

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes  
 September 8, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:32 p.m. at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Reid Goldstein, Chair (participated virtually via Microsoft Teams due to medical reasons from Arlington, Virginia)  
 Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair  
 Mary Kadera, Member  
 Barbara Kanninen, Member  
 David Priddy, Member  
 Claudia Mercado, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
 Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer  
 Michael Hodge, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING**

Ms. Diaz-Torres called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider as many as 71 appointments, 20 changes in position/salary, 12 resignations, 11 resignations with prejudice, 2 retirements, and 2 terminations as authorized by Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion was seconded by Ms. Kadera, and it was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, and Dr. Kanninen voting affirmatively. Mr. Priddy was not present at the time of the vote.*

*Ms. Diaz-Torres 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.*

Ms. Diaz-Torres called for a brief recess at 6:07 p.m. The Board reconvened in an open session at 7:02 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  
 Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer  
 Jason Ottley, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer  
 Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel

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

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps

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**C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:04 PM):**

*Ms. Kadera 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. 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 August 18, 2022 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the March 24, 2022 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the March 31, 2022 Public Hearing on the FY2023 Supt's Proposed Budget](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for the March 15, 2022 Budget Work Session #3](#)

[C-1-e Minutes for the March 22, 2022 Budget Work Session #4](#)

[C-1-f Minutes for the March 8, 2022 Budget Work Session #2](#)

[C-1-g Minutes for the August 25, 2022 Closed Meeting](#)

## 2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

5 Appointment  
2 Changes In Position/Salary  
1 Resignation  
1 Resignation with Prejudice

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

44 Appointments  
9 Changes in Position/Salary  
6 Resignations  
6 Resignations with Prejudice

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

17 Appointments  
7 Changes in Position/Salary  
3 Resignations  
2 Resignations with Prejudice

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

5 Appointments  
2 Changes in Position/Salary  
2 Resignations  
2 Resignations with Prejudice

## 3. Amazon/Clark Construction Donation

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4. ~~Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees~~ - REMOVED FROM AGENDA 09/07/2022

Ms. Diaz-Torres announced that under consent the Board approved a donation from Amazon/Clark Construction for the one-time purchase of solar and wind power energy training system for the Arlington Career Center which will provide work-based learning opportunities.

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:05 PM):**

1. Board Announcements:

September 15, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Board Conference Room

September 22, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Board Conference Room

September 22, 2022 – School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Board Room

Ms. Kadera shared about Escuela Key's new language and culture assistant sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education who will be hosted by an Escuela Key family. She also shared about community engagement events at some of her liaison schools. Mr. Goldstein regretfully announced about the passing of a Wakefield High School student and asked for a moment of silence.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán shared about the launch of the new free virtual on-demand academic tutoring available to students for one-on-one support with assignments, writing feedback, and studying support for all subjects. He reminded families to participate in the Annual Online Verification Process (AOVP) by October 31 to review important student-related information in ParentVUE. Dr. Durán also shared some important upcoming school calendar dates. To conclude, Dr. Durán highlighted five APS graduates who received the Arlington Magazine's Extraordinary Teen Award.

Mr. Priddy inquired about the dissemination of the tutoring services information to students and Dr. Durán informed the Board that schools were working to communicate this opportunity to students through multiple channels.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:16 PM):**

Ms. Diaz-Torres briefly explained the process for public comment for the 2022-23 school year.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Josie McSpadden, parent, advocating for a robust summer school program

Jennifer Wheelock, parent, requesting a comprehensive learning recovery plan

Joshua Folb, teacher, requesting more investment in teacher compensation

**F. MONITORING ITEMS (7:26 PM):**

1. Start of School Update

Dr. Durán was happy to report about the First Day of school at APS and shared the excitement witnessed during his visits. The enrollment on the first day was 27,524 students but he noted that the official 2022-23 enrollment will be counted on September 30. Dr. Durán presented an update on the vacancies and recruitment efforts to continue to fill positions. He spoke about the 2022-23 school year priorities that will focus on knowing every student by name, strength, and need. He then presented the different new resources aimed to provide instructional support and services related to student well-being and mental health. The Superintendent

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explained that Transportation Services continued to adjust and improve services based on feedback during the first weeks of school. He shared about the new Where's The Bus Application used by 3,200 families and supporting 4,300 riders. Furthermore, the Superintendent announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) waiver expired which allowed free meals for all students during the pandemic, however, meal services would be served at a reasonable price. He also presented information on COVID-19 protocols highlighting that APS continued to align 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 explained about improvements to school safety and security including the investment of \$5.5 million in security upgrades and the roll out of School Safety Coordinators (SSCs). In addition, he provided an update on the student device distribution and the continued support of new and existing operational resources. Lastly, Dr. Durán spoke about the Family Information Line and applauded the diligent staff's response to a steady volume of calls and emails and were able to return all voicemails within 24 hours.

The Board inquired about the work of SSCs and Dr. Mayo shared information about their training and the support they will provide to the schools. Dr. Durán noted that APS will analyze data to track the effectiveness of their services and provide a safety and security monitoring report to the Board. Ms. Kadera expressed her concerns regarding the leave policy for staff who test positive with COVID, the required time off staff may need to take to avoid exposing the school community to COVID, and staff depleting their leave bank. Dr. Mayo explained that staff would be required to take their sick or personal leave for COVID-related reasons. The benefit of leave for COVID reasons under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCR) expired in December of 2020 and although APS continued to extend this benefit for two years to employees, for the current school year COVID leave was no longer provided. Next, Mr. Priddy suggested more communication to parents highlighting the new Student Code of Conduct so that families are nudged to take the time to review this important document. Dr. Kanninen then shared her excitement about a successful start to the school year and appreciated the work involved to improve issues across the school system. Furthermore, she highlighted the new Every Student Counts – Excellence for All info-graphic as it explained the APS instructional model of support to achieve excellence for all. Mr. Goldstein shared his desire to learn more about the new free on-demand academic tutoring known as Paper, and Dr. Mann was going to provide clarification on the staff credentials. Lastly, Mr. Goldstein extended his appreciation to the staff for a successful start to the school year.

#### **G. ACTION ITEMS: (8:18 p.m.)**

##### **1. School Board 2022-2023 Priorities**

Ms. Diaz-Torres explained that the priorities help the Board focus on the Strategic Plan and support students by name, strength, and need. The priorities will also help to preface and focus the work of the Board during the school year. She then briefly presented the School Board's priorities.

*Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board adopt the School Board 2022-2023 Priorities, seconded by Mr. Priddy. Ms. Diaz-Torres 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: (8:23 p.m.)**

##### **1. Deed of Resubdivision, Vacation, Dedication, and Rededication for Long Branch Elementary**

Ms. Cathy Lin, Director of Facilities & Operations, presented the recommendation to vacate the existing subdivision name and rededicate it as School Board Property, Parcel A, Long Branch. She also explained the need to dedicate a new public access easement for legal public access to Fillmore Park and dedicate an easement

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for public streets and utilities. Ms. Lin explained that this recommendation would consolidate multiple parcels into one parcel.

2. Revisions to School Board Policies A-3 Nondiscrimination and K-2.5 Internet Privacy

Mr. Marku, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, presented revisions to School Board Policies A-3 Nondiscrimination which included the retitling of the policy and improving some of the terms. He also presented revisions to K-2.5 Internet Privacy clarifying APS will not collect unnecessary personal information through its social media platforms or website.

**H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.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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