

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 5:34 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair

Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair

Mary Kadera, Member (not present for the closed meeting; however, she participated in the regular meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams due to work reasons from New York)

Barbara Kanninen, Member

David Priddy, Member

Also present were:

Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel

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 as authorized by Virginia Code § 2.23711(A)(1) to reach a decision on the grievance of dismissal # SY-22-06-02-8S*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy, and it was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. Ms. Kadera was not present at the time of the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

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; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye. Ms. Kadera was not present at the time of the vote.

Mr. Goldstein moved to deny grievance # SY-22-06-02-8S and affirm the recommendation for dismissal by the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Priddy.

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

Mr. Goldstein called for a brief recess at 5:55 PM The Board reconvened in an open session at 7 PM.

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations

Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer

Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff

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Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer
 Jason Ottley, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer
 Dr. Darrell Sampson, Executive Director, Student Services
 Claudia Mercado, Clerk
 Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING (7 PM):

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: Hispanic Heritage Month

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, Mr. Goldstein began by acknowledging Dr. Durán for his leadership at APS to ensure all students receive a quality education that will equip them with the skills needed for post-secondary education and employment in today's ever-changing world. Dulce Carrillo, Supervisor of Public Engagement, presented eight exemplary high school student leaders for their outstanding accomplishments in school and life. In addition, the Board recognized nine Latinx administrators who, through their leadership and commitment to students, embody the mission and vision of APS.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:27 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

[C-1-a Minutes for the September 21, 2022 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the September 22, 2022 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the March 10 2022 School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for the April 5, 2022 Closed Meeting and Budget Work Session #5](#)

[C-1-e Minutes for the April 6, 2022 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-f Minutes for the April 7, 2022 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-g Minutes for the April 8, 2022 School Board and County Board Joint Budget Work Session](#)

[C-1-h Minutes for the April 21, 2022 Closed Meeting and Budget Work Session #6](#)

[C-1-i Minutes for the April 27, 2022 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-j Minutes for the April 28, 2022 School Board Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

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P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

3 Changes in Position/Salary
2 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

12 Appointments
2 Changes in Position/Salary
4 Resignations
1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

13 Appointments
2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

2 Appointments
2 Change in Position/Salary
1 Resignation with Prejudice
1 Termination

3. School Board Member Civic Association Liaison Assignments
4. Amendments to School Board Policies G-2.4 Human Relations-Employee-Employer Communications and G-3.2.1 Salary
5. Richmond Teacher Residency (RTR) Program
6. Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees

Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent the Board adopted the amendment to School Board Policy G-2.4 Human Relations-Employee-Employer Communications. It was administratively required to make the Arlington School Board Policy consistent with the passage of the Collective Bargaining Resolution adopted on May 26, 2022, by the School Board. As a general matter, existing policies that conflict with the law or a School Board Resolution must be changed to be in compliance with those laws or Resolutions. When this occurs, the policy is placed on the agenda under consent given that any revision is a simple matter of aligning policy with the law. In addition, Mr. Goldstein announced that the Board approved the School Board Member Civic Association Liaison Assignments for this school year.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:27 PM):

1. Board Announcements:
 - October 14 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 10 AM, Board Conference Room
 - October 18 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 - October 18 – Work Session on Early Childhood, 6:30 PM, Board Room
 - October 26 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 4 PM, Board Conference Room
 - October 27 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Ms. Diaz-Torres was pleased to attend The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) annual education summit in Puerto Rico along with Superintendent Durán and other APS Latino administrators.

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The theme was “Education Revolution: Action Today for a Better Tomorrow” and she appreciated networking and learning from other Latino leaders in education. She shared that APS staff presented La Sopa de la Abuela: Special Education Telenovela, a series designed to support the engagement of families in the special education process to foster a collaborative home-school partnership. Ms. Kadera shared that she attended the kick-off reception for Communities in Schools, an APS partner that provides services at schools to support student in academic achievement. Lastly, Mr. Goldstein spoke about events at his liaison schools. He was proud to announce that Veronica Salas, Bilingual Family Specialist at Glebe Elementary, received the 2022 Community Builders Award and received a donation towards their school family pantry.

2. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán presented information about supports and services to address the strengths and needs of students with disabilities in the general education classroom and in smaller specialized settings. He highlighted the deaf or hard of hearing program and how supports are delivered to students. He also acknowledged that October was Learning Disabilities Awareness Month, National Principal Appreciation Month, and National Bullying Prevention Month. He invited everyone to join APS for Unity Day on October 19 in celebrating kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent bullying. Furthermore, he announced that Red Ribbon Week was October 23 through the 31 which was part of National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. The Superintendent then shared the September 30 enrollment numbers, noting an increase in overall enrollment. Next, Dr. Durán spoke about his visit at Syphax and the Trades Center to show staff appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Lastly Dr. Durán applauded APS on earning top rankings in the 2023 Best Schools Report and achieving full accreditations for all schools. He concluded by praising all the amazing teachers, principals, and staff for making APS a great place to learn and work!

Ms. Kadera encouraged the community to participate in the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) and Special Education PTA (SEPTA), parent groups that provide a great support network and resources to special education families. She inquired about the special education evaluation process.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:04 PM):

Mr. Goldstein briefly explained the process for public comment for the 2022-23 school year.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Katharine Modisett	Parent, ASF	COVID-19 guidelines
Carly Hughes	Teacher	Supporting transgender students
Jay Young	Student	Supporting transgender students
June Prakash	Arlington Education Association	Collective bargaining and employee communications
Catherine Thompson	Speech Pathologist	Inconsistencies in HR and suggesting more consistent compensation for speech pathologist
Elissa Norton	Special Education staff	Inconsistencies in HR and suggesting more consistent compensation for speech pathologist
Danielle Anctil	Teacher	Collective bargaining and concerns about employee communication

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Reginald Goeke	Arlington Parents for Education	Learning loss and achievement gap
Chip Goyette	BLPC representative	Requesting to pause the Career Center project
Joshua Folb		Collective bargaining and concerns about employee communication
Javonnia Hill	Resource Assistant, Arlington Career Center	Collective bargaining and concerns about employee communication
Valerie Heitshusen	Parent	Appreciated the Board's support for transgender students
Daniel Payton	Parent	Requesting better management of bus hub stops
Major Mike Webb		Sharing his opinion on transgender students

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:40 PM):

1. Student Climate and Culture Report

Mr. Gradis White, Director of School Climate & Culture, presented an overview of the Office of the Student Climate and Culture and its alignment to the Strategic Plan. He then presented a summary on the data of the suspension disproportionality by level and demographic areas. Furthermore, Mr. White presented recommendations to establish systematic, proactive, and positive strategies, interventions, and Restorative Justice practices to support student learning and well-being in all areas involving student conduct. In addition, he shared information on County and community partnerships. Lastly, Mr. White presented recommendations for additional funding to support the work of the Office of Student Climate and Culture.

Board members echoed that their key take way has been that APS is taking different actions on student conduct matters and they appreciated the work taking place to address the Strategic Plan objective to overall decrease suspensions and disproportionality rates. Regarding the disproportional disciplinary referrals, Ms. Kadera expressed her desire to learn more about the factors behind the data, noting that student behaviors are a way of student communication. Dr. Kanninen wanted to understand why reducing suspension was the objective in student discipline. Dr. Durán clarified that suspension is a metric that is measured, and Mr. White then explained the interventions taking place to do a deep dive on building relationships. Ms. Diaz-Torres expressed her passion for this work and acknowledged that although APS is making progress in this area, much more needs to be done to appropriately address student conduct. The Board also discussed professional development and budget recommendations to focus on working directly with administrators and students.

G. ACTION ITEMS (9:23 PM):

1. School Board Budget Direction

Mr. Goldstein highlighted that the budget direction was revised to include wording to clarify the direction.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the Board adopt the School Board FY 2024 Budget Direction, seconded by Mr. Priddy.

The Board spoke about the collaboration with the Superintendent and staff to draft the budget direction and supported the Board's yearly priorities. Dr. Kanninen reflected on the impact of the pandemic on the budget,

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the Board's commitment to prioritize employee compensation and instruction, and building a sustainable budget.

Mr. Goldstein 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. Deed of Temporary Easement and Construction Agreement for Wakefield High School

Mr. Priddy moved that the Board consent to the Deed of Temporary Easement and Construction Agreement at Wakefield High School

- *Temporary easement required to support the synthetic turf replacement project for the stadium field*
- *Project follows County synthetic turf replacement schedule and continues to provide playing opportunities for school and community athletics and recreational activities.*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen.

Mr. Goldstein 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/ACTION ITEMS (9:35 PM):

1. APS Card Access Replacement

Mr. Mayo presented that although this project was not part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), APS needed to address the degradation of card access service and equipment, and the need to upgrade to ensure future connections with oracle to automate and provide efficiencies in providing facility access.

