

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and Budget Work Session #6 Meeting Minutes

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair (not present due to personal reasons)
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member
Mary Kadera, Member
David Priddy, Member

Also present were:

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

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 6 appointments, 4 changes in position/salary, 2 classification specification requests, 15 resignations, 1 resignation with prejudice, 9 retirements, 1 termination, and to discuss and consider prospective candidates for employment for the Ashlawn Elementary School principal position as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A).* The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy, and it was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:25 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 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote.

Dr. Kanninen called for a brief recess at 6:25 p.m. The Board reconvened in an open session at 6:32 p.m.

Budget Work Session #6

Also present were:

Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Bridget Loft, Chief Academic Officer
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

Introduction

Dr. Durán began by noting that although much work had been accomplished on the budget, more work would need to be done to meet the priorities and APS should not lose sight when introducing future priorities. Dr. Durán reviewed the agenda and summarized revisions to the School Board's proposed budget. He provided an update on the Bell Time Study and explained possible savings under this initiative.

¹ The recording of School Board meetings is posted on the APS Web site following the meetings.

Additional Information on Specific Topics

Ms. Peterson discussed the upcoming bond sale and how the funds are used. Ms. Loft shared information about the different criteria, costs, and recommendations for online tutoring. She also shared that her office had applied for a grant to cover the expenses. She then spoke about the summer literacy summit with principals aimed at discussing resources that may help with literacy issues. In addition, Ms. Loft informed the Board of the timeline for the arrival of the projector and the hiring of a director for the planetarium, and Ms. Peterson followed by talking about the costs. Next, Ms. Graves presented on Restorative Justice which included information on professional development, the hiring of a Climate Coordinator, launching a Restorative Practices APS Cohort, and the partnership with Restoration Arlington. She also shared about the close collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Ms. Graves reviewed the Restorative Justice staffing and did not recommend additional funding highlighting that her office would provide resources and monitor the data on climate and student behaviors.

School Board Discussion

The Board discussed compensation and whom employees could contact if they had questions about their salaries. They discussed adding a math supervisor and hiring four full-time math coaches for FY 2023. The Board debated whether hiring more math coaches or teachers would help reduce class size. They talked about tutoring and their concerns about screen time; however, they also noted that they liked the convenience of on-demand tutoring services rather than in-person due to transportation issues for some students. Dr. Kanninen commented on the importance of investing in correlation to the strategic plan and APS priorities. She also noted the importance of looking at the metrics established in the strategic plan and the climate in the communities and schools to report on students' voices and inclusiveness.

Conclusion

To end, Dr. Durán reviewed the Budget Calendar and summarized his recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

ATTEST:

Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board

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