ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Work Session on Elementary Boundaries October 29, 2020

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 6:33 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, using Microsoft Teams.

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 Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation Kristin Haldeman, Director, Multimodal Transportation Planning Kathy Mimberg, Coordinator, Community Engagement Gladis Bourdouane, Integrated Project Planner Jonathan Turrisi, Director, Strategic Planning

Ms. O'Grady called the work session to order and announced that the meeting was being held electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency. She welcomed all participants. Dr. Durán introduced the work session and reviewed the agenda.

Ms. Stengle presented some history on elementary facilities opened in recent years. Ms. Mimberg spoke about the community engagement process and the different strategies staff used to share information and collect community input to refine the initial boundary proposal. Ms. Bourdouane highlighted some of the general community feedback received and outlined the policy considerations. She presented a summary of the Initial Proposal, Option A, and Option B and corresponding draft maps. Mr. Turrusi detailed the affected planning units under each proposal. In closing, Ms. Stengle provided a timeline of upcoming community engagement and next steps in the process.

Board members thanked staff for their work related to community engagement. Mr. Goldstein shared concerns regarding the scaling back of the elementary boundary changes due to the pandemic and Ms. Talento provided feedback on projections. Some Board members expressed concerns about the lack of planning to relieve over-capacity at some schools. The Board conversed about transportation needs, grandfathering options, accessibility of programs, and the use of relocatables. The Board also reflected on the proposed planning unit moves and analyzed the proposed option maps.

Dr. Durán concluded the work session by expressing his gratitude to staff for their work on the difficult task to help create a boundary change proposal that addressed balancing capacity with minimal changes. He stated his support for Option A and he shared that additional consideration would be given to this option to include community and Board feedback to help meet the intended goal of the boundary changes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk Arlington School Board Monique O'Grady, Chair Arlington School Board