

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
May 20, 2021

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 7:05 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
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
Zac Pope, Director, Safety, Security, Risk and Emergency
Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction
Carolyn Jackson, Supervisor, Office of Equity and Excellence

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:

Michael Folb, student: encouraging all to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

L.J. Seiff and Jenn Seiff, student and parent: supporting the communications program provided to students with disabilities and asking the Board not to eliminate it.

Ingrid Gant, Arlington Education Association President: thanking staff and the Board for their work, recognizing the importance of working together, and appreciating all efforts.

Gabriela Uro, Member, Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Concerns: thanking the Board for not moving the Academic Academy to the Langston site, and applauding the work of the Office of Equity and Excellence.

The following speakers also addressed the Board, thanking them for keeping virtual options available to all families for the fall, appreciating that this accommodates those at greater risk due to health issues, and encouraging everyone to get vaccinated:

Cynthia Cocuesta-Cuttier, parent

Pat Vinkenes, resident

Ryoko Reed, parent

Tannia Talento, ASHPA

Carmina Sinani, Barcroft parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board, expressing disappointment with the way APS has operated during the pandemic, including concerns about provision of special education support and the lack of in-person instruction for all students:

Aaron Asimakopoulos, parent

Reade Bushe, parent

4. Recognition

In recognition of Employee Appreciation Month, all staff were thanked for their efforts and commitment. Dr. Durán, the Board and the Executive Leadership Team also recognized employees for their years of service at Arlington Public Schools.

5. Announcements

- May 27, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM
- June 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 6 PM

Mr. Goldstein shared information about special events at several of his liaison schools. Ms. O'Grady summarized recent communications the Board has received and announced upcoming Open Office Hours.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán shared several events of interest including Extended Day Registration, the summer meals program, and the upcoming Planning Unit data review. In closing, he presented an update on progress on the School Board Action Plan.

The group briefly discussed the planning unit data review underway, and staff responded to questions about the plans for summer meals service.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:22 PM)

Ms. O’Grady announced that Personnel Actions were being removed from consent and would be voted on separately.

Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres, 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. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. March 23, 2021 Budget Work Session #4
 - b. March 23, 2021 Public Hearing on Superintendent’s Proposed FY2022 Budget
 - c. March 31, 2021 Committee of the Whole
 - d. April 12, 2021 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session on the Budget
 - e. April 15, 2021 Closed Meeting
 - f. April 15, 2021 Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning Work Session #1
 - g. April 19, 2021 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
 - h. April 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole
 - i. April 29, 2021 Closed Meeting
 - j. May 3, 3031 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
 - k. May 4, 2021 Budget Work Session #6
2. Personnel Actions – Removed from Consent
3. Revisions to School Board Policy I-1.35 Resources
4. Revisions to School Board Policy I-9.1 Selection of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials

Ms. O’Grady confirmed that under consent, the Board adopted revisions to School Board Policies I-1.35 Resources and I-9.1 Selection of Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials. As part of the policy review process, Policy Implementation Procedures I-9.1 PIP-1 Selection of Textbooks and Other Instructional Resources, and I-9.1 PIP-2 Requests for Reconsideration of Instructional Resources were reviewed and revised as needed by the Superintendent, to ensure that they continue to align with the updated policy.

2. Personnel Actions:

Ms. O’Grady announced that prior to the vote on this item, one termination has been removed from the recommended support services personnel actions.

Dr. Kanninen moved to approve the personnel actions as amended, seconded by Mr. Priddy, 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.

The following actions were approved:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Change In Position/Salary

1 Resignation

3 Retirements

3 Reorganization and Reclassification Requests -

Classification Specification – Supervisor of Web, Multimedia and Design Services

Classification Specification – Supervisor of Family Engagement

Classification Specification – Instructional Technology Coordinator (ITC)

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

27 Resignations

1 Resignation With Prejudice

9 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

4 Changes In Position/Salary

2 Resignations

2 Retirements

1 ~~Termination~~ REMOVED FROM PERSONNEL ACTIONS

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:24 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán presented the update, reviewing health/safety data and metrics. He then reviewed updated guidance from the Governor on masks and COVID-19 mitigation measures going into effect on May 28, and shared updated plans based on this guidance. He confirmed that masks must still be worn on school property at least through the end of this school year. Guidance on quarantining following exposure to COVID-19 and contact tracing procedures were also reviewed. Dr. Durán then shared plans for graduations and promotions, summer school, assessments, and interventions and supports for students for the remainder of the school year and into the fall. Also shared was an update on secondary grades.

