

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes  
 November 16, 2021

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 16, 2021 at 6:03 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
 Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair (arrived at 7:56 PM)  
 Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member  
 Monique O’Grady, Member  
 David Priddy, Member

**Also present were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
 Christine Smith, Division Counsel

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

Dr. Kanninen called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to discuss 1 resignation with prejudice as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) and Step #4 of an employee grievance per the Virginia Administrative Code 8VAC20-90-30*), seconded by Ms. O’Grady. The motion was adopted in a vote 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote.

*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 as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered.* The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres and was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote.

Dr. Kanninen called for a brief recess at 6:50 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 7 PM.

**Also present were:**

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, 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 (7:02 PM):**

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*Ms. O'Grady moved for adoption of the consent agenda*, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes: None

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

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

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 11 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 12 Classification Specification Requests
  - ASL Interpreter
  - Bilingual Family Resource Paraprofessional
  - English Learner Paraprofessional
  - Interlude Resource Paraprofessional
  - Kindergarten Paraprofessional
  - Licensed Occupational Therapist Assistant
  - Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant
  - Montessori Paraprofessional
  - Outdoor Education Paraprofessional
  - Security Resource Assistant
  - Special Education Paraprofessional
  - Special Education Transition Paraprofessional
- 2 Resignations
- 3 Resignations (With Prejudice)
- 2 Retirements

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 1 Resignation

3. Montessori Licensure Request Application

4. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) HVAC Replacement & Improvement Grant

Dr. Kanninen announced that under Consent, the Board approved APS to seek from the State Board of Education an alternate pathway to professional licensure for future Montessori teachers in early/primary education, elementary education, and middle school education. She also announced that Board approved the application for

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the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) HVAC Replacement and Improvement Grant for the replacement of the HVAC system at Barcroft Elementary School. Lastly, Dr. Kanninen announced the appointment of Ms. Rachel Bowerman as Assistant Principal to the Arlington Career Center.

#### **D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:05 PM):**

##### 1. Board Announcements:

- November 17-19, 2021 - 2021 VSBA Annual Convention, Williamsburg Lodge
- November 30, 2021 - Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- November 30, 2021 – School Board Meeting and Public Hearing on the Boundary Adjustments & Immersion Feeders for School Year 2022-23, 7 PM, School Board Room
- December 1, 2021 - School Board Legislative Virtual Meeting, 8:15 AM

Ms. O’Grady explained the complex work that took place to submit the Montessori Licensure Request Application and thanked Delegate Patrick Hope for his legislative work to bring this opportunity to fruition and staff for their support to move the application forward.

##### 2. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán highlighted the implementation of literacy initiatives at the secondary level, primarily focused on writing, professional learning on formative assessments that inform teaching and learning, and the implementation of Lexia Power Up. He acknowledged National School Psychology Week and November as the national Military Families Appreciation Month. Dr. Durán presented an update on the vaccination status, announced the launch of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2022 Literary & Visual Arts Contest, and encouraged the community to share their feedback on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD). In addition, Dr. Durán explained that APS would be applying for VDOE grants through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund in three categories. He also presented the Winter Weather Procedures for 2021-22 including notification procedures and the new weather status codes. To end, Dr. Durán proudly highlighted Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary students and staff who held their Quarter 1 Project-Based Learning (PBL) Showcase.

#### **E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:32 PM):**

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Amy Rzepka, parent, Arlington Parents for Education, requesting that APS use funds to reduce class sizes
- Claire Noakes, president, CCPTA, concerning the proposed revisions to School Board Policy I-7.2.9.30
- Arlyn Elizee, parent, Virtual Learning Program, requesting additional socio-emotional supports for students
- Judith Davis, parent, Wakefield High School, lack of communications on the German language program and bus transportation safety
- Rebecca Hunter, concerns regarding bullying and harassment
- Patrick Lohmeyer, parent, opposing busing students to the Career Center for German language classes
- Josh Folb, Arlington Education Association, suggesting improvement of employee communications
- Ivis Castillo for Charles Smith, Transportation Services, requesting better compensation and training for bus drivers
- Crystal Harris, Transportation Services, requesting better compensation and training for bus drivers

The following speakers addressed the Board with concerns about the Fall 2021 Boundary Process:

- Xavier Anderson
- Carl Young
- Chuck Anderson for Elizabeth Grove
- Carolyn Sheedy
- Niranjani Konduri

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**F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:07 PM):**

1. Update on the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs and Services, and the Arlington Tech Program

Mr. Kris Martini, Director, provided an overview of the CTE programs in Arlington Public Schools which included information on CTE requirements, courses, and enrollment. He also shared details about the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Annual Performance Report Information, the state-approved industry credentials, and work-based learning opportunities. Furthermore, Mr. Martini presented three recommendations to improve the program and increase career exploration at APS.

The Board discussed enrollment, data analysis, and teacher credentials. They also conversed about the proposed Partnership Coordinator and a plan to find long-term opportunities for students and the demand for CTE courses.

**G. ACTION ITEMS (8:59 PM):**

1. Education Center Reuse Change to Construction Manager Advisor Contract

*Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the School Board approve an individual change order of \$277,083; and approve an increase of greater than 25% of the fixed-price contract with MBP to \$1,072,035, seconded by Ms. O'Grady.*

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

**H. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS (9 PM):**

1. One-Time Employee Bonus Payment

The Superintendent proposed a \$1,000 one-time employee bonus for full-time employees or a prorated amount for part-time employees to recognize the work of employees. He noted that this bonus did not take the place of the half-step increase employees would receive in January or any other compensation for the next budget cycle.

*Ms. O'Grady move that the School Board approve the issuance of a one-time bonus on December 6, 2021, up to \$1,000 based upon the employee's FTE and \$500 to hourly Extended Day, Food Service, School-Based Daily Substitutes, and Transportation Trainee employees. Employees hired on or before November 1, 2021, will be eligible for the one-time bonus. Closeout funds from FY 2021 will be used to fund the total cost of the bonuses in the amount of \$5,533,000, seconded by Mr. Priddy.*

The Board expressed their support for the one-time employee bonus and echoed appreciation for all employees and their work to support students.

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

**I. INFORMATION ITEMS (9:10 PM):**

1. School Board Legislative Package

Ms. Lisa Wise, Legislative Representative, presented the 2022 School Board's Legislative Positions which included support for various legislative initiatives.

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Board members thanked Ms. Wise for representing APS in Richmond at the General Assembly. Ms. O'Grady specifically thanked Ms. Wise for her work to move forward the Montessori model. The Board discussed the Halifax Model and legislation related to interscholastic high school athletics.

## 2. Annual Summer School Report

Ms. Loft presented the pre-pandemic, 2020, and 2021 summer school models. She spoke about the multiple challenges faced by summer school and about the engagement meetings with stakeholders to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses. She also presented about the efficacy of summer school on student performance and growth. In conclusion, Ms. Loft presented the proposed 2022 summer school model, the proposed infrastructure needs, and the proposed fees.

The Board discussed summer school fee increases, addressing literacy deficits, and efficiently using assessment results for summer school eligibility. They also discussed proactively addressing staffing shortages.

## 3. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Clean School Bus Program Contract

Ms. Cathy Lin, Director of Facilities and Operations, explained that DEQ administers over \$93 million in the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust to reduce air pollution in Virginia and will award Virginia public schools \$20.9 million in two rounds of competitive application grant processes. Each school division may apply for up to 10 electric school buses. In partnership with the County, APS applied on June 25, 2021 and was notified it was awarded \$795,000 to replace three older diesel school buses with 3 new electric school buses to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and benefit the health of our students and drivers.

The Board briefly discussed the work in progress of the electrification of the bus fleet and the benefits of electric buses.

## 4. Superintendent's Proposed Adjustments to Boundaries and Elementary Immersion Feeder Schools for the 2022-23 School Year

Ms. Lisa Stengle, Executive Director of Planning and Evaluation, stated that the Fall 2021 boundary process focused on refinements to boundaries at schools where enrollment exceeded capacity and where schools could accommodate additional students. She reviewed the data resources and the capacity utilization of schools used to inform the proposals, noting that projections data had limitations due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. She reviewed community engagement to obtain feedback and inform families of the proposals. Lastly, she presented the Superintendent's recommendations that achieved the following objectives:

- Offered enrollment relief at Gunston and Wakefield, two schools where enrollment exceeds capacity
- Phased-in expanded enrollment at Washington-Liberty
- Reassigned planning units on the eastern portion of the county to preserve flexibility and options if future boundary adjustments are needed
- Allowed for the possibility of using other tools to manage enrollment if needed via the annual update

Mr. Jonathan Turrisi, Director of Strategic Planning, shared the committee's recommendations on the Elementary Immersion Feeder Schools Proposal and the community engagement process. He also presented the Superintendent's Proposed Elementary Immersion Feeder Schools recommendations which included the recommendation to revise the Options and Transfer PIP for the spring 2023 immersion lotteries.

Mr. Priddy requested to caution dismissing grandfathering to accommodate any families that missed the process. The Board discussed the boundary policy considerations and ensuring immersion students remain in the program they choose.

## I. NEW BUSINESS:

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**J. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Claudia Mercado, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board

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