The Board discussed the transition timeline and budget implications.

The Department of Safety, Security, Risk and Emergency Management anticipates it will cost \$797,853.40 to replace all current hardware and software with a remote hosted solution that will be completed within one calendar year.

Therefore, Mr. Priddy moved that the Board approve the proposed funding for the project as outlined:

- *It is anticipated the Lock and Key project will have cost savings of approximately \$300,000 that can be applied to this project.*
- *The Public Address System replacement project has an actual cost savings of \$139,560 that can be applied to this project due to collective purchasing and locked-in pricing with vendors.*
- *The remaining balance of approximately \$358,293.40 can be taken from the Capital Reserve.*

Should the anticipated savings outlined above not be realized, the difference would come from the Capital Reserve.

Similarly, if the anticipated savings outlined are greater than anticipated, the amount needed from the Capital Reserve would be reduced.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen.

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Mr. Goldstein 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. Deed of Easement at Kenmore Middle School

Ms. Cathy Lin, Director of Facilities and Operations, requested to grant Arlington County a permanent easement for construction, maintenance, repair, reconstruction, relocation, replacement and/or removal of public traffic signal facilities over, under, upon and across two thousand eight hundred nineteen (2,819) square feet of land at Kenmore Middle School.

The Board discussed the permanent access to Kenmore Middle School land and the County's responsibility over the land.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board authorize the School Board Chair to sign the Deed of Easement for Kenmore Middle School to upgrade the South Carlin Springs and 3rd Street South signal upgrade project, seconded by Mr. Priddy.

Mr. Goldstein 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.

I. INFORMATION ITEMS (10 PM):

1. Arlington Career Center Project Proposed Schematic Design

Dr. Durán was excited to bring forward this item. He highlighted the need to modernize the Career Center, and shared his recommendation on the base education specifications to provide high quality instruction to all students. He thanked the community and staff for their work on this major project. Ms. Reneé Harber, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations, presented an overview of the project to fulfill the commitment to provide adequate facilities for more than 500 Career Center students. She presented an overview of the project schedule and funding. Ms. Harber spoke about the significant community engagement to collect feedback from various stakeholder groups in areas of the project like building design, landscape design, and parking. Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, presented the updates to the education specifications following the April 28, 2022 School Board meeting. He explained that the proposed Schematic Design is a confluence of many inputs, including School Board direction, public feedback, and specific requirements. Following, Mr. Chambers presented the Base and Alternative Educational Specifications site plans and shared information on projects costs, and funding. Ms. Harber presented the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the revised Base and Alternative Educational Specifications. Sara Steinberger, Chair of the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC), presented feedback from the PFRC. Subsequently, Mr. Ted Black, Chair of the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC), provided feedback from the BLPC focused on parking needs, traffic concerns, and classroom needs.

As the liaison to the Career Center project, Mr. Priddy thanked staff for their arduous work and for reengineering the space despite the volatility of the market, a sentiment that was echoed by other Board members. The Board engaged in a lengthy and detailed discussion on several topics which included capacity and enrollment, capital reserves and bond funding, and inflation rate and escalation costs. Ms. Stengle provided information to accommodate capacity over the years. Mr. Chambers then reviewed the facility changes to the Base and Alternative Educational Specifications site plans and the multiple venues used to cross-check, in order to provide the best information to the Board on the costs. Dr. Kanninen inquired about universal design and Mr. Chambers explained the ways the building provides accessibility. She also requested information on the feasibility of a project labor agreement and if the Board needed to provide a motion.

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Moreover, Ms. Diaz-Torres encouraged the community to review the May 21, 2020 School Board meeting where the Arlington Career Center Expansion Project Concept Design was presented to the Board to understand the costs changes and learn more about the project. Referencing the educational needs for the Career Center site including Arlington Tech and the vision for its future, Mr. Martini provided information on the need for the space to accommodate career and technical courses. He further explained how the space would be flexible to meet the needs of the ever-changing world. Ms. Chung then explained about the innovative ways students are engaged in their learning and supported the idea of a flexible and creative learning space to serve the needs of the students for years to come and support the workforce trends. Furthermore, the Board engaged in a lengthy conversation with Mr. Chambers and Ms. Harber regarding the calculated capacity revisions to better understand the use of the facility space and discerning the instructional options at the Career Center site. To conclude, Ms. Kadera requested to receive accurate information on the permanent capacity of the high school sites.

J. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 AM on October 14.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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