

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 5:33 p.m. at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair
Mary Kadera, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member (arrived at 5:37 p.m.)
David Priddy, Member (participated virtually via Microsoft Teams due to personal reasons from Corolla, North Carolina)
Claudia Mercado, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider as many as 133 appointments, 36 changes in position/salary, 18 resignations, 5 resignations with prejudice, 2 retirements, and 2 terminations as authorized by Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres, and it was adopted in a vote of 3 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, and Ms. Kadera voting affirmatively. Dr. Kanninen and Mr. Priddy were not present at the time of the vote.*

Mr. Goldstein 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 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; and Dr. Kanninen – Aye. Mr. Priddy was not present at the time of the vote.

Mr. Goldstein called for a brief recess at 6:20 p.m. The Board reconvened in an open session at 7:04 p.m.

Also present were:

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff
Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer
Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING: (7:04 p.m.)

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:04 p.m.)

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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

- [C-1-a Minutes for the July 20, 2022 Policy Subcommittee and Policy Review Team Retreat](#)
- [C-1-b Minutes for the August 12, 2022 School Board-Superintendent Retreat](#)
- [C-1-c Minutes for the March 15, 2022 Closed Meeting](#)
- [C-1-d Minutes for the March 23, 2022 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment
7 Changes In Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

99 Appointments
6 Changes in Position/Salary
8 Resignations
5 Resignations With Prejudice

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

24 Appointments
11 Changes in Position/Salary
6 Resignations
2 Retirements

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

9 Appointments
12 Changes in Position/Salary
6 Resignations
2 Terminations

3. Revisions to School Board Policies B-3.6.37 Electronic Participation in School Board Advisory Committee Meetings, B-4.4 Electronic Participation in Meetings by Individual Members, E-4.3.30 Use of School Equipment, E-4.3.31 Telecommunication Facilities on School Property, E-5.1 Student Transportation Services, G-3.14.30 T-Scale Evaluation, G-3.14.31 P-Scale Evaluation, I-5 Opening Exercises, and I-8.2 Class Size
4. ~~Special Project Funding—Amazon-Clark Construction One Time Donation - REMOVED FROM AGENDA 8/18/2022~~

Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent, the Board adopted revisions to School Board Policies B-3.6.37 Electronic Participation in School Board Advisory Committee Meetings, B-4.4 Electronic Participation in Meetings by Individual Members, E-4.3.30 Use of School Equipment, E-4.3.31 Telecommunication Facilities on School Property, E-5.1 Student Transportation Services, G-3.14.30 T-Scale Evaluation, G-3.14.31 P-Scale

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Evaluation, I-5 Opening Exercises, and I-8.2 Class Size. Accordingly, the Superintendent approved the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) associated with those policies. He also announced that the Board made the following appointments:

Dustin Barnes, Principal, Tuckahoe Elementary School
 Dr. Dimar Brown, Director, Talent Acquisition and Management
 Sarah Putman, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
 Matt Thompson, Labor Relations Specialist
 Erin Wales-Smith, Assistant Principal, Claremont Elementary School

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (7:15 p.m.)

1. Board Announcements:

August 25, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Board Conference Room
 September 8, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Board Conference Room
 September 8, 2022 – School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Board Room

2. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán was excited to welcome back teachers and staff to the new school year and thanked them for their professionalism in getting schools ready for students. He presented the five priorities for the 2022-203 school year focusing on the theme “Every Student Counts – Excellence for All” and expanding on knowing every student by name, strength, and need. Furthermore, Dr. Durán reminded families that school would begin on August 29 and provided information on the start/end of school times, transportation services, school meals, and other back-to-school resources. The Superintendent briefly provided information on the Annual Online Verification Process (AOVP) which allows families to review and update vital student, parent, and emergency contact information, and view important policies, authorizations, and resources. In addition, he summarized the COVID-19 protocols for 2022-23 in alignment with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) guidance for maintaining safe and healthy schools. Dr. Durán invited the community to visit the APS booth at the Arlington County Fair to meet APS leaders, School Board members, new principals, and staff. To conclude, he highlighted the Inaugural APS Literacy Leadership Summit aimed at gathering literacy leaders to further understand and build unity around literacy initiatives.

