

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2022**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 7:03 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair
Mary Kadera, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
David Priddy, Member
Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School & Community Relations
Kimberly Graves, Chief of School Support
Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel
Dr. Jason Ottley, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING (7:04 PM):

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

On behalf of the School Board, Mr. Goldstein thanked APS educators and staff for all their support of students and hoped that their Winter Break was safe, warm, and filled with love.

3. Recognitions: Barbara Kanninen, School Board Member

The School Board recognized outgoing member Dr. Kanninen. They expressed their heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Kanninen for her fair, efficient, patient, and productive work during her time on the Board. Dr. Kanninen was commended on her commitment to the governance of APS, expanding opportunities for students, and her focus on what matters most: supporting teachers and students in the classroom every day.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:32 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, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, 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 October 18, 2022 Closed Meeting](#)

¹ The recording of School Board meetings is posted on the APS Web site following the meetings. Regular meetings are also broadcasted on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41.

[C-1-b Minutes for the November 1 2022 Work Session on English Learners](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the November 3, 2022 Closed Meeting](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for the November 9, 2022 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-e Minutes for the November 10, 2022 School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-f Minutes for the November 22, 2022 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-g Minutes for the November 28, 2022 School Board Legislative Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 6 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Classification Specification
Director, Internal Audit

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Resignation
- 1 Retirement

3. Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees

4. Arlington Community High School Request for Approval of an Alternative Accreditation Plan

5. Grievance #G-SY22-LP-BC-09

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:33 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

~~January 5 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room - Canceled~~

~~January 5 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room - Canceled~~

January 10 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room

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January 10 – Work Session #2 with Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL), 6:30 PM, Board Room
 January 19 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Mr. Goldstein announced that the January 5 closed meeting and regular School Board meetings were canceled and some of the agenda items were moved to the January 19 meeting. However, it was noted that due to the time-sensitivity, the Board would act upon the Middle and High School Programs of Studies and the Swanson Middle School Kitchen and Entrance Renovations Construction Contract Award at the January 10 Work Session. He encouraged the community to share their feedback on these items by emailing the School Board. In addition, Mr. Goldstein shared about events taking place at his liaison schools.

2. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán began by thanking APS staff for their support in the 2022 APS United Way Campaign which raised \$39,195 and Mr. Jeffrey Brown, United Way Manager, presented APS a plaque of appreciation to the School Board. As part of Every Student Counts school year priority, the Superintendent highlighted Career & Technical Education (CTE) noting that CTE is offered at each middle and high school and the Arlington Career Center. He then congratulated the School Psychology Services Team on receiving the Excellence in School Psychological Services official recognition from the National Association of School Psychologists for a consistently high level of professional practice that is aligned with the national school psychology practice model. Lastly, Dr. Durán wished everyone a wonderful winter break!

Ms. Kadera was curious to learn more about the percentage of high school students engaged in CTE courses.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:57 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Jessica Buitrago	Student, GSAC	Supporting intensified courses for 6 th graders
Peter Anderson	Thomas Jefferson Middle School	Opposing intensified courses
Joshua Folb		Supporting compensation and sharing concerns about the proposed school year calendar
Carlisle Levine	Gifted Services Advisory Committee	Supporting intensified courses for 6 th graders
Sheila Kelly		Expressing concerns about the homework policy and honors classes for 6 th graders

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:10 PM):

1. Security Update

Mr. Zach Pope, Director of Safety, Security, Risk and Emergency Management, presented the program description and shared key services and processes. He then presented about the sources used to monitor progress toward goals and effectiveness of strategies in the action plan. As part of the goal to systematically improve the quality of organizational operations, Mr. Pope invited Mr. Jerome Nelson, School Security Officer,

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and Ms. Morgan Payne, Lead School Safety Coordinator, to share about their work in the implementation of the School Safety Coordinators (SSCs) program. Their collaborative work ensures a safe and secure learning environment for students, staff, and visitors to thrive in, while ensuring the welfare of occupants to APS facilities. Furthermore, Mr. Pope spoke about the SSC training and recommendations for the hiring of additional staff to support schools.

The Board conversed about training on Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) and implicit bias. They also inquired about information on employee accident data, vehicle accident data and incident reports to better understand their impact on cost and student support. In addition, the Board discussed the impact of the removal of School Resource Officers (SROs) and data to compare student interaction with the police, with Ms. Graves noting that there will continue to be intentional work around restorative justice practices, the correlation of the work of the SSCs, and the continued cultural change around discipline. In addition, Mr. Pope shared some examples of how SSCs provide different support to school administrators.

G. ACTION ITEMS (9:08 PM):

1. Heights Phase I – Change Order for Washington Gas

Dr. Kanninen moved that the School Board approve an individual change order for Washington Gas in the amount of \$112,276.04 and the resulting revised total purchase order amount of \$375,546.04, 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: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye. Ms. Diaz-Torres was not present at the time of the vote.

2. 2022-24 School Year Calendar

Mr. Michael Hodge, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented revisions to calendar option 1 and option 2.

Mr. Priddy moved that the School Board adopt the revised option 2 calendar for the 2023-24 School Year. The revised option 2 calendar provides 180 instructional days with an 8-day winter break and a revision to the end date of the third marking period, seconded by Ms. Kadera.

Some Board members articulated the reasons why they supported calendar option 2 which included the observance of religious holidays and considered staff input. Mr. Goldstein shared his opinion on the observance of religious holidays and suggested brainstorming other ways for people to observe religious holidays without penalties or needing to close the entire school system. On the other hand, Ms. Diaz-Torres and Dr. Kanninen shared that they would not support calendar option 2 because it did not include a two-week winter break which provides much-needed time for students and staff to decompress in the winter, and noted their support for the Superintendent's initial calendar recommendation. The Board looked forward to implementing a policy to create a process to ensure religious holidays are appropriately observed, align the calendar with other school districts, and provide a long-term plan for creating calendars for multiple years.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 2. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres– Nay; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Nay; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS (9:33 PM):

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1. Middle and High School Program of Studies

Ms. Sarah Putman, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented information on the 2023-24 Program of Studies, which is the instructional roadmap for graduation requirements for students, as well as a listing of course offerings. She then shared specific course additions for middle and high school. Lastly, noting no course deletions for middle school, Ms. Putman presented course deletions at the high school level.

At length, the Board discussed the process for intensified courses at the middle school level and monitoring data to ensure it reflects the diverse populations of the school system to support students by name, strength and need.

2. Swanson Middle School Kitchen and Entrance Renovations Construction Contract Award

Mr. Chambers informed the Board that Swanson Middle School was one of over twenty schools that is part of the FY 2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan Kitchen and Entrance/Security Vestibule Renovation Program, thus the renovations at Swanson would provide an entirely new kitchen and a modified entrance that enhances security. As permitted by the terms of the Invitation to Bid (ITB), staff pursued negotiations with the lowest, most responsive, and qualified bidder, The Bennett Group. In addition, to facilitate construction, Mr. Chambers explained that APS intends to lease approximately 10 parking spaces from Westover Baptist Church.

3. Final Fiscal Close-Out/Status and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Quarterly Update

Ms. Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services, began the presentation by noting that the financial records for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were closed and audited and the Annual School Report was sent to the Virginia Department of Education. She then provided a summary of all funds, and County revenue, and presented recommendations for the use of FY 2022 available funds. Furthermore, Ms. Peterson presented the FY 2022 CIP Quarterly Report which provided an update on the construction projects and the status of the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) projects.

The Board discussed the Substitute Coverage Pay for Teachers recommendation.

J. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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