

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
March 25, 2021

Item C-1-i

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 25, 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
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
Cathy Lin, Interim 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
Dr. Kelly Krug, Supervisor, Special Education – Primary
Heather Rothenbeuscher, Supervisor, Special Education – Secondary
Frank Bellavia, Director of Communications
Daryl Johnson, Communications Coordinator
Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction
Helena Machado, Director, Aquatics

A. CLOSED MEETING – NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call 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:

Wendy Pizer, parent, supporting a virtual instructional model for students with disability

Jennie Apter, parent, opposing budget cuts to middle school activities

Ingrid Gant, President, Arlington Education Association, concerning Policy G-3.16.4, Standards of Conduct

Merrit Gillard, parent, opposing budget cuts to middle school activities

Caroline Dana, dissatisfied with the lack of leadership to reopen schools

Kristi Sawert, Acting Chair, Aquatics Committee, supporting the revisions to School Board Policy M-15 Swimming Pools

Mern Horan, supporting continuing the hybrid model this school year

Jeffrey Johnson, parent, supporting reopening schools now

Lara Daly-Sims, supporting a virtual instructional model for vulnerable students

Claudia Wilson, supporting compensation for all employees

4. Recognitions

Ms. Nancy Routson, Teacher Evaluation Specialist, recognized 25 APS teachers who have achieved National Board Certification or renewed their National Board Certification.

5. Announcements

- *March 26, 2021 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting 9:30 AM*
- *March 29 – April 2, 2021 – SPRING BREAK*
- *April 5, 2021 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *April 5, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 7:30 PM*

Mr. Goldstein read a few messages from parents at his liaison schools regarding the distance learning model and the use of technology to improve engagement.

Ms. O’Grady announced that the Board was accepting nominations for the 2021 Honored Citizen, she shared an update on recent communications received by the Board, and an update on Open Office Hours.

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán acknowledged recent local and national events of discrimination and violence, and he reaffirmed that APS is committed to providing safe and inclusive environments. He spoke about the incident at the football game between Wakefield High School and Marshal High School and the measures being taken to reform practices to ensure similar incidents do not happen again.

On behalf of the School Board, Ms. O’Grady shared a statement in support of students and the Board’s commitment to continue to work with the leadership, school community, and other state and regional leaders to ensure students can compete and learn in safe environments free from racism, bullying, and other discriminatory acts.

To honor the tremendous work of APS employees, Dr. Durán encouraged the community to participate in the Thanking APS Heroes! initiative by sharing a personal story about an APS teacher or support employee via the website. APS will use the submissions to recognize all employees for their contributions in May.

In closing, Dr. Durán shared important upcoming academic calendar dates and a brief update on the School Board Action Plan.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:05 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. January 7, 2021 School Board Meeting
 - b. January 21, 2021 School Board Meeting
 - c. January 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - d. January 23, 2021 School Board Retreat
 - e. March 3, 2021 Closed Meeting
 - f. March 4, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - g. March 16, 2021 Budget Work Session #3
 - h. March 17, 2021 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Administrative Transfer

- 2 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 4 Resignations
- 6 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 3 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

- 3. Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 Student Support Brief
- 4. Memorandum of Agreement with Arlington County for Underground Stormwater Management Facility at the Reed Site
- 5. New Elementary School at Reed Project Changes due to Phase 2 Stormwater Improvements

Ms. O’Grady confirmed the Board accepted the Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 Academic Support Brief and approved two facilities items related to the County’s stormwater management at the Reed site.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:07 PM)

- 1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán presented an update on the dashboard health metrics, COVID testing, return to school timeline, summer school, plans for the fall, transportation changes, and testing updates. He spoke about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised physical distance guidance and acknowledged that modifying the current model to provide additional in-person days, even for targeted groups, would be a monumental logistical challenge. Dr. Durán also presented the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Report detailing CTE student progress in nine CTE program areas during the first half of the school year.

The Board discussed changing the instructional model to add more in-person days, transportation needs, grading options, and plans for the fall.

E. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:18 PM)

- 1. Special Education Annual Plan

Dr. Krug explained that every year, APS is required by the Virginia Department of Education to submit an Arlington Special Education application detailing how federal entitlement funds are spent (IDEA 611 and 619). She then reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2022 in the application.

2. Proposed Name for the New Elementary School at the Reed Site:

On behalf of the New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee, Ginny Miller, Assistant Principal, McKinley Elementary School, Jon Judah, PTA President, McKinley Elementary School, Mr. Bellavia, and Mr. Johnson presented this item. They shared an overview of McKinley Elementary School, the naming committee members, and the community engagement that took place as part of the naming process. They presented proposed names and the results of the community questionnaire and explained that the Naming Committee recommended Westover Village Elementary School as the primary option, or Cardinal Elementary School, as an alternate option.

Board members expressed their concerns on the recommended names, specifically about naming a school facility Westover, which is the name of a plantation.

3. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy M-15 Swimming Pools:

Ms. Lin presented the recommended revisions to the policy, including to change the name of Policy M-15 Swimming Pools to Policy M-15 Aquatics Facilities and Programs. The proposed changes to the policy better reflect the management and operations of the APS aquatics centers and expands on the operations funding and cost recovery associated with community-based programs.

Mr. Priddy, as the liaison to the Aquatics Committee, expressed his support for proposed revisions. The Board discussed the demand for community programs and related expenses.

4. 2021 School Moves Project Construction Contract Award:

Mr. Chambers requested the Board approve the following construction contracts as per the adopted FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

- Award ITB 16FY21 for renovations at the Arlington Traditional site to FH Paschen in the amount of \$1,263,138;
- Award ITB 17FY21 for renovations at the Key site to Nastos Construction in the amount of \$1,246,395;
- Award ITB 18FY21 for renovations at the McKinley site to Nastos Construction in the amount of \$994,181

The Board discussed the costs of the proposed construction projects.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board