

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
 April 7, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

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

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 consider the nominations for the Honored Citizen Award, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(11), the motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy, and it was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Dr. Kanninen moved to certify that pursuant to 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia to the best knowledge of each School Board member, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting just held, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening this 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; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

Dr. Kanninen called for a brief recess at 6:20 PM. The Board reconvened in an open session at 7:03 PM.

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
 Christine Smith, Legal Counsel

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING (7:02 PM):

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 the 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. Kadera, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:*

1. Minutes

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- a. C-1-a Minutes for the January 13, 2022 Work Session #2 with the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL)

2. Personnel Actions

- P/E-SCALE

- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 2 Resignations
 - 1 Retirement
 - 1 Reclassification Request
 - Volunteer Partnership and Events Manager

- T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 7 Appointments
 - 1 Change In Position/Salary
 - 20 Resignations
 - 1 Resignation With Prejudice
 - 5 Retirements

- A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
 - 1 Change In Position/Salary
 - 2 Terminations

- SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
 - 3 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 2 Resignation
 - 1 Resignation With Prejudice
 - 1 Retirement
 - 1 Termination

3. Perkins Grant Application
4. Special Education Annual Plan
5. Month of the Military Child Resolution
6. Calendar Change for Eid Religious Holiday

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:05 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

- April 8, 2022 – School Board/County Board Joint Budget Work Session, 3:00 PM, County Board Room
- April 21, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
- April 21, 2022 – Budget Work Session #6, 6:30 PM, Board Room
- April 27, 2022 – Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8:30 AM

Dr. Kanninen announced that the Board was accepting nominations for the Honored Citizens Award and encouraged the community to nominate outstanding volunteers who had devoted over five years of commitment to APS and exemplified the core values. Ms. Kadera announced that the week of April 2 was Week of the Young Child and Mr. Goldstein shared about events at his liaison schools and invited the community to participate in the various events.

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2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán announced that APS celebrated National Assistant Principals Week and thanked assistant principals for their integral part in making APS successful. He announced that APS recognized April as Month of the Military Child, Volunteer Appreciation Month, School Library Month, Arab American Heritage Month, and Autism Acceptance Month. He also shared that APS celebrated the Week of the Young Child. He encouraged staff and the community to participate in the 2002 Your Voice Matters survey and shared that the deadline was extended to April 24. Acknowledging that APS was amid the budget process, Dr. Durán provided brief information on upcoming budget meeting dates. He then highlighted the Scientist in the Classroom program, a partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), where volunteers provide help with lab activities, presentations, small group instruction, career explorations, science fairs, STEM competitions, and more. Dr. Durán congratulated the 2022 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) middle school state competition winners, Sophia Stidman, and Alexis Tapia Rodriguez. To end, Dr. Durán spoke about his Spring school visits and expressed his excitement about the rich student engagement taking place at the schools.

The Board thanked the Superintendent for highlighting the wonderful things happening at the schools and Dr. Kanninen thanked volunteers for devoting their time to APS.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:33 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the School Board Proposed FY 2023 Budget:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Raphael Perrino	Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium	Supporting re-opening the Planetarium
Lee Phillips	The Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium	Supporting re-opening the Planetarium
Bernard Carpenter	Courageous Conversation	Supporting compensation increase for instructional staff
Jennifer Bartlett	President, The Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium	Supporting re-opening the Planetarium and funding a director position
Sheila Kelly	Arlington Parents for Education	Requesting funding for additional middle school mental health support and services
Amy Rzepka	Arlington Parents for Education	Requesting funding of social workers and psychologists

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the Arlington Career Center Concept Design:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Ted Black	Chair, Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC)	Supporting the concept design and explaining the BLPC community engagement
Sara Steinberger	Chair, Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC)	Explaining the collaboration of the BLPC and PFRC and community feedback
Christine Brittle	Penrose Civic Association	Concerned about the lack of a long-term plan for the site
John Snyder		Concerned about the lack of an auditorium

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F. MONITORING ITEMS (8 PM):

1. School and Community Relations and Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Update

Ms. Ashby provided an overview of the School and Community Relations (SCR) Department which included the SCR mission and vision, staffing, and core services. She presented the department's alignment with the Strategic Plan and the strategies being implemented to strengthen family engagement and create meaningful partnerships. As a bright spot, she highlighted the launch of the Family Information Line to provide direct assistance to families and she spoke about engagement across the various communication platforms used. Ms. Ashby then spoke about the strategies to expand employee recognitions that included the launch of the APS All-Stars Program, a monthly recognition of employees. Furthermore, Ms. Ashby summarized opportunities to improve communications at APS and new initiatives moving forward. Ms. Dulce Carrillo, Supervisor of Public Engagement, presented the strategies implemented to encourage 2-way family engagement based on the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) framework.

