

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting  
July 29, 2021

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair  
Cristina Diaz-Torres, 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**

Dr. Kanninen called the meeting to order and announced that Ms. O’Grady was out of town and not able to attend the meeting.

*Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider 66 appointments, 51 changes in position/salary, 12 resignations, 1 retirement and 3 terminations as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

*Dr. Kanninen 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 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.*

Dr. Kanninen called for brief a recess, and the Board reconvened in open session at 7:02 PM.

**Also present were:**

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support  
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 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  
Marcus Gregory, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations

**B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order

Dr. Kanninen called the meeting to order and announced that Ms. O’Grady was not able to participate as she was out of town.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Announcements

4. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán shared an update on summer meal site changes and reviewed the registration process for new APS families. He announced that masks will be required regardless of vaccination status in all APS buildings when schools open, however, masks will not be required when eating or when outside. He explained the approach APS is taking to keep schools open and safe, and confirmed that safety measures will be updated as needed. He reviewed mitigation measures such as vaccine promotion, handwashing, contact tracing, screening, and ventilation. Other announcements included first day of school and back-to-school events, and communications plans. After summarizing virtual learning plans, he congratulated APS graduate Torri Huske for her accomplishments at the Olympics.

The Board and staff discussed efforts to ensure families know when school will begin and the status of plans for the return to school, both operationally and instructionally. Dr. Durán also provided additional information on guidance for students in terms of close contact in the classroom and during athletics activities.

**C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:31 PM)**

*Ms. Diaz-Torres moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:*

1. Minutes:

- a. June 8, 2021 Work Session on the Student Code of Conduct
- b. June 24, 2021 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- c. July 15, 2021 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE

3 Appointments

7 Changes In Position/Salary  
1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

53 Appointments  
33 Changes In Position/Salary  
7 Resignations  
1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

5 Appointments  
4 Changes In Position/Salary  
2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

5 Appointments  
7 Changes In Position/Salary  
2 Resignations  
3 Terminations

3. Letter of Agreement with the Friends of the Planetarium
4. Langston School and Community Center Deed of Easement with Arlington County for Fire Station 8
5. Request for Religious Exemption from Compulsory Attendance

Dr. Kanninen announced that under consent the Board approved the annual Letter of Agreement with the Friends of the Planetarium as well as two deeds of easement with Arlington County related to the renovation of Fire Station 8. She also announced that the Board made the following appointments: Tracy Gaither Principal, Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary; Catherine Han, Principal, Barrett Elementary; Christine Smith, Division Counsel; Dr. Jason Ottley, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Claudia Mercado, Clerk of the Board; and Jason Love, Assistant Principal, Kenmore Middle School.

**D. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:42 PM)**

1. Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL) Annual Report

Ms. Rebecca Hunter, SY 2020-2021 Chair of the ACTL, presented the annual report. She acknowledged staff for their support and spoke to the new ACTL structure that has been implemented recently. She summarized topics reviewed and input provided by the ACTL content advisory committees. She then shared highlights of the work of the committees, such as presenting progress memos, presentations to the full ACTL, drafting executive summaries, and sharing their work at two School Board work sessions. Themes that guided the ACTL through the year included consistency and accountability at the school level, robust data collection, analysis and transparency with data sharing, professional development

and training, and focusing on learning first. Ms. Hunter also spoke to the incoming ACTL leadership team, as well as thanking the vice chairs, committee chairs and members, and staff that supported the ACTL through the challenging year.

All Board members acknowledged the time and commitment of the ACTL volunteers and the contributions that they make to APS. Board members also recognized the challenges the group faced during the pandemic. Dr. Kanninen particularly appreciated the recommendations provided to the Board. The group then discussed the recent APS reorganization and how the addition of the Chief of School Support, in coordination with the Chief Academic Officer, will address needs and concerns identified by the ACTL. Ms. Graves and Ms. Loft both spoke to their plans and vision for the work ahead.

**E. ACTION ITEMS: NONE**

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:11 PM)**

1. Revision of School Board Policy I-7.4.1.31 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities and
2. Revision of School Board Policy I-7.4.1.33 Addition of New Sports Teams

Ms. Loft presented proposed revisions to these policies, explaining that the revisions to School Board I-7.4.1.31 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities include moving some text from the policy implementation procedure (PIP) into the policy, and the addition of clarifying language to the policy. She then summarized proposed revisions to Policy I-7.4.1.33 Addition of New Sports Teams, which include a title change, clarifying language related to criteria for adding or removing a sports team, and additional language to the PIP to clarify processes.

Dr. Kanninen asked about ensuring the availability of no-cut sports to students, especially as enrollment grows, and Ms. Loft confirmed that the revised policy does provide opportunities for these activities.

3. Proposed New School Board Policy J-13 Physical Interventions for Students in Crisis - REMOVED FROM AGENDA – to be presented in September 2021.

**G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board