

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:01 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair
Mary Kadera, Member
David Priddy, Member
Bethany Zecher Sutton, 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
Dr. Jason Ottley, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING (7:01 PM):

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: Bethany Zecher Sutton, School Board Member, and 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literacy and Visual Contest Winners

The School Board welcomed new Board Member, Ms. Bethany Zecher Sutton, to her first regular School Board meeting. The Board applauded Ms. Zecher Sutton's drive to work on meeting the breadth of academic, social emotional, and life skills of the diverse student population, as well as providing support for our teachers and staff. Board members looked forward to collaborating with Ms. Zecher Sutton and her contributions to the Board. On the same note, Ms. Zecher Sutton expressed her excitement to join the leadership of APS and help to achieve the vision of APS.

To commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, legacy, and impact, the Board recognized the 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literacy and Visual Contest Winners with Ms. Dawn Smith, Volunteer, Partnership, and Events Manager, presenting a delightful video that highlighted the students and their artwork.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:30 PM):

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Ms. Kadera 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, Mr. Priddy, and Ms. Zecher Sutton voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes

[C-1-a Minutes for the November 15, 2022 Work Session on Social-Emotional Learning](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the November 29, 2022 Closed Meeting and Work Session #1 with ACTL](#)

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

[C-1-d Minutes for the December 7, 2022 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-e Minutes for the December 8, 2022 Closed Meeting and Work Session Enrollment and Capacity Planning](#)

[C-1-f Minutes for the December 13, 2022 Work Session on the Virtual Learning Program](#)

[C-1-g Minutes for the December 15, 2022 School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-h Minutes for the January 11, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 2 Resignations With Prejudice
- 2 Classification Specifications
 - Residency Specialist
 - Supervisor, Student Registration

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

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

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 5 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

3. Arlington School Board Code of Conduct for School Board Members

4. School Board Member Liaison Assignments to Schools and Advisory Groups for 2022-2023

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5. Revised School Board Liaison Assignments for Arlington Civic Associations 2022-2023
6. Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees
7. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Mentor Teacher Program Funds Grant
8. Safe Routes to School Mini Grant

Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent, the Board adopted a new Code of Conduct and revised liaison assignments to schools, advisory committees, and civic associations to include Ms. Zecher Sutton. In addition, he announced that the Board appointed Mr. Cory Kapelski as the Director of the Office of Professional Development and Mr. Justin Bolfek as the Director of Student Activities at Washington-Liberty High School.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:37 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

- January 21 – School Board and Superintendent Retreat, 9 AM
- January 26 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
- January 26 – Work Session on Gifted Services, 6:30 PM, Board Room
- February 2 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Room 401
- February 2 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Mr. Goldstein announced that the School Board would begin to accept nominations for the Honored Citizens Award starting January 20 through March 13 to recognize individuals who make an enormous difference in our school communities. Ms. Kadera thanked April Maddox, County Council of PTAs (CCPTA) Reflections Contest Chair, for coordinating the contest and awards ceremony. She also congratulated students who were participating in various music competitions. Mr. Goldstein ended the announcements by sharing about the fifth-grade window art displayed at Glebe Elementary School.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Reminding everyone that the safety and wellbeing of students and staff should be the focus of everyone's work, Dr. Durán began by speaking of the importance of mental health to help prevent drug abuse, suicide and acts of violence such as the event in Newport News, Virginia. He shared that APS was taking steps to advocate for stronger gun safety laws. However, he emphasized that the community must work together to listen and share concerns related to safety at schools and home. Dr. Durán noted that he read a study that revealed that one in three gun owners store their guns loaded and unlocked which leads to a high percentage of unfortunate accidents. He encouraged the County Board, community, and schools to work together to educate students on gun safety. Dr. Durán then informed the community that APS was working on expanding initiatives and creating a resource web page to provide information on gun safety and resources for families to talk about and understand this topic by grade level. Finally, Dr. Durán encouraged anyone experiencing a crisis, to call or text 988 to receive any support needed and he pleaded for the community to share the number with anyone who may need help. In addition, Dr. Durán extended his gratitude to the staff for their professionalism in working with students through very challenging situations, on top of providing core instruction to students.

As part of the Every Student Counts school year priority, Dr. Durán highlighted the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) initiative used to build content knowledge in social studies, science, and literature, as well as teaching content that reflects the diversity of Arlington. He presented about the mid-year assessments that occur in January and February to ensure the second half of the year is successful and productive for all students. Teachers use the results to guide instruction and identify students who are challenged, and would benefit from

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additional supports. The Superintendent highlighted Virginia Principals Appreciation Week celebrating APS principals for their leadership and focus on student and staff success. Dr. Durán then shared about the new attendance notification process to ensure student safety and that families are informed about student attendance. He also encouraged prospective APS families to watch the kindergarten informational video to prepare families for kindergarten. In addition, the Superintendent reminded families about the Pre-K and Elementary Option Schools/Programs application timeframe to provide elementary students the opportunity to attend an option school/program as an alternative to attending their assigned neighborhood school. Lastly, Dr. Durán shared about the staff luncheon that brought together 25 All Stars employees who were nominated from July to December in recognition for their outstanding work.