Ms. Diaz-Torres encouraged families to fill out the free and reduced-price meals application. Mr. Priddy inquired about the revised Student Code of Conduct and Ms. Graves confirmed that parents/guardians will need to sign to acknowledge receipt, students will be presented with the new code, and it would be translated into other languages. Dr. Kanninen highlighted the revisions to the schoolwide student dress code which was led by a then-middle school student. She also suggested addressing responsible cell phone use and the expectations around mobile devices. Ms. Kadera applauded the recruitment efforts led by Dr. Mayo to ensure schools were appropriately staffed by the beginning of the school year.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:44 p.m.)

1. Academic Performance Update

Dr. Mann began by speaking about the Strategic Plan Implementation and an overview of the Standards of Learning (SOL) Testing. He shared some academic performance Bright Spots that included information on the overall performance improvement. Furthermore, he spoke about the opportunities to address the gaps that remain for Black, Hispanic, English Learners, and students with disabilities in all content areas on SOL and the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessments. He presented the SOL data by subject,

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level, and some demographic areas. Dr. Mann then provided information on strategies to continue to address academic performance such as the implementation of new resources, professional learning, and collaboration. In conclusion, he highlighted the implementation of the Arlington Tiered System of Support framework to extend learning for students above grade level, as well as to provide extra support to student who need additional specialized assistance to reach their academic goals.

Mr. Goldstein announced that the presentation was posted late on August 18 because the Virginia Department of Education hadn't released the data until the afternoon of August 18 and the staff needed time to prepare for the Board meeting presentation. The Board discussed supports for English Language Learners, the need to clarify data where information might be misleading, and understanding of the differences between some of the courses. The Board also discussed the baseline expectation that the Arlington Tiered System of Support is happening at all schools and the need to create a process to inform parents on the application of supports for their students. Dr. Kanninen and Ms. Kadera requested information on the difference between the SOLs and DIBELS and Dr. Mann explained that APS was working to map out the differences, analyze the data, and identify resources and supports. Mr. Priddy requested reviewing pre-pandemic data for the purposes of comparing the data. Mr. Goldstein suggested considering other venues to gauge student progress to which Dr. Durán noted that APS uses multiple data points and tools to broadly consider student success. He clarified that the importance of the monitoring update was to provide data used for the accreditation of schools and that the assessments mentioned are only one part of the data APS uses to holistically address the whole child. Dr. Durán also observed that the data presented would be embedded in the Student Progress Dashboard and APS equity profile.

F. ACTION ITEMS:

1. ~~Revisions to School Board Policy K-3 Program Changes – REMOVED FROM AGENDA 8/17/2022~~

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:45 p.m.)

1. School Board 2022-2023 Priorities

Mr. Goldstein prefaced the presentation by explaining that as with every school year, the School Board identified priorities for the 2022-23 school year. The priorities focus on student well-being and academic progress; innovation and equity with transparency on data; recruiting, hiring, and investing in a high-quality and diverse workforce; and improving operational efficiency. The priorities help the Board focus on the Strategic Plan and support students by name, strength, and need. Ms. Diaz-Torres thanked the Board, Superintendent, and Cabinet for their collaboration in drafting the priorities to align with APS strategies that will result in student achievement. She then briefly presented the School Board's priorities and Mr. Goldstein highlighted that the priorities further expanded on last year's priorities.

Dr. Kanninen thanked Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Diaz-Torres for their leadership in drafting the priorities. She also explained some of the behind-the-scenes work that takes place for the Board to reach a consensus, not only related to the priorities but with all the action items before the Board.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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