

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
April 8, 2021

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:01 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.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
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 Rothenbuescher, Supervisor, Special Education – Secondary
Frank Bellavia, Director of Communications
Daryl Johnson, Communications Coordinator
Gina Miller, Assistant Principal, McKinley Elementary School

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, asking that all students return to school full time. Some commented on health metrics and others spoke to learning

loss, mental health issues, and other concerns. Speakers also asked about moving to 3-foot social distancing and for full time school in the fall:

Katherine Cribbs, student
Nina Cribbs, parent
Paul Brickley, parent
Aaron Asimokopoulos, parent
Carol Purvis, teacher
Annie Webb, parent
Nathan Zee, parent
Reed Kitchen, parent
Deanna Caputo, parent
Steve Everley, parent
Andrew Wu, parent
Caroline Dana, parent
Sheila Leonard, parent
Pauline Devinger, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board, expressing concern about the lack of compensation in the budget, noting that other local jurisdictions are providing increases, and asking APS to give staff an increase. Speakers also shared concerns about the pay scale:

Ingrid Gant, President, Arlington Education Association
Claudia Wilson, staff member
Karla McGhee, staff member

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Brandon Durlinger, staff: appreciating the decisions being made to keep teachers and students safe and commenting on the need for a compensation increase.

Anjy Cramer, parent: opposing the plans to reduce Montessori, and speaking to concerns about virtual learning for her children.

Mark Reeves, parent: noting the difficult decisions the Board and Superintendent are facing and asking for more cooperation between APS and the community to plan the return to in-person school.

Jennifer Wheelock, parent: sharing concerns about appropriate staffing for summer school for students, particularly for students with IEPs.

Mern Horan, teacher: encouraging APS to continue with the hybrid instructional model until the pandemic is more under control.

4. Recognition

Ms. Pam Farrell, Supervisor, Arts Education, presented a virtual celebration of 25 APS students who received National Scholastic Art Awards, and select students presented their artwork.

5. Announcements

- *April 14, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *April 15, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *April 15, 2021 Advisory Council on Teaching And Learning Work Session #1, 7 PM*
- *April 19, 2021 Virtual School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *April 20, 2021 Advisory Council on Teaching And Learning Work Session #2, 7 PM*

Ms. Diaz-Torres shared highlights from some of her liaison schools. Ms. O’Grady then presented an update on communications received by the Board.

5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán acknowledged several recognitions received by APS including the NAAM Foundations 2021 Best Communities for Music Education Award, and he highlighted the Employee Appreciation Campaign. He provided an update on options and transfers as well as progress on the School Board Action Plan related to the budget development, the Instructional Programs and Pathways initiative, school naming process, and policy updates.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:30 PM)

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: REMOVED FROM AGENDA – POSTPONED TO April 22, 2021

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Reclassification Specification: Administrator of Alternative Programs
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 5 Resignations
- 7 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

1 Resignation

1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

25 Appointments

1 Change In Position/Salary

5 Resignations

1 Retirement

3. Social Studies Brief
4. Food Services Brief
5. Cares Act Set-Aside Grants
6. Revisions to School Board Policy M-15 Swimming Pools
7. ~~2021 School Moves Project Construction Contract Award~~ Moved to Action
8. Perkins Grant

Ms. O’Grady confirmed the Board accepted the Social Studies Brief and the Food Services Brief. The Board also adopted revisions to School Board Policy M-15 Aquatics Facilities and Programs and received updated versions of the accompanying Policy Implementation Procedure M-15 Aquatics Facilities and Programs. Also under consent, the Board approved funding for renovations related to the 2021 School Moves.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:29 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán presented the update, reviewing health and operational metrics including vaccinations, COVID testing plans, and the recently revised CDC distancing guidelines related to social distancing. He also provided an update on plans for expanding in-person learning and shared a snapshot of current enrollment by instructional model. He then provided an update on SOL testing and a preview of plans for summer school as well as fall learning. Other topics highlighted included graduation/promotion plans, a transportation update, and the Instructional Learning Support program, including expansion to the Drew Community Center.

