

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
September 30, 2021

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 6:05 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member
Monique O’Grady, Member
David Priddy, Member

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer

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 as many as 19 appointments, 10 changes in position/salary, 5 resignations, 1 resignation with prejudice, 1 retirement, 1 termination, and 4 classification specification requests 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 Ms. O’Grady 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 at 6:56 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 7:01 PM.

Also present were:

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relation
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support

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.

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: (7:03 PM)

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. O’Grady. 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. August 12, 2021 School Board Meeting
 - b. August 25, 2021 Policy Subcommittee
 - c. August 26, 2021 School Board Meeting
 - d. September 8, 2021 Policy Subcommittee
2. Personnel actions
 - P/E-SCALE
 - 4 Classification Specification Requests
 - Classification & Position Management Coordinator
 - Director of Human Resources Operations
 - Director of Talent Acquisition and Management
 - Talent Acquisition Coordinator
 - 4 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 1 Resignation
 - T-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 12 Appointments
 - 4 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 4 Resignations
 - A-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 6 Appointments
 - 1 Resignations (With Prejudice)
 - SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
 - 1 Appointment
 - 2 Changes In Position/Salary

- 1 Retirement
- 1 Termination

- 3. Cardinal Elementary School Project Changes due to Phase 2 Stormwater Improvements
- 4. Appointment to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC)
- 5. Appointment to the Budget Advisory Council (BAC)

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, the Board approved the Cardinal Elementary School Project Change due to Phase 2 Stormwater Improvements and highlighted that APS incurred no cost as this was an Arlington County project. She also announced the appointment of Jennifer Wheelock to the Budget Advisory Council and Graham Weinschenk to the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs. The Board also appointed Dr. Dashan Turner, Assistant Superintendent to Human Resources, Kenneth Golski, Assistant Division Counsel, and Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (7:11 PM)

1. Board Announcements:

- October 4, 2021 – Virtual Open Office Hours with Monique O’Grady
- October 12, 2021 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- October 12, 2021 – Committee of the Whole on Boundary and Immersion Adjustments, 6:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- October 13, 2021 – Policy Subcommittee Virtual Meeting, 8:30 AM

Dr. Kanninen shared that the Board was being visited by Professor Anne Holton’s students from George Mason University as part of their Politics in American Education course to learn about the different local, state, and federal government bodies. Mr. Goldstein shared about activities happening at Barcroft Elementary School. In addition, Ms. O’Grady invited the community to the Cardinal Elementary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and thanked everyone involved in the grand opening of the school.

2. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán shared about Custodial Appreciation Day and Blue Star Welcome Week. Then, he started the Virtual Learning Program (VLP) update by apologizing for the challenges affecting the VLP and expressing his commitment to the success of VLP students. Dr. Durán detailed the action plan to improve the VLP and announced that a monitoring report on the program was scheduled for the October 14 School Board meeting. Dr. Durán provided an update on the work of the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Concerns (SACIRC) and affirmed that APS will not tolerate discrimination in schools and is committed to the safety and wellbeing of immigrant and refugee families. Furthermore, Dr. Durán spoke about instructional support for COVID-19 related absences and the employee vaccination status. Lastly, Dr. Durán announced important school calendar dates, a brief update on the fall 2021 boundary process, and adjustments of elementary immersion feeder schools, noting that the adjustments will focus on providing capacity relief.

Dr. Durán's highlight for the week was attending the Innovation Elementary School ribbon-cutting ceremony. He also announced that APS was named Niche's second-best school division in Virginia and Fleet Elementary School earned the U.S. Green Building Council National Capital Region Community Leader Green School Award.

Mr. Priddy requested an update on the German language program and Ms. Loft shared that APS remained committed to hiring a fluent German language teacher to provide in-person instruction at the Career Center and students were receiving virtual instruction in the meantime. Reflecting on the pandemic, Mr. Goldstein acknowledged the challenges faced by the teachers and thanked all staff for their commitment to providing high-quality instruction and services at APS. Ms. Diaz-Torres shared about her participation in the K-12 Climate Action and the Aspen Institute event at Fleet Elementary School, and how teachers are using sustainability as a learning tool.

In reference to the VLP, Board members requested a concrete plan for staffing and creatively making up lost instructional time. As the Board liaison to the VLP, Ms. O'Grady thanked Dr. Durán for the action plan to improve the program and thanked the VLP families for communicating their needs. She appreciated the staff for their diligence in addressing the many challenges to support students.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:43 PM)

Dr. Kanninen reviewed the School Board Speaker Guidelines.

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the Virtual Learning Program:

Alison Cassels, Co-President, Arlington SEPTA
Elizabeth Fabrizio, parent
Joshua Folb, parent
Arlyn Elizee, parent
Tia Alfred, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the School Board Policy J-13 Physical Interventions for Students in Crisis:

Kathleen Clark, parent, Arlington SEPTA
Heather Desplechin, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding concerns about employee treatment, compensation, management, training, and poor communication at Transportation Services:

Christina Childress, Transportation
Tanya Norman, Transportation
Michelle Barbour, Transportation
Abrehet Temelso, Transportation
Charles Smith, Transportation
Kevin Carey, Transportation

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Katie Sunderland, Arlington Parents for Education, encouraging better compensation and retention of staff

Sheila Kelly, Arlington Parents for Education, improving quarantining protocols

Ingrid Gant, President, Arlington Education Association, encouraging safety mitigation guidelines systemwide and supporting transportation employee concerns

F. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:22 PM)

1. Mathematics Update

Ms. Shannan Ellis, Mathematics Supervisor, presented an update on the APS Mathematics Program, speaking on pre-pandemic and current strengths and challenges, and preparing for the Virginia Mathematics Pathways Initiative (VMPI). She also shared recommendations to support a robust mathematics program in APS that aligns with the Board's priorities and the Strategic Plan.

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about testing, interventions, and supports for black and English learners. They also spoke about recommendations for resources and funding, and Ms. O'Grady encouraged the community to review the data

G. ACTION ITEMS: (9:24 PM)

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

Dr. Durán shared the importance of the adoption of School Board policy J-13 and announced that the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) will be reviewed as necessary to ensure alignment with the policy. Dr. Durán and the Board thanked staff and the community, specifically the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) for their engagement and input. Ms. Loft spoke about brief updates to the new policy and related PIP since presented to the Board on September 9, 2021. The new policy is in accordance with Virginia Code, provides guidance to staff regarding the use of restraint and seclusion, and provides guidance on the reporting of the use of restraint.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved to adopt New School Board Policy J-13 Physical Interventions for Students in Crisis, including the proposed revisions presented this evening. She also moved that if upon further investigation staff identify the need to add a communications provision to address an immediate need or improve the policy, they may seek approval via amendment as per School Board Policy B-6, second by Ms. O'Grady.

Ms. O'Grady strongly urged that staff training should be a priority and the Board thanked the community for their engagement around this policy.

Dr. Kanninen called for a vote 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.

Dr. Durán explained that suggested revisions to the PIPs were received, and staff will review to ensure alignment to the policy.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:27 PM)

1. Internal Audit Annual Plan

Mr. John Mickevics, Internal Auditor, presented an overview of the internal audit plan, which purpose is to provide operational, financial, and compliance audit services to APS, and he outlined the seven suggested internal audit project recommendations.

Board members shared their concerns about some of the recommended audit projects given the unusual data due to the pandemic and they discussed the analysis of the VLP.

2. School Board FY 2023 Budget Direction

Dr. Kanninen presented the School Board's FY 2023 Budget Direction that guides the Superintendent to prepare a needs-based FY 2023 budget that focuses on the 2021-2022 School Board Priorities. Due to the economic downturn and increased student needs presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the School Board therefore also directed the Superintendent to:

- Provide recommendations for strategic changes to service delivery, adjusted enrollment projections, use of reserves, changes in fee schedules, phased in additions, and additional reductions to balance the budget.
- Identify and provide timelines and costs for updating and/or revamping internal systems including human resources, transportation and routing, budgeting and financial management, etc., to ensure systems are sustainable for the future and to allow for zero-based budgeting in future years.
- Present a transparent budget that provides details for significant changes in a major expenditure category (FTEs, salaries, benefits, purchased services, etc.).
- Provide three-year forecasts of revenues and expenditures to gauge long-term financial sustainability.
- Ensure that APS complies with all federal, state, and local laws and legally binding agreements.

In preparing the FY 2023 Budget Direction, Ms. Diaz-Torres explained that the Board focused on addressing the pressing needs of the school system, providing a coherent and clear vision, and connecting the budget to student outcomes. Mr. Goldstein inquired what a *transparent budget* means to the Superintendent to which Dr. Durán replied he interprets it as being clear and providing details related to recommendations. Dr. Kanninen suggested that math must be a priority.

3. The Heights Building Phase 2 Architecture/Engineering Services

Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director of Design & Construction, recommended that the School Board approve an architectural and engineering team fee with a maximum value of \$1,000,000 to VMDO Architects for several accessibility improvements, on-site parking, and a synthetic turf field. The

final fee amount will be available for the Action item presentation, planned for the October 14, 2021 meeting.

4. Second Amendment to Lease Agreement with Highland Holdings, LLC for Parking

Ms. Cathy Lin, Director of Facilities and Operations, presented the second amendment to the lease agreement with Highland Holdings, LLC for parking at the Career Center. The amendments include extending the initial term of the lease through August 31, 2021 and rental abatement granted through December 31, 2020.

The Board discussed the parking rates.

I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board