

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Item C-1-b

FY 2022-2024 Capital Improvement Plan Work Session #2

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:03 PM. The meeting was held by electronic communications due to the Covid-19 Pandemic emergency, using Microsoft Teams.

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
Marcus Gregory, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Cathy Lin, Director, Facilities and Operations
Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction
Amy Maclosky, Director, Food and Nutrition Services

Ms. O’Grady shared that the purpose of the work session was for the Board to finalize details of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address capacity and facility needs. Dr. Durán introduced the agenda which focused on the Superintendent’s Proposed FY 2022-2024 CIP, budget, recommendations from the School Board advisory council groups, and the Board’s CIP priorities.

Recommendation for New Facilities

Ms. Stengle briefly reviewed the enrollment projections used to address capacity in the FY 2022-24 CIP, noting that the most urgent need for seats is at the middle school level. She also provided a proposed timeline for the Career Center site projects, that include the Career Center, Montessori Public School of Arlington, Arlington Community High School (ACHS), field and green space, and parking. Ms. Loft highlighted the importance of the proposed projects at the Career Center site and their alignments to instruction, and she specified how each project would increase program capacity. She outlined the Career Center’s project-based learning pathway and its relationship to the PreK-Adult Instructional Programs and Pathways (IPP) and she shared details about the proposed middle school programs at the Career Center site. Ms. Loft spoke about creating one central Montessori program to achieve the Montessori vision and relocating the ACHS.

Recommendations for Facility Improvements

Ms. Maclosky presented the proposed upgrades to school kitchens to add on-site food storage and preparation space and improve lunch service. Mr. Chambers spoke about proposed options to improve accessibility to The Heights Building for the Shriver Program students and caregivers. He also described the planned renovation of main entry vestibules at some schools to meet current safety and security standards. Ms. Lin shared recommendations to enhance HVAC and air filtration systems and to replace synthetic turf fields at some of the schools.

CIP Budget Scenarios

Ms. Peterson presented the different budget scenarios for projects in the FY 2022-24 CIP. Each scenario highlighted funding sources, debt service ratio, and bond referendums.

Possible Requests for County Board

In preparation for the School Board and County Board joint work session on the FY 2022-24 CIP, Ms. Stengle proposed requests on behalf of APS to the County that would support school capacity needs and ensure collaboration on future planning.

Input from Advisory Committees

Kathleen McSweeney, Chair of the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC), detailed the JFAC's stance on the different CIP proposals. She expressed support for the projects but noted the apprehension from some JFAC members on some proposals such as the Career Center. Ms. McSweeney also applauded that the CIP maintained instruction at the forefront.

John Giambalvo, Chair of the Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC), spoke about the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, expressed the FAC's support for the less expensive projects such as the facility improvements, and encouraged further discussion on the pricier projects such as The Heights Building and the Career Center. Mr. Giambalvo suggested additional analysis of capacity needs across the school system.

School Board Discussion

The Board and advisory committee chairs briefly discussed the recommendations presented. The Board also discussed permit use, the expansion of the Montessori program and Arlington Tech, amenities for the Career Center and future use of the site, and project costs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board