Staff provided information about topics including enrollment by instructional model and how asynchronous days are used to support students. The group noted that some families are resistant to return to in-person learning and staff spoke to efforts to continue providing support to those families. Staff also shared additional detail about plans for summer school and ensuring access to students who need additional support. Board members expressed interest in looking at options to

increase on-site instruction. Other topics discussed were waitlists, survey responses, and maintaining distance learning as an option going forward.

2. Special Education Update: (9:27 PM)

Dr. Krug and Ms. Rothenbuescher presented the update. They shared the program profile and highlights from the current school year, noting the challenges resulting from the pandemic. Dr. Krug described the return to school for students with special needs, reviewed professional learning that has been provided, and described the new Physical Intervention Policy being developed. Ms. Rothenbuescher shared student demographics and described efforts to address disproportionality in special education. Efforts under way on recovery services and extended school year were also shared. Ms. Rothenbuescher described the work of the Parent Resource Center and outlined opportunities for improvement and strategies that Special Education will use going forward. In closing, she highlighted partnerships with other departments, offices, and community groups.

The group briefly discussed managing evaluations virtually, identifying students who need additional support, and the risk ratio data that was shared in the update. Staff responded to questions about the data presented, how changes will be implemented, and how success is measured. Board members were very supportive of efforts to address inclusion and disproportionality and for providing staffing to support students in the most inclusive environment possible. Also discussed was targeted early intervention and implementation of the physical intervention policy.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (10:22 PM)

1. Special Education Annual Plan

Dr. Durán confirmed there have been no changes to this item.

Mr. Goldstein moved to approve Special Education Annual Plan, 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.

2. School Board Proposed FY 2022 Budget: (10:25 PM)

Ms. Peterson briefly reviewed changes to the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget which included updates to revenues and expenditures. She then provided clarifying information on costs related to the distance learning program, the compensation option, and other aspects of the proposed budget. She also reviewed changes the Board had requested to the Superintendent’s budget and compensation options for Board consideration.

Ms. Diaz-Torres made the following motion:

I move that the School Board amend the Superintendent's FY 2022 Revised Proposed Budget by:

- *Reducing the budgeted expenditures by \$6,796,056 and 35.00 FTE as outlined on Attachment A to this motion, and*
- *Replacing the 2% cost of living adjustment with Compensation Option 1 outlined on Attachment B to this motion.*

I further move that the School Board adopt the amended version as the School Board's Proposed FY 2022 Budget.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy.

Board members shared comments on the proposed budget, thanking the staff and the community for their support and engagement in the budget process. Also considered was how enrollment may change and how to manage compensation.

Ms. O'Grady called for a vote and 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.

3. Proposed Name for the New Elementary School at the Reed Site: (10:57 PM)

Dr. Durán confirmed there have been no changes to this item.

Mr. Priddy moved to approve the name Cardinal Elementary School for the new school at the Reed Site, 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.

4. 2021 School Moves Project Construction Contract Award: (10:59 PM)

Dr. Durán confirmed there have been no changes to this item.

Mr. Goldstein noted that this item was moved from Consent to Action so that the public would be able to see the detailed budget information, and the group reviewed the funding breakdown.

Dr. Kanninen moved to approve the 2021 School Moves Project Construction Contract Award, 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.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:03 PM)

1. Revisions to School Board Policies I-1.33 Instruction; I-1.30 Goals and I-1.31 Goals

Ms. Loft explained the proposed revisions, which update the language and align the Instruction policy with APS Strategic Plan Goals and to incorporate the two Goals policies into this policy.

2. Revisions to School Board Policy G-1.2 Staff Electronic Technologies Acceptable Use: (11:05 PM)

Mr. Adusumilli presented the proposed revisions, noting that by code, this policy must be reviewed every two years. Changes were made to improve clarity around the policy as it applies to using equipment and resources, including personal equipment while on school property. The revisions also add clarity on the roles of technical staff.

Board members thanked staff for their work on this policy.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board