

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2021

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 16, 2021 at 7:02 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

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

**Also present were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
Christine Smith, Division Counsel  
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support  
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer  
Jason Ottley, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer  
Christine Smith, Legal Counsel  
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff  
Sarah Putman, Director, Curriculum and Instruction

**A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE**

**B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AF JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: 2021 Bond Chairs and Virginia School Board Association Awards

The Board thanked the 2021 School Bond Co-Chairs, Rebecca Hunter and Alistair Watson, for their tireless efforts to encourage our community to get out to vote and support the 2021 school bond which received an approval rating of 78.4%. The 2021 bond funds allow APS to invest in infrastructure to meet the needs of students by improving school facilities.

**C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:08 PM):**

*Ms. O’Grady 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:*

1. Minutes
  - C-1-a Minutes for the September 30, 2021 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting
  - C-1-b Minutes for the October 4, 2021 School Board Policy Subcommittee
  - C-1-c Minutes for the October 7, 2021 Audit Committee
  - C-1-d Minutes for the October 12, 2021 Closed Meeting

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## C-1-e Minutes for the October 15, 2021 Policy Subcommittee

## 2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE

- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Reclassification Request
  - Assistant Director, Technology Services

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 5 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 5 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 6 Appointments
- 2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 5 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Retirements
- 4 Terminations
- 1 Reclassification Request
  - Executive Administrative Specialist

- 3. School Board Legislative Package
- 4. Annual Summer School Report
- 5. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Clean School Bus Program Contract

Dr. Kanninen announced that under Consent, the Board approved the 2022 School Board Legislative Positions, Fees for the 2022 Summer School, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Clean School Bus Program Contract which will provide the school system with a few new electric school buses.

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:09 PM):**

## 1. Board Announcements:

- December 7, 2021 – Special Policy Subcommittee Virtual Meeting, 2 PM
- December 8, 2021 – Policy Subcommittee Virtual Meeting, 8:30 AM
- December 9, 2021 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- December 9, 2021 – Work Session on the Compensation Study, 6:30 PM, School Board Room
- December 13, 2021 – Closed Meeting, 7:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- December 14, 2021 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
- December 14, 2021 – Work Session on the Programs of Studies and Gifted Services, 6:30 PM, School Board Room

Dr. Kanninen shared that Arlington Public Schools received three awards at the 2021 Virginia School Boards Association Annual Convention. She shared that on November 19 she joined the Arlington County Board, the County Manager, State Delegates of the Virginia General Assembly, and other community leaders to reflect upon Arlington's diverse history over the past century at the Centennial Celebration. As part of the celebration, Dr. Kanninen participated in the sealing of the time capsule, where the School Board included a letter written to the

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class of 2021! Ms. O'Grady shared about Wakefield High School's participation in Audi's DRIVE: Like A Girl Program that supports young women and girls pursuing STEM. In addition, she congratulated Dr. Kanninen for her recognition as one of the recipients of the Annual NOVA Regional Leadership Award hosted by the Regional Elected Leaders Initiative (RELI) of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. Mr. Goldstein shared about some exciting events taking place at his liaison schools and highlighted Maxwell Julius, student at Arlington Tech, for his contributions to the community by caring for the environment.

## 2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán led in a moment of silence to pay honor to the victims of the school shooting that occurred in Michigan on November 30, 2021 and reminded the community to reflect on the role everyone plays to create a safe environment for staff and students. He encouraged anyone who learns about suspicious behavior or a safety threat to speak up and contact a trusted adult. Furthermore, he reminded anyone needing support to consider using the anonymous and confidential Cigna School Support Line which provides support for students experiencing bullying, isolation, suicidal thoughts, and other mental health issues. Dr. Durán then shared highlights on the social emotional learning update, encouraged participation in the APS Teacher and Principal of the Year nominations, presented an update on the vaccination status, and announced the change of vendors for the in-school COVID testing. In response to the bus drivers' and attendants' workplace concerns, Dr. Durán reassured them that he was actively working to take immediate steps to ensure they felt valued as members of the APS team. He also shared that APS was reviewing compensation in the FY 2023 budget process and committed to making bus driver and attendant compensation ranked among the highest in the region. Lastly, he gave kudos to Taylor Elementary School for their innovative STEAM Cardboard Challenge Day where students created interactive activities out of cardboard and took turns demonstrating and interacting with each other's projects.

Dr. Kanninen invited the community to participate in the compensation work session scheduled for December 9 and agreed with Dr. Durán that employee compensation was a major focus of the Board and looked forward to digging into the compensation study to make APS one of the top-paying school systems. She also thanked Ms. Putman for the information on resources available to support mental health.

## E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:41 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Camille Galdes, parent, Arlington Parents for Education, requesting adding instructional time in the proposed calendar
- Rachel Waldstein, thanking the Board for proposing an inclusive calendar
- Mary Jo Gohmann, encouraging parent voice in public education
- Heather Selig, parent, Arlington Parents for Education, encouraging the use of tangibles and textbooks
- Jennifer Gross & Dr. Sylvia O'Neal, sharing highlights from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office
- Kristen Bartholomew, APS employee, explaining the delay in payment of the coaching stipend
- Josh Folb, Arlington Education Association, supporting increasing employee compensation

The following speakers addressed the Board with concerns about the Adjustments to Boundaries and Elementary Immersion Feeder Schools for the 2022-23 School Year:

- Tony Carrk, parent, Claremont Elementary School, requesting a guaranteed seat at Key Elementary School
- Milne Young, parent, Boulevard Manor, requesting the choice to attend Washington-Liberty High School
- Tamara Gelboin, parent, Wakefield High School, requesting the choice to attend Washington-Liberty High School
- Diane Auerbach, supporting the immersion feeder proposal
- Brandon Bailey, parent, Claremont Elementary, supporting the immersion feeder proposal
- Crista Cueto, requesting the choice to attend Washington-Liberty High School and better bus driver pay

The following speakers addressed the Board with concerns about compensation, bus routes, and workplace harassment at Transportation Services:

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Christina Childress  
 Russel Hunter for Kimberly Goodwin  
 Crystal Harris  
 Umeka Pulliam  
 Ivis Castillo  
 Genet Zacharias  
 Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association

The Board took a brief recess at 8:28 PM and reconvened at 8:34 PM.

