

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
February 18, 2021

Item C-1-d

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, February 18, 2021 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
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 on the return to school, asking for strong mitigation strategies focused on testing, ventilation, mask guidelines, and dining. Some speakers asked for more detail on COVID incidences and for equity, clear direction to staff, and better training before implementing the hybrid model:

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.

Lara Daly-Sims, parent
Christine Bolon, teacher
Jeff Martin, resident and spouse of APS teacher
Melissa Daddio, parent
Alesandra Bakaj teacher
Chloe Ferogh, teacher
Deborah Walden, teacher
Josh Folb, Compensation Committee, Arlington Education Association
Gia Boado, community member
Kayla Owen, teacher
Alexandra Cozell, teacher
Sarah Greene, teacher

The following speakers also addressed the Board, asking that APS continue with virtual learning until it is safe for children and teachers to return:

Summer Tarpley, student
MeiLi Haan, student

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking that the schools reopen fully for all students. Some commented on learning loss, social/emotional issues and other challenges students are experiencing with virtual learning. One speaker encouraged planning for fully reopening schools for the 2021-2022 school year:

Julie Hannink, parent
Natalie Tosi-Bakule, parent
Jennifer Wheelock, parent
Deanna Caputo, parent
Aaron Asimokopoulos, parent
Lisa Movic, parent
Courtney Schwartz, parent

4. Recognitions

Ms. Pam Farrell, Supervisor, Arts Education introduced a virtual performance of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” in recognition of Black History Month. The song was performed by students from all comprehensive secondary schools.

The Board and Superintendent recognized Mr. Chadwick for his service to APS on his retirement. Board members thanked Mr. Chadwick for his efforts and recognized his many contributions to the division throughout his years with APS.

CCPTA President Emily Vincent thanked the School Board for their commitment to ASP during School Board Appreciation Month.

5. Announcements

- *February 22, 2021 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*

- *February 25, 2021 School Board Meeting – Presentation of Superintendent’s Proposed FY 2022 Budget, 7 PM*
- *February 25, 2021 Budget Work Session #1, following the Board Meeting*

Mr. Goldstein shared highlights of activities at his liaison schools. Ms. O’Grady spoke about plans for the Board to return to in-person meetings. She also shared an update on recent communications.

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán explained how snow day closures are determined, shared information about upcoming events, and summarized the FY 2022 budget calendar. Updates on select items in the 2020-21 School Board Action plan were also presented, including the development of the Instructional Programs and Pathways initiative, school naming and renaming processes, and the policy review process.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:36 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the consent agenda, 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. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- November 5, 2020 School Board Meeting
- November 10, 2020 Work Session on Budget Status Update, Capital Improvement Plan and School Board Policies
- November 12, 2020 Work Session on Elementary Boundaries
- December 8, 2020 Committee of the Whole on the CIP
- December 10, 2020 Committee of the Whole on the Program of Studies
- February 8, 2021 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- February 9, 2021 Closed Meeting
- February 11, 2021 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 1 Reclassification Request
- Classification Specification – Chief of Staff
- 1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

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

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

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

- 3. World Languages Brief
- 4. Policy Review Brief
- 5. Proposal for Local Diagnostic Assessment

Ms. O’Grady confirmed that the Board received the World Languages Brief and the Policy Review Brief under consent. She also confirmed the Board approved a staff proposal for an alternative local diagnostic assessment for Grades K-2 to replace the PALS assessment and approved the appointment of Cathy Lin as Interim Superintendent of Facilities and Operations.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:40 PM)

- 1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán presented the update, reviewing current health and operational metrics and the status of APS return-to-school timeline and plans. He provided data on COVID incidence, shared information about the staff and student Health Screener, and summarized data from a staff survey on aspects of the return to school plan. He also provided an update on operational preparations in the areas of air quality and ventilation, meal planning, and transportation. Dr. Durán then reviewed the key takeaways from the Distance Learning Task Force that focused on developing strategies and solutions to support distance learning. In closing he reviewed the current financial projections for SY 2021.

Board members appreciated the update and looked forward to students returning to the schools. Staff provided more information on ventilation, lunch plans, and the health screener. Ms. Loft described how concurrent instruction will occur and confirmed additional plans for professional development and support for staff.

E. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:06 PM)

- 1. Proposed Name for the New Elementary School at the Key Site

Ms. Claire Peters, Principal, and teacher Jazmynn Wilson presented the item. Ms. Wilson explained who will attend the new school and described the naming committee makeup and the process followed to identify proposed names for the school. She confirmed that five names were selected from suggestions and were shared with the community and the future students for feedback. Ms. Peters then explained the committee's discussion of the proposed names and the feedback from the surveys. She confirmed that the committee selected the name Innovation Elementary School as their first choice, and Gateway as the second choice.

Board members appreciated the committee's work and their careful consideration of the proposed names. They looked forward to voting on the new name on March 11.

2. Revisions to School Board Policy F-7 Real Property: (10:27 PM)

Mr. Chadwick presented proposed revisions to policy F-7 Real Property and the accompanying policy implementation procedures. He confirmed the policy revisions include improving the language, ensuring consistency of terms in the policy, and clarifying certain aspects of how APS will manage real property. He also highlighted changes to the two policy implementation procedures.

The group discussed whether the policy will provide a structure to allow legacy programs that provide educational support to the community to enter into an agreement to collocate on APS property.

3. The Heights FY 2022 CIP Estimated Funding: (10:37 PM)

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, presented the Heights FY 2022 CIP estimated funding proposal, explaining that it is customary for APS to produce two cost estimates for projects as part of design studies for facilities. The proposed funding will come from the Capital Reserve, which requires Board action.

The group briefly discussed this item and reviewed the aspects of The Heights project that this item addresses.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board