

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
September 9, 2021

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member (left at 8:02 PM)
Monique O’Grady, Member
David Priddy, Member

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.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider 40 appointments, 20 changes in position/salary, 16 resignations, 7 resignations with prejudice, 5 retirements, 1 classification request, 1 reclassification request, and discuss the performance of an additional 2 employees 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.

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 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.

Dr. Kanninen called for brief a recess, and the Board reconvened in open session at 7:01 PM.

Also present were:

¹ 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.

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Bridget Loft, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
Jason Ottley, Interim Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer
Christine Smith, Legal Counsel
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Claudia Mercado, Clerk

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AF JROTC Cadets Corps

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:04 PM)

Ms. Diaz-Torres 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:

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE

~~1 Classification Specification~~

Project Manager

- 1 Reclassification Request
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 24 Appointments
- 11 Changes In Position/Salary
- 9 Resignations
- 6 Resignations (With Prejudice)

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 8 Appointments
- 4 Changes In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 8 Appointments
- 5 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 4 Retirements

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, the Board appointed Ms. Caitlin Sherman as Assistant Principal to Taylor Elementary School.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (7:06 PM)

1. Board Announcements:

- September 11, 2021: School Board/Cabinet Retreat, 9 AM – 1 PM, Washington-Liberty High School Library, 1301 N. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22207
- September 21, 2021: Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- September 21, 2021: Work Session on Planning for the Superintendent's FY 2023-2032 CIP 6:30 PM, Board Rm.

Dr. Kanninen announced that for the 2021-2022 school year, the School Board is going to hold virtual Open Office Hours twice a month on the first and third Monday of the month, beginning on September 20 with Ms. Diaz-Torres at 7 PM. The guidelines to participate in Open Office Hours and the upcoming schedule were to be posted on the Open Office Hours web page.

Mr. Goldstein shared announcements related to his liaison schools and encouraged the community to be mindful of traffic regulations and use caution in light of students returning to schools. The School Board recognized Mr. Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, on his retirement from Arlington Public Schools after 28 years of service.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates:

First, Dr. Durán welcomed Ms. Smith and Dr. Ottley to their first Board meeting as part of the cabinet. He then provided an update on the Annual Online Verification Process (AOVP), employee annual open enrollment, and Hispanic Heritage Month student recognitions at APS. He also shared important upcoming school year calendar dates. To raise awareness about signs of suicide and how to access support, Dr. Durán spoke about Suicide Prevention Month in September and the resources available to students. Lastly, Dr. Durán highlighted Renee Randolph, Culinary Arts Instructor, featured in Arlington Magazine's "Teachers We Love" article.

Board members were enthusiastic to note the addition of in vitro fertilization (IVF) as a benefit for employees and emphasized to the community the resources available related to suicide prevention.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:28 PM)

Dr. Kanninen shared that the Board received a recorded message via email and confirmed that each Board member received a copy. She also reviewed the current School Board Speaker Guidelines.

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the World Language program options:

Aidan Lohmeyer, student, Yorktown High School
Caroline Schwartzbeck, student, Yorktown High School
Aari and Berdy Davis, student, Wakefield High school
Suzette Lohmeyer, parent
Judith Davis, parent, Wakefield High School
Terri Schwartzbeck, parent
Jason Chipman, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the challenges faced by the Virtual Learning Program:

Dima Hakura, parent
Arlyn Elizee, parent
Richard Hershman, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Reginald Goeke, parent, Parents for Education, concerning learning loss
Miranda Turner, parent, Parents for Education, quarantine guidelines and learning loss
Todd Truitt, parent, Parents for Education, enrollment projections
Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association, supporting collective bargaining
Josh Folb, member, Arlington Education Association, supporting employee vaccinations, increasing the cost-of-living wages, and raising bus driver compensation

Dr. Durán thanked speakers for their comments, specifically appreciating the students taking the time to advocate for a robust world languages program.

F. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:28 PM)

1. Start of School Update

Dr. Durán shared that the student enrollment count on the first day of school was 26,932 and briefly highlighted the 2021-22 school year priorities that focuses on accelerated learning and support, mental health and wellbeing, and health and safety. Acknowledging the issues virtual students experienced during the first week of school, he provided an update on the Virtual Learning Program and the immediate steps to address issues. Dr. Durán spoke about the health and safety

layered prevention strategies to keep schools open and safe including COVID-19 response measures and vaccination requirements. Furthermore, Dr. Durán applauded staff, parents, and volunteers for their work to facilitate safe outdoor lunch options at the schools and he provided a brief update on Transportation Services. In addition, Dr. Durán highlighted the new family information line and the 2021-22 back-to-school night dates.

The Board expressed their joy about in-person back to school activities. They discussed the monitoring of student enrollment, and COVID-19 testing and notifications. The Board acknowledged the negative impact for those students who experienced issues with the virtual program, they thanked parents for sharing their concerns, and Ms. Loft shared information about the steps being taken to improve communications; she also provided an update on staffing. Dr. Kanninen announced that at the October 14, 2021 School Board meeting, staff will present an update on the Virtual Learning Program as a monitoring item. Ms. Diaz-Torres encouraged families to fill out the Free and Reduced Meal Benefits application to ensure families received all benefits related to this application.

G. ACTION ITEMS: (9:07 PM)

1. School Board 2021-2022 Priorities:

Dr. Kanninen confirmed that no changes have been made to the proposed School Board 2021-22 Priorities since it was presented as information

Ms. O’Grady moved that the Board adopt the School Board 2021-2022 Priorities, second by Mr. Priddy.

Dr. Kanninen called for a motion, and it 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

H. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:08 PM)

1. New School Board Policy J-13 Physical Interventions for Students in Crisis

Ms. Loft presented the New School Board Policy J-13 Physical Interventions for Students in Crisis to be implemented in accordance with Virginia Code to provide guidance to staff regarding the use of restraint and seclusion in Arlington Public Schools. Furthermore, the new policy will provide guidance to staff regarding the reporting of the use of restraint and procedures for notifying parents/guardians about the use of these interventions.

Ms. O’Grady requested that Ms. Loft describe the community feedback incorporated in the policy, specifically from the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) and Ms. Diaz-Torres expressed her gratitude for the partnership with ASEAC. Ms. Diaz-Torres also provided an overview of the

revision process for School Board policies and policy implantation procedures. The Board discussed professional development and the importance of this new policy.

1. Cardinal Elementary School Project Changes due to Phase 2 Stormwater Improvements

Mr. Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, presented and noted that in order to help reduce risk to APS from future flood damage and to provide flood mitigation to nearby properties, APS collaborated with Arlington County to construct a large stormwater management facility under the natural grass playfields at Cardinal Elementary School. No additional funding is required from APS as Arlington County is funding every aspect. Mr. Chambers recommended that to perform Phase 2 of the Stormwater Project, change orders are required to the Construction Manager at-Risk (CMR) and Construction Manager Advisor (CMA) contracts due to the extended scope and duration.

The Board discussed funding and changes to the contract. They also conversed about the project site.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board