the suggestions from instructional leaders. They agreed that because of the significance of the IPP, it would require more in-depth conversations moving forward. The Board also discussed concerns about budget and instructional programs, the community engagement process, the cycle of visioning process and building a robust long-term plan, and the different components of the IPP presented to date.

E. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:52 PM)

1. Proposal for Local Diagnostic Assessment

Ms. Silver presented the proposal for APS to pilot the DIBELS screener (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) alongside PALS for the SY 2021-22. She provided background information, rationale for the proposal, an overview of the Virginia Department of Education requirements, and different considerations for APS to use DIBELS as the sole local diagnostic literacy assessment.

Board members discussed the administration of DIBELS, cost, and identifying additional reading interventions.

2. Revisions to Policy F-7 Real Property POSTPONED to February 18, 2021

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 AM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board