

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Closed Meeting and Organizational/School Board Meeting Minutes  
July 1, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Friday, July 1, 2022 at 9 a.m. at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**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  
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer

**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 as many as 21 appointments, 21 changes in position/salary, and 30 resignations 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, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.

*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 Ms. Diaz-Torres 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.

**Also present were:**

Kim Graves, Chief of School Support  
Joanne Uyeda, Interim Chief Academic Officer  
Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel

**B. MEETING OPENING – 10:32 a.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance

**C. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Dr. Kanninen acknowledged and thanked the County Board members and the County Manager for their support and for taking their time to attend the organizational meeting.

1. School Board Code of Conduct

*Dr. Kanninen moved that the School Board adopt the Code of Conduct*, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. All Board members then signed the document.

<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.

## 2. Election of Chair of the Board

Acknowledging, Mr. Goldstein's thoughtful focus and commitment to the betterment of Arlington, *Mr. Priddy nominated Mr. Goldstein as Chair of the School Board for the 2022-23 school year.* The motion was seconded by Ms. Kadera. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.

## 3. Election of Vice Chair of the Board

*Dr. Kanninen nominated Ms. Diaz-Torres as Vice Chair of the School Board for the 2022-23 school year.* Dr. Kanninen was pleased to nominate Ms. Diaz-Torres, describing her as a collaborative leader with passion and an open mind who will serve in the best interest of students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.

*Ms. Kadera moved for the adoption of organizational items 4 through 13,* seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.

The following items were approved:

## 4. Appointment of Clerk of School Board

Claudia Mercado was re-appointed as Clerk of the School Board for the 2022-23 school year.

## 5. Appointment of the Deputy Clerk of the Board

Carmen Mejia was re-appointed as Deputy Clerk of the School Board for the 2022-23 school year.

## 6. Approval of Payment of Claims

## 7. Supervision of Construction

## 8. Adoption of Schedule of School Board Meetings, 2022-2023 School Year

## 9. Adoption of Proposed Schedule of Pay Dates, 2022-2023 School Year

## 10. Adoption of Existing Policies and Regulations

## 11. Adoption of Guidelines on Executive Session Confidentiality

## 12. School Board Member Liaison Assignments, 2022-23

## 13. School Board Speaker Guidelines

In compliance with the Code of Virginia, Mr. Goldstein announced that as part of the organizational items, the School Board re-adopted existing policies for the administration of Arlington Public Schools. A current copy of the Policies and Policy Implementation Procedures is available to employees and to the public through the Arlington Public School's website at [www.apsva.us](http://www.apsva.us). Furthermore, per § 22.1-253.13:7(D) of the Code of Virginia which requires that school boards shall ensure that printed copies of such policies and regulations are available as needed to citizens who do not have online access, paper copies are available upon request from the Board Office, 703-228-6015, and the Department of School and Community Relations, 703-228-6005. In addition, Mr. Goldstein announced the adoption of the schedule of School Board Meetings, Speaker Guidelines, and the Board liaison assignments for the 2022-2023 school year.

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## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Dr. Kanninen thanked the community for the tremendous support the school system received during the school year. She reflected on some of the joyous moments experienced, the trauma lived throughout the pandemic, and the privilege of having schools open this school year. She acknowledged the demanding work of the dedicated instructional staff, Superintendent, and Cabinet who focused on the well-being and instructional progress of students. She shared highlights of some of the major accomplishments achieved by the School Board and thanked the County Board for their support. To conclude, Dr. Kanninen spoke about her enthusiasm to work with the new School Board leadership to meet the needs of the students and help them achieve their dreams.

Ms. Diaz-Torres thanked her Board colleagues for their vote of confidence to serve as Vice Chair. She explained that in Puerto Rico there is a colloquial saying “no dejes el camino por una vereda” which refers to maintaining focus on the things that matter. As she reflected on the progress of the school system, the leadership team, and as an individual, she felt there was no saying more poignant or well-timed for the year ahead. Being on the cusp of resembling a pre-pandemic school year, she highlighted some of the wonderful events of the school year. Ms. Diaz-Torres also expressed her concerns about providing an equitable educational experience for all Arlingtonians and delivering on the core promises of public education. She spoke about her commitment to not losing her focus on what matters, investing in resources, and putting supports in place so each student can succeed by need and by name.

Mr. Priddy thanked Dr. Kanninen for her service as Chair and her focus on the Board’s priorities. Concurring with Ms. Diaz-Torres’ eloquent remarks, Mr. Priddy added that in the new school year he encouraged change from the way things have always been done and suggested that doing things differently will help to move APS forward.

Ms. Kadera also thanked Dr. Kanninen for her role as Chair and for the work entailed on behalf of the School Board. She reflected on the progress of the school system on student well-being and applauded the efforts to be more transparent with the data. She committed to continuing to work on closing the opportunity gap for students and supporting staff in their professional growth.

Mr. Goldstein appreciated the vote of confidence to lead the School Board for the 2022-23 school year. He expressed his optimism and looked forward to a school year without a public health emergency. He spoke about his desire to create a better and more productive school system to achieve successful outcomes for all students, families, and staff. Despite the many challenges faced by the school system, he encouraged cultivating a culture of contributions and a forward-thinking attitude to achieve the mission of APS. In conclusion, Mr. Goldstein strongly encouraged the community to become engaged and volunteer.

Dr. Durán began by thanking teachers and staff for their work to bring students back to school safely despite the many challenges. He thanked the Cabinet and Dr. Kanninen for their leadership, focus, dedication, and constant guidance to create outcomes. Dr. Durán looked forward to working with Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Diaz-Torres on their new roles and continuing to strengthen his partnership with the Board. Speaking about equity, a term that is often politicized and used in a negative context, Dr. Durán reminded everyone that at APS equity means meeting the needs of students by name and by need, a concept that applies to every student and ensures that they have the supports in place to meet their needs. Dr. Durán highlighted the ways APS can achieve this goal which included being transparent with data and he pledged to work on the Board’s priorities to move data forward to show student growth. Lastly, he thanked Mr. Schwartz, County Manager, for his partnership.

### D. CONSENT ITEMS (11:14 a.m.):

*Ms. Diaz-Torres 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, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:*

#### 1. Minutes

<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.

- C-1-a Minutes for the February 5, 2022 School Board-Superintendent Retreat
- C-1-b Minutes for the February 9, 2022 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- C-1-c Minutes for the February 10, 2022 Closed Meeting
- C-1-d Minutes for the February 10, 2022 Work Session on the Annual Update

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 13 Appointments
- 9 Changes in Positions/Salary
- 23 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 7 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 4 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations

- 3. Membership in the Virginia High School League
- 4. FY 2024 Budget Development Calendar
- 5. Purchasing Resolution
- 6. Superintendent Salary Adjustment

Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent, the Board adopted FY 2024 Budget Development calendar and approved the Superintendent's FY 2023 Compensation. He also announced that the Board appointed Kathryn Madigan as the Principal to Taylor Elementary School and Michael Hodge as the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS (11:22 a.m.):**

1. Board Announcements:

- July 19, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
- July 19, 2022 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

**F. NEW BUSINESS (11:23 a.m.):**

- 1. Grievance Matters SY22-06-1, 3, and 4 (MB, BP, EN)

*Mr. Goldstein moved that the School Board modify the decision voted on June 28, 2022 in Grievance matters SY22-06-1, 3, and 4 (MB, BP, EN), find the matters grievable and that they may proceed through the established grievance process accordingly, and confirm that Chair of the Board will issue a letter to that effect, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

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**J. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Claudia Mercado, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Arlington School Board

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