

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on Special Education
December 1, 2020

Item C-1-d

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 5:17 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
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Dr. Kelly Krug, Director of Special Education - Elementary
Heather Rothenbeuscher, Director of Special Education - Secondary
Elizabeth Walsh, Supervisor, Special Education
Nick Walkosak, Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC)

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 and Dr. Durán introduced the work session and reviewed the agenda.

Ms. Walsh provided an overview of special education and related services provided virtually. She also spoke about the Return to School Level 1 and the services offered to students and the protocols in place to mitigate COVID-19 risks. Ms. Walsh then reviewed the different types of professional development provided to staff in preparation for Level 1. Ms. Rothenbeuscher spoke about the Standards of Learning data for students with disabilities, benchmarks, and target goals. She also shared information about the SY 2020-2021 inclusive model sites, evaluation for special education services, and guidance for seclusion and restraint. Ms. Rothenbeuscher also updated the Board on the monitoring progress in thirteen target areas to ensure the department is meeting indicators. In addition, she described the different types of parent engagement being implemented this school year to help parents learn about services and how to better support their students. Dr. Krug then presented the 5-Year Action Plan, sharing overarching goals, indicators, and strategies to address the program evaluation recommendations. In the spirit of transparency, Dr. Krug shared possible upcoming budget requests for full time positions to be able to fully implement services.

On behalf of Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC), Mr. Walkosak shared concerns regarding meeting strategic goals in reading and math, he recommended that APS provide

better guidance and policy related to seclusion and restraint, and he suggested APS provide better communication to families related to the hybrid return to school plan.

The Board discussed concerns about supporting specific student groups, monitoring student progress, and allocating resources. The Board delved into the topics of the inclusive model sites and professional development. Staff explained the transition to the Hybrid/In-Person Model and coaching for classroom assistants who are helping students. In addition, the Board conversed about continuing cross-departmental collaboration to ensure students with disabilities are receiving appropriate, inclusive instruction and are meeting benchmarks. Lastly, they briefly spoke about working on guidance for a policy on seclusion and restraint.

The Board thanked staff for an informative presentation and their use of data to frame how APS is supporting students with disabilities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board