

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on Early Childhood Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 6:32 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair
Mary Kadera, Member
Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Member
David Priddy, Member (Absent due to work reasons)
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer
Sarah Putnam, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Elaine Perkins, Early Childhood Coordinator
Cameron Childs, Early Childhood Specialist
Dr. Sylvia O'Neal, Early Childhood CLASS Specialist

Introduction

Mr. Goldstein started with introductions and mentioned that there had not been a session regarding Early Childhood in quite some time. Dr. Durán said it was an opportunity to discuss Early Childhood and its direction.

Early Childhood Programs: Pre – Kindergarten

Ms. Perkins introduced her team members and gave an overview of what would be discussed throughout the evening. She reviewed the goals aligned with the Strategic Plan and explained why Pre-K was important. She talked about the history of Pre-K and where throughout APS, Pre-K is offered. She presented the 2022-23 enrollment and the program's demographics. She spoke of staff and class sizes for this year and responded to enrollment variations for 21-22 and 22-23. She talked about the program's recruitment and the initiatives they took to promote the program and mentioned their partnerships with Arlington County.

Ms. Childs talked about the programs at the Career Center. She mentioned the different programs in APS – Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), Community Peer Program (CPP), Primary Montessori, and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE). She presented the instructional areas of focus for Pre-K and mentioned that they are piloting Streamin3 at Hoffman-Boston this year. She then talked about the Assessment Data – Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program – VKRP that is being used.

Dr. O'Neal spoke on the initiative from the University of Virginia and the Department of Education, CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System). She gave a breakdown of how CLASS would be used and how it will provide teachers with high-quality feedback. Ms. Perkins concluded the presentation by discussing the next steps and opportunities for growth.

Dr. Durán thanked the presenters and hoped objectives were met regarding Early Childhood Program updates. He stated that this work session was educational to ensure everyone around the table and community members watching knew what great work was taking place and what next steps were ahead for Early Childhood opportunities.

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

School Board Discussion

The School Board discussed the Early Childhood programs, enrollment, capacity, curriculum, and budget. They addressed the vision for the different programs in Pre-K and if there would be flexibility to move students from one program to another to fit the students' needs. They mentioned Integration Station and how the program worked on inclusion and asked what could be learned and integrated into grades K-12. They debated if the vision for Arlington was to have a universal Pre-K program.

They reviewed the assessment data and how instructional areas are assessed. They talked about the curriculum and the reasoning for piloting Streamin3. They discussed the framework of Pre-K students' access to education technology, the retention process families must take if their student is not ready for kindergarten, and what social-emotional skills they saw in Pre-K students. They were concerned about the fee increase in Montessori, and it was explained that the fees reflect the market rate increases. The School Board asked if there would be recommendations for the FY24 budget.

Conclusion

The Board Members thanked the presenters for giving them a window into what Pre-K is doing and thanked everyone for the presentation. Dr. Durán said this was an educational opportunity that was long overdue. He then turned it over to Dr. Mann, to close the meeting. Dr. Mann thanked the team for their work and for an opportunity to highlight the Pre-K Programs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

ATTEST:

Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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