**F. MONITORING ITEMS:**

1. ~~APS and Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA

**G. ACTION ITEMS (8:34 PM):**

1. Adjustments to Boundaries and Elementary Immersion Feeder Schools for the 2022-23 School Year

Mr. Goldstein requested clarification on the immersion feeder schools and Ms. Lisa Stengle, Executive Director of Planning and Evaluation, explained the plan to accommodate students at immersion schools and transportation services. Ms. O'Grady requested an explanation about the Boulevard Manor area.

*Ms. O'Grady announced the Superintendent's recommendation for adjustments to secondary boundaries:*

- *Brings enrollment to more manageable levels at Gunston and Wakefield, moving incoming students to Jefferson and Washington-Liberty respectively.*
- *Reassigns 5 Planning Units from Gunston to Jefferson and approximately 140 students over the course of three years.*
- *Reassigns 10 Planning Units from Wakefield to Washington-Liberty and approximately 162 students over the course of three years.*
- *Minimizes the impact on students and families by allowing students currently in grades 6-7 at Gunston and students in grades 9-11 at Wakefield to remain at their current school through completion of middle or high school with transportation.*
- *Adds no additional bus riders.*

*The Superintendent's recommendation for adjustments to the elementary feeder immersion schools:*

- *Ensures flexibility for the 2022 elementary boundary process and to address possible enrollment growth at Gunston and Wakefield.*
- *Supports the Two-Way Immersion linguistically balanced instructional model recommended by the Immersion Visioning Task Force.*
- *Makes limited adjustments minimizing the impact on families and provides flexibility if future changes are needed.*
- *Reduces demand on transportation services and travel distance for families in the Cardinal, Tuckahoe, and Nottingham attendance zones that are currently in the Claremont feeder zone but would be assigned as feeder schools to Escuela Key.*

*Therefore, Ms. O'Grady moved that the School Board approve the Superintendent's Middle and High School Boundary recommendation and adjustments to the elementary immersion feeder schools.*

1. *This recommendation will reassign the following Middle School Planning Units from Gunston Middle School to Jefferson Middle School: 46140, 48150, 48280, 48281, 48290.*
  - *These middle school boundary adjustments will become effective in August 2022 for the current 2021-22 students in grades 5 and to all subsequent new students at Jefferson.*

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2. *She also moved that students who are currently in grades 6 and 7 at Gunston Middle School and reside in one of the planning units proposed for reassignment to Jefferson are eligible for grandfathering and may remain at Gunston through completion of the 8th grade. APS will provide transportation to grandfathered students.*
3. *In addition, this recommendation will reassign the following High School Planning Units from Wakefield High School to Washington-Liberty High School: 46140, 48150, 48280, 48281, 48290, 46110, 46111, 46120, 48160, 48180.*
  - *These high school boundary adjustments will become effective in August 2022 for the current 2021-22 students in grades 8 and to all subsequent new students at Washington-Liberty.*
4. *She also moved that students who are currently in grades 9-11 at Wakefield High School and reside in one of the planning units proposed for reassignment to Washington-Liberty may remain at Wakefield until graduation. APS will provide transportation to grandfathered students.*
5. *She also moved that Cardinal, Nottingham and Tuckahoe Elementary Schools be assigned as feeder schools to Escuela Key that will apply for the 2022-23 school year.*
6. *She also moved that all current students attending Claremont and Escuela Key may remain at their current school.*
7. *She also moved that APS temporarily pause accepting new elementary Immersion students from the 2021 waitlist while APS reviews and accommodates requests, as space permits, of families who want their students, currently in grades PreK-4 at Escuela Key or Claremont, to attend their assigned Immersion school for 2022-23. Once this process is complete, APS will reopen the waitlist to new students.*
8. *She also moved that during this feeder realignment process, APS prioritize seats at Escuela Key for current Immersion students and their incoming siblings who reside in the Cardinal, Nottingham, and Tuckahoe attendance zones.*
9. *She also moved that APS continue to provide transportation to Claremont for students who reside in Cardinal, Nottingham, and Tuckahoe attendance zones and remain at Claremont for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. The Board acknowledged the difficult decision made on boundary changes

Given the need to continue to address capacity, they encouraged staff to find creative ways to tackle future changes and hoped that the Boulevard Manor issue would be addressed down the road.

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 ITEMS (8:58 PM):**

##### **1. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar**

Dr. Mayo presented the calendar development process, explained the requirements to comply with the Virginia Administrative Code, and shared major highlights of the 2022-23 school year calendar. He also provided information on how the APS calendars aligned with other school divisions.

##### **2. Deed of Temporary Easement and Construction Agreement at Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Community Center Upper Field**

Ms. Cathy Lin, Director Facilities and Operations, informed the Board that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) requested a Deed of Temporary Easement and Construction Agreement at Thomas Jefferson Middle School to convert the grass field into a synthetic turf field as part of their Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for fields. The project required a temporary construction easement for an 8,800 square foot parcel along the west end of the playing field and border. This 8,800 square foot parcel belongs to APS.

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**I. NEW BUSINESS:**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 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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