The Board appreciated the informative update and praised all the unsung heroes who help with communications at APS. The Board discussed the launch of an APS app, enhancements to the Family Information Line, the allocation of Family Bilingual Liaisons, and improving the dissemination of essential information. In response to her review of the FACE audit report, Ms. Kadera suggested lengthening the parent-teacher conferences for those families who need interpretation.

G. ACTION ITEMS (8:38 PM):

1. FY2021 CIP Entrances Renovation Project Update: Gunston Middle School Entrance Renovation Construction Contract Award

Ms. Kadera inquired about the timeline for the school entrance renovations and Mr. Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, clarified that this information would be shared at a later School Board meeting.

Ms. Kadera moved that the School Board approve the following actions:

- *Award contract 43FY22 for renovations at Gunston Middle School to The Matthews Group, Inc. in the amount of \$1,612,114; and*
- *Approve the FY 2021 CIP Entrances Renovation Project preliminary budget as shown on Exhibit A, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.*

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; Mr. Priddy – Aye.

2. School Board Proposed FY 2023 Budget

Dr. Durán thanked Dr. Mayo and Ms. Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services, and her staff for helping him bring forward a budget that invests in employees and properly compensates them. He explained that the proposed budget will aid with the important goal of hiring and retaining highly qualified staff at APS. Ms. Peterson presented a summary of the Superintendent's Revised Proposed FY 2023 Budget and an update on the compensation expenditures.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the School Board adopt the Superintendent's FY 2023 Revised Proposed Budget as the School Board's Proposed FY 2023 Budget with the following additions:

- *\$391,483 and 4.0 FTE to restore the psychologists and social workers that were reduced by planning factor as a result of reduced enrollment*
- *An additional \$10,000 for trauma-informed professional learning*

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- *\$20,000 to restore the National Board Certified Teacher program*
- *\$128,556 to fund the Partnership Coordinator position*
- *\$151,621 and 1.0 FTE for a math curriculum supervisor for additional math support*
- *Funding of \$701,660 for these additions will come from the Future Budget Years Reserve, seconded by Ms. Kadera.*

The Board thanked the Superintendent, the Superintendent's Cabinet, and Ms. Peterson for the immense amount of work and creativity dedicated to putting together a transformative budget that aligned with the Strategic Plan and School Board Priorities. In addition, Board members thanked Dr. Kanninen for her guidance and for spearheading the process. Subsequently, each Board member shared their support for the FY 2023 Budget and expressed their commitment to students, their well-being, and strengthening their academic opportunities. They also appreciated the inclusion of staff compensation in the budget. Dr. Kanninen thanked the County Board for their partnership and collaboration. Mr. Goldstein encouraged the community to continue to share their feedback as the Board would continue to consider feedback until the budget was adopted on May 6.

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; Mr. Priddy – Aye.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS (9:01 PM):

1. Revisions to School Board Policy I-12 Evaluation

Ms. Loft proposed the retirement of School Board Policy I-12 Evaluation because the content was part of A-6.31 Program Evaluation and J-15.32 Records.

2. Arlington Career Center Concept Design

Ms. Renee Harber, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations, explained the need to modernize and redevelop the Career Center site. She addressed the School Board FY 2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Direction requesting the concept design and educational specifications. She also summarized the community engagement that occurred as part of this project. Describing the project as a confluence of many inputs, Mr. Chambers presented the proposed concept design and provided details on the floor plans. Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director of Design and Construction, presented the phases of the project and the proposed project cost, noting the escalated rate in addition to the per annum assumed in the CIP estimates due to an increase in construction costs. He also presented funding for the project and the staff recommendations to move the project forward.

Mr. Priddy, as the liaison to the project, thanked the staff for their community engagement work. The Board discussed the estimated project costs, funding, and bond capacity. The Board expressed their desire to learn more about the amenities that were being proposed at the site and how they will impact instruction, noting the demand for project-based learning seats. The Board spoke about the need for instruction to drive construction to ensure the new building will be suitable for the programs. Mr. Goldstein also expressed his desire to better understand the long-range planning for the site.

Dr. Kanninen thanked the BLPC Chair, Ted Black, and the PFRC Chair, Sara Steinberger, for providing feedback on the project and helping to facilitate community engagement.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 PM.

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ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board

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