

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 7 PM. This meeting was held using Microsoft Teams due to the State of Emergency issued in Virginia because of the winter storm.

**Present were:**

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair  
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member  
Mary Kadera, Member  
David Priddy, Member  
Claudia Mercado, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
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

**A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE**

**B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognitions: New School Board Member, Ms. Mary Kadera

Dr. Kanninen welcomed new Board member, Ms. Kadera, a long-time advocate of PreK-12 education and community leader. Ms. Kadera expressed her commitment to building relationships and working to achieve equity at APS.

**C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:05 PM):**

*Ms. Diaz-Torres moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Kadera. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. Kadera, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:*

1. Minutes: None
2. Personnel Actions
  - P/E-SCALE
  - 1 Resignation
  
  - T-SCALE PERSONNEL
  - 2 Appointments

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<sup>1</sup>The recording of School Board meetings is posted on the APS Web site following the meetings. Regular meetings are also broadcasted on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41.

4 Changes in Position/Salary  
 2 Resignations  
 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

2 Appointments  
 3 Resignations  
 1 Resignations (With Prejudice)

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

5 Appointment  
 5 Changes in Salary/Position  
 1 Resignation  
 1 Retirement

3. Arlington School Board Code of Conduct for School Board Members
4. Revised School Board Member Liaison Assignments 2021-2022
5. Revised School Board Member Liaison Assignments to Arlington Civic Associations
- ~~6. Career Center Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) Charge-REMOVED FROM AGENDA~~
7. Grievance #2021-11-12-1

Under consent, Dr. Kanninen announced that the Board appointed Ms. Renee Harber as the Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations. She also announced that the Board adopted a new Code of Conduct, as well as revised School Board Member Liaison Assignments to Schools, Advisory Groups, and Civic Associations to include new Board member, Ms. Kadera.

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

1. Board Announcements:

January 12, 2022 – Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8:30 AM

January 13, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room

January 13, 2022 – Work Session #2 with the Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning (ACTL), 6:30 PM, Board Room

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

As a result of the inclement weather, Dr. Durán explained the rationale to maintain schools closed the first week of January which prioritized the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. He suggested that it may be necessary to adjust the school year calendar moving forward if instruction was impacted by additional inclement weather. He then thanked custodians, transportation, and maintenance staff for their diligent work to clear the snow despite the staff shortages they faced. He also thanked the Operations Officer and the Safety, Security, and Risk Management staff for their work amidst the COVID-19 surge.

Dr. Durán shared the importance of layered mitigation measures to keep schools safe and open after winter break. He provided information on the revised quarantine and isolation guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the new opt-in COVID screening testing, and the staff vaccination verification deadline of January 28. Dr. Durán provided an update about how students would access instruction should they have to quarantine. Furthermore, Dr. Durán announced that APS was approved \$3.66 million in Emergency Connectivity Funds (EFC) through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to purchase equipment, student devices, and

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other services through Apple. In addition, the Superintendent addressed the in-person athletics and extracurricular activities pause between December 30 and January 14 due to the high transmission rate of COVID-19 in Arlington. To conclude, Dr. Durán provided information about the middle and high school transfer options application process.

The Board discussed the athletics and extracurricular activities pause which led to Mr. Zac Pope, Director of Safety, Security, Risk and Emergency Management, to explain the rationale behind the 14-pause and testing requirements. In response to the pause, Ms. Kadera urged collaboration with Arlington County to help stifle the spread of the Omicron variant as a community. The Board also discussed acquiring an inventory of COVID-19 tests and masks for staff and students and the need to plan for a staff shortage if the high COVID-19 transmission rate affected personnel. In addition, Ms. Diaz-Torres echoed her deep gratitude to the staff who worked during the inclement weather days and Ms. Kadera appreciated APS receiving the EFC grant.

#### **E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:44 PM):**

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding COVID strategies, quarantine guidelines, mental health impact on students, and opposing the pause of athletic activities:

Stephanie Foster, parent  
 Josh Folb, parent  
 Katy Senkus, parent  
 Anna Chenoweth  
 Elijah Hughes, student, Washington-Liberty High School  
 John Cunningham, parent  
 Mark Weiser, parent, Washington-Liberty High School  
 Elizabeth Berendt, parent, Washington-Liberty High School  
 Jack Myers, parent, Washington-Liberty High School  
 Peter Madden, student, Williamsburg Middle School  
 Cecilia Kline

#### **F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:12 PM):**

##### **1. Policy Revisions**

Mr. Stockton informed the Board that APS is governed by 194 Policies that are approved by the Board and 255 Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) that are approved by the Superintendent; the PIPs give specific guidance on the process of implementing a policy. He shared about the Policy Review Team (PRT) and the School Board Policy Subcommittee and their roles to comprehensively manage policy revisions and public engagement. Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Review Team Project Lead, spoke about the six-step revision process that occurs over a period of six months for each policy and that all policies are to be reviewed every five years. He shared about the alignment to the Strategic Plan and Performance Objective 19, the impact of COVID-19 on policy revisions, and the areas of strengths and opportunities for improvement. He also spoke about adding more members to the PRT to rotate participation and recommended a Director of Policy to focus on content and a consistent process.

Ms. Diaz-Torres and Mr. Goldstein, members of the School Board Policy Subcommittee, thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Stockton, the PRT, and advisory committees for being instrumental in ensuring that APS has a solid policy system to support students and staff and they noted the careful work that is involved in policy management. Ms. Kadera suggested recruiting teachers to participate in the PRT to make sure instructional voices are part of the policy process and Mr. Priddy inquired about the proposed Director of Policy position. Dr. Kanninen briefly explained the progress made in the policy management area since 2016 which has led to the current robust structure that includes community engagement, thanking former Board members Dr. Violand-Sanchez, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren for spearheading this effort during their time on the Board. She also supported the Director of Policy recommendation and inquired about prioritizing policy revisions.

#### **G. ACTION ITEMS (8:46 PM):**

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### 1. Middle School and High School Program of Studies

Ms. Kadera inquired about intensified world languages courses in middle school and Mr. Tyrone Byrd, Director of Secondary Education, noted the deleted courses that did not meet the criteria for an honors course for the next school year. Dr. Durán added that intensified core courses would be added the following school year.

*Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board approve the Middle School and High School Program of Studies for the 2022-2023 School Year, seconded by Mr. Priddy.*

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. Kadera – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye

### H. INFORMATION ITEMS (8:52 PM):

#### 1. Policy Update I-1.34 Early Childhood Programs, I-11.5.2.31 Student Acceleration Opportunities, I-7.2.3.90 Program Differentiation, and I-7.2.6 English Learner Services

Ms. Loft presented revisions for each policy that included name updates, language to reflect the new organizational structure, references to the Code of Virginia and Federal law, and the alignment to their corresponding PIPs. Ms. Loft recommended the retirement of Policy I-7.2.3.90 Program Differentiation as the content was redundant with other policies.

The Board discussed addressing the English Learner Intervention Protocol (ELIP) in the PIP, opportunities for course acceleration for students, and enrollment data for Pre-K programs.

### I. NEW BUSINESS:

### J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 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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