Acknowledging less familiarity with the Winter Virginia Growth Assessment (VGA), Ms. Zecher Sutton wanted clarification on the assessment. Dr. Durán explained that this is the second year the VGA was being administered by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and that it was created to gauge student growth mid-year, prior to the Standards of Learning (SOL) test. Mr. Priddy pointed out that APS had petitioned to the VDOE to use the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) as a screener assessment but was denied. However, APS uses both Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS) and DIBELS to identify the necessary support for students. Furthermore, Dr. Durán shared that APS continues to advocate for the use of both assessments to properly identify students' needs. Ms. Diaz-Torres appreciated the informational video about CKLA which helps the community understand the instruction taking place at the schools and defines some of the educational jargon. Ms. Kadera shared about her visit to the Student Advisory Board and the focus on mental health resources.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:10 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Cheyenne Klapper	Arlington Career Center Environmental Club	Concern about the Arlington Career Center unsustainable plan to use fossil fuel boilers
Josh Folb		Calendar concerns
Katie Sunderland	Arlington Parents for Education	Resources to address learning loss
Joan McIntyre	EcoAction Arlington	Concern about the Arlington Career Center unsustainable plan to use fossil fuel boilers
June Prakash	Arlington Education Association (AEA)	Concerns about school safety
Kathi Overton	Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium	Re-Opening of the Planetarium
John Bloom	Sienna Club	Concern about the Arlington Career Center unsustainable plan to use fossil fuel boilers

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:30 PM):

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1. School and Community Relations (S&CR) and Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Update

Ms. Ashby reviewed the alignment of SCR to the Strategic Plan, presented an update on the departments' priorities and work, and highlighted data to support favorable improvement in family engagement and communication. To conclude Ms. Ashby presented budgetary recommendations to help improve the work of SCR.

The Board discussed the rationale to expand the FACE program and metrics to gauge the efficacy of the program. Ms. Ashby explained that most of the Title I schools are part of the program and that data is used to determine the needs of the schools. Ms. Diaz-Torres was excited to learn about APS 101 and the parent training to engage parents and the community in schools. The results of these initiatives are a collaboration with schools to identify parents to participate in the programs and address the need for a systematic venue to allow parents and the community to learn about APS. Ms. Ashby reiterated the importance for administrators to be involved in the process and the value of flowing information and communication between all stakeholders. The Board was interested to learn how the partnership program at SCR would dovetail with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) partnership coordinator and how they would collaborate. Dr. Durán took the opportunity to encourage the community to join APS as volunteers. He highlighted the intentional focus on volunteer needs and expanding the partnership to focus on student learning. Lastly, the Board discussed the APS website redesign and the plan to update the website for improved community use with a parent focus.

G. ACTION ITEMS (9:11 PM):

1. Final Fiscal Close-Out/Status Update

Ms. Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services, shared updates to the use of funds available recommendations.

Ms. Kadera inquired about the thought process behind the targeted resources for student learning needs. Dr. Durán explained that the close-out funds focused on addressing the needs of level 2 and level 3 schools as defined by the Virginia Department of Education. In his proposed budget, the Superintendent will recommend additional investments to address more needs in the future.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the Board adopt the following resolutions:

1. *To carry forward funds remaining from FY 2022 to FY 2023, I move that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #1):*

The School Board requests the appropriation and increase in County Transfer of \$35,506,738 to the School Operating Fund which represents the combination of budget savings from FY 2022 in the amount of \$29,159,008 and an increase in local tax revenue from FY 2022 in the amount of \$6,347,730 which is above the amount anticipated and budgeted for in the FY 2022 Adopted School Board Budget.

2. *To provide for the purchase orders/incomplete projects encumbered as of June 30, 2022, that will be paid in FY 2023, I move that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #2):*

The School Board requests the re-appropriation of encumbrances and budget increases to the FY 2023 Schools Budget as indicated below:

○ School Operating Fund	\$17,854,993
○ Capital Projects Fund	\$14,234,061

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- *Community Activities Fund* \$ 480,952
- *Food & Nutrition Services Fund* \$ 290,026

3. *In order to continue the special projects and construction projects for which the budget period does not coincide with the school year, I move that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #3):*

The School Board requests the re-appropriation to FY 2023 of the balances in both the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund and the Bond Construction Fund as follows:

- *Grants and Restricted Programs Fund* \$ 1,319,303
- *Bond Construction Fund* \$57,592,958

4. *In order to retain the current fund balance reserves (balances as of 6/30/22), I move that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #4):*

The School Board requests the carry forward of the following fund balance reserves:

In the School Operating Fund:

- \$24,584,631 – FY 2023 Adopted Budget use of reserves
- \$ 1,047,239 – VRS Reserve
- \$ 2,000,000 – Separation Pay Reserve
- \$ 1,000,000 – Health Insurance Reserve – self insurance
- \$24,567,631 – Future Budget Years Reserve
- \$ 123,000 – Compensation Reserve

In the Food & Nutrition Services Fund:

- \$11,758,307 – Fund Balance

In the Capital Projects Fund

- \$33,713,587 – Capital Reserve
- \$ 160,370 – Capital Planning

These reserves will be carried on the books of Arlington Public Schools until the School Board authorizes the use of these reserve funds.

5. *In order to authorize the use of the \$35,506,738 appropriated from Arlington County to Arlington Public Schