

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Organizational Meeting, School Board Meeting  
July 1, 2021

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 8:35 AM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**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  
Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING**

*Ms. O’Grady moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider 7 appointments, 22 changes in position/salary, 11 resignations, and 1 retirement as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM, and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

*Ms. O’Grady moved to certify that to the best of her knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy and 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.*

Ms. O’Grady called for a recess, and the Board reconvened in open session at 9:30 AM.

**Also present were:**

Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support  
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer  
Bridget Loft, Chief Academic Officer

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff  
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management  
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

**B. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: 9:32 AM**

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees, including County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti, Vice Chair Katie Cristol, member Takis Karantonis, and County Manager Mark Schwartz.

1. School Board Code of Conduct

*Ms. O’Grady moved that the School Board adopt the Code of Conduct, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. All Board members then signed the document.*

2. Election of the Chair of the Board:

Recognizing her experience, leadership and hard work on the Board and thanking her for mentoring him as a new member, *Mr. Priddy nominated Dr. Kanninen to be the Chair for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

3. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Board:

Commenting on Mr. Goldstein’s service on the Board, including his work on the Policy Subcommittee, and acknowledging his deep commitment to students as well as his in-depth knowledge of all aspects of the work of the Board, *Ms. Diaz-Torres nominated Mr. Goldstein for Vice Chair for the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

*Ms. Diaz-Torres moved for adoption of organizational items 4 through 14, seconded by Ms. O’Grady, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

The following items were approved:

4. Appointment of the Clerk of the Board:

Melanie Elliott was re-appointed Clerk of the Board for the 2021-2022 school year.

5. Appointment of the Deputy Clerk of the Board:

Claudia Mercado was reappointed Deputy Clerk of the Board for the 2021-2022 school year.

6. Approval of Payment of Claims
7. Supervision of Construction
8. Adoption of Schedule of School Board Meetings, 2021-2022 School Year
9. Adoption of Proposed Schedule of Pay Dates, 2021-2022 School Year
10. Adoption of Existing Policies and Regulations
11. Adoption of Proposed Guidelines on Executive Session Confidentiality
12. School Board Member Liaison Assignments for 2021-2022
13. School Board Speaker Guidelines
14. Audit Committee Chair

Dr. Kanninen announced that, in compliance with the Code of Virginia, as part of the organizational items, the School Board re-adopted existing policies for the administration of Arlington Public Schools. A current copy of the policy manual is posted publicly and can be accessed through the Arlington Public School's website. In compliance with Section 22.1-253.13:7 of the Code of Virginia, which requires that copies of policies be available to community members who do not have online access, paper copies of the policies can be requested in the Board Office or provided by the Department of School and Community Relations.

Dr. Kanninen also reviewed additional items that were adopted including Board liaison assignments and the Speaker Guidelines for public comment at Board meetings.

## **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

### **C. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (10:00 AM)**

As outgoing Chair, Ms. O'Grady spoke to the challenges of the past year and acknowledged the support and compassion she experienced in spite of all of the difficulties faced. She highlighted what was learned throughout the pandemic and appreciated the leadership and collaboration between APS and Arlington County, and she thanked the community for their efforts and support. She looked forward to the work ahead, thanked former Board members Tannia Talento and Nancy Van Doren, the Board office staff, and the technical staff who supported the Board's work throughout the difficult year. Looking forward to Dr. Durán's service and leadership in the coming year, she also thanked her family for their support during her time as Chair. In closing, she confirmed that one of the strongest messages that came through the past year was that this community is resilient and has hope for the future, and she confirmed her belief at APS can and will move forward.

Mr. Goldstein thanked his colleagues for the honor of electing him as vice chair. He appreciated Ms. O’Grady for her steady leadership over the past year and congratulated Dr. Kanninen as the incoming Chair, confirming she has the interest, skills, and passion to do an outstanding job. He also thanked Mr. Priddy and Ms. Diaz-Torres for their efforts and for the fresh perspective they have brought to the Board. He then acknowledged Dr. Durán and his staff for their outstanding performance under the difficult and challenging circumstances of the pandemic. In closing, he highlighted his priorities for the coming year: literacy, compensation for the APS workforce, and getting all students back on track. He affirmed his commitment to working through challenges to make substantial gains and improvements in these areas. Looking forward to the coming year with hope, he again expressed his gratitude to his colleagues, the Superintendent, and staff, and he confirmed that he, too, was ready to move forward.

Ms. Diaz-Torres commented on the challenge of joining the Board during the pandemic and thanked her colleagues for their support. She acknowledged the collegiality among the Board members and appreciated having such an excellent group of colleagues. She also thanked Dr. Kanninen as a mentor and thought partner and she appreciated Ms. O’Grady for her guidance, advice, and counsel. She recognized Dr. Durán for his steadfast leadership and for maintaining a calm demeanor through the challenges of the past year, and especially for his efforts to ensure that students continued to learn in ways that were safe and successful. She also acknowledged the County Board’s support for APS and recognized the challenges ahead. In closing, she stressed the importance of ensuring equity, inclusivity, and safety in the Board’s work going forward.

Mr. Priddy thanked his Board colleagues and acknowledged the hard work of the Board throughout the challenging time. He also appreciated the staff, the County Board, and the community for their support. He was particularly grateful to Ms. O’Grady for her dedication and hard work as chair, acknowledging that she is a listener, a leader, and a doer, which served the school division well. He agreed that the number one focus of the Board and APS going forward is to focus on the social/emotional and mental health of each child to make sure they are on the right path going forward.

Thanking Mr. Priddy for the nomination and her colleagues for their support, Dr. Kanninen looked forward to taking on the role of Board chair. She acknowledged Ms. O’Grady for her service as the first African American woman to serve as Chair of the School Board and acknowledged her accomplishments of leading the Board during a global pandemic and spearheading the adoption of the APS equity policy. Dr. Kanninen then thanked Dr. Durán for his leadership through the difficult year and looked forward to working together in the coming year. She also acknowledged the new Cabinet that has been instituted in APS and thanked the executive leadership team, the school leaders, teachers, and staff throughout APS, and to Board office staff for their work. In addition, she acknowledged the County Manager and County Board members for their collaboration and partnership, as well as acknowledging her family for their support.

Dr. Kanninen commented that in spite of the trauma of the past year, what matters most going forward is doing right by the students, and she recognized that it is the responsibility of APS and the community to focus on making sure that students are ok, are being

challenged, have opportunities, and are engaged. She recognized that students will need to heal and to move forward socio-emotionally as well as academically, and the adults will need to support this healing. She also acknowledged challenges ahead to bring APS back to being fiscally healthy and sustainable, to build operational efficiency, and to move forward. She highlighted the need in the coming year to focus on improving literacy, especially for Special Education and English Learner students; to provide transparency and renewed accountability; and to develop an equity profile as APS continues to promote equity, excellence, and consistency across the schools. She also acknowledged the need for a continued focus on improving compensation to ensure that staff are fairly and consistently rewarded for their work. In addition, she confirmed APS will continue work on the new elementary school, new buildings, boundary refinements, a 10-year capital improvement plan, and tackling a challenging budget season.

Acknowledging the work ahead and her responsibilities as chair, Dr. Kanninen spoke to her commitment to children, to the power of education, to efficiency, and to respect. She acknowledged the strength, expertise, creativity, passion, and commitment of the staff, and confirmed that they are responsible for all that is best about Arlington Public Schools. She also affirmed that the Board will do their best to support staff through the coming year. In closing, Dr. Kanninen again thanked the Board and staff for their trust and committed to giving her all to support the students, staff, and community.

Dr. Durán thanked Ms. O’Grady for her support, collaboration, and leadership over the last year, and appreciated the Board for keeping students and staff as the priority through the pandemic. While he recognized that there were different beliefs about the best approach to dealing with the pandemic, he confirmed that all shared a focus on doing on what was best for students, and he hoped that would continue to be the sentiment going forward. He congratulated Dr. Kanninen as the new chair and recognized her commitment and knowledge. He also looked forward to working with Mr. Goldstein, recognizing his ongoing commitment to students. Focusing on reopening the schools in the fall, Dr. Durán confirmed he will work with all Board members to provide students with what they need to be successful. This will include supporting students’ social/emotional wellbeing and providing an equitable and supportive learning environment to all. Dr. Durán also appreciated all of the staff in all roles for the monumental task they accomplished by adjusting to virtual and hybrid learning over the past year, while also facing personal challenges caused by the pandemic. He then thanked Mr. Schwartz and the County Board for their leadership, collaboration, and constant support of the schools.

Looking forward, Dr. Durán recognized the need to refocus on staff and providing appropriate compensation. He also spoke to the reorganization of the APS Central Office that prioritizes student support and strengthens the focus on making sure all students are successful. In closing, he predicted the upcoming year will be a successful year and looked forward to visiting all schools, maintaining a collaborative relationship with the Board, and bringing the County and community back together to focus on student success.

**D. CONSENT ITEMS: (10:15 AM)**

*Ms. O’Grady moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen,*

Ms. O’Grady and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
  - a. May 6, 2021 School Board Meeting
  - b. May 19, 2021 Compensation Work Session
  - c. June 10, 2021 Public Hearing on the Proposed FY2022-2024 Capital Improvement Plan
  - d. June 21, 2021 School Board Policy Subcommittee

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

2 Appointments

3 Changes In Position/Salary

2 Resignations

3 Reclassification Requests

Classification Specification – Student Climate Coordinator

Classification Specification – Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Classification Specification – Supervisor of Educational Technology and Programs

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

10 Resignations

1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

5 Appointments

25 Changes In Position/Salary

2 Resignations

3. Membership in the Virginia High School League
4. FY 2023 Budget Development Calendar
5. Procurement Resolution
6. Superintendent Salary Adjustment
7. Cherrydale Farmers Market - Open Air License Agreement at Dorothy Hamm Middle School
8. Appointments to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs
9. Appointments to the Budget Advisory Council
10. ~~Appointments to the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, the Board appointed Terri Murphy as Director of English Learner Services and Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Mayo spoke briefly, thanking the Board and Superintendent for the opportunity to join Arlington Public Schools and support the work of the division.

**E. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board