In response to Board questions, staff provided more information about the interventions and supports that will be provided to ensure students are successful through the end of the school year and in the summer.

2. Equity and Excellence Update: (8:55 PM)

Ms. Jackson presented the update, providing a program profile for the Office of Equity and Excellence. She shared highlights from the current year, including work to

cultivate culturally responsive pedagogy, diversity and recruitment efforts, a new partnership with Virginia Tech College Access, and support for the development of school-based Equity Teams. Acknowledging the challenges of this year, Ms. Jackson spoke to efforts to provide students with virtual opportunities to explore college and careers. She also described support for first generation college-bound students and families. APS continued to access the Early Identification Program at George Mason University, and Ms. Jackson highlighted other activities such as mentoring and participation in the Minority Student Achievement Network. Also described were professional learning activities and partnerships that support equity and excellence. In closing, Ms. Jackson summarized plans going forward, including the move of the Office of Equity and Excellence to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office.

The group discussed Equity and Excellence support to students during the college application process, including college visits, as well as support to students entering the work force after high school. Also discussed was how to measure the effectiveness of the programs offered and of staff training. The group supported encouraging students to become involved in advisory groups, and Ms. Jackson provided additional information about efforts to bring cultural responsiveness into instruction throughout APS as well as plans to expand supports for students when they return in the fall. The Board, Superintendent and Ms. Jackson acknowledged the hard work of Equity and Excellence staff throughout the challenging year.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (9:55 PM)

1. Virginia School Boards Association Legislative Positions

Ms. O’Grady summarized the proposed legislative position.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the School Board adopt the proposed 2021 VSBA Legislative Positions as presented, seconded by Mr. Priddy. Ms. O’Grady called for a vote and the motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy in favor.

2. Retirement of School Board Policy I-7.2.5.31 Support, Resources, and Extended Time: (9:56 PM)

Ms. Loft explained that this policy is recommended for retirement as the content has been subsumed in other policies.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the School Board retire School Board Policy I-7.2.5.31 Support, Resources, and Extended Time, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. Ms. O’Grady called for a vote and the motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy in favor.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:59 PM)

1. Proposed Name for the Key Immersion School at the ATS site

Principal Marleny Perdomo, assisted by Naming Committee member Erin Lester and staff liaison Dulce Carrillo presented the proposed name. Ms. Perdomo presented a brief overview of the Key School and the Spanish Immersion program that was established in 1986. She then described the naming committee process, including outlining committee membership, the meeting schedule, and data collection and analysis. Twenty-four names were proposed initially and narrowed to five options by the committee. These options were shared with the community for input, and based on feedback received, the Committee agreed to recommend the name, Escuela Key Elementary as the first choice and the alternate name of Key Elementary School. She noted that the committee agreed that the word Key in the name does not reference Francis Scott Key, but rather reflects that the school provides a ‘key to the world.’

Ms. Perdomo responded briefly to Board questions and the Board appreciated the committee’s work.

2. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy I-7.2.8 Instructional Delivery Options:
(9:16 PM)

Ms. Loft presented the proposed changes which update the policy language to reflect the organizational structure of schools and programs, and moved content related to student virtual learning course options a new policy implementation procedure.

3. Syphax Education Center Internal Modifications: (10:18 PM)

Mr. Chambers presented internal modifications being proposed for the 4th floor of Syphax Education Center to provide office space for new staff. He confirmed the project to be funded with reserves will cost approximately \$500,000.

Mr. Chambers responded to questions about the timeline of the work. He confirmed the staff who will occupy this space, and the group discussed the cost estimate and those factors that might affect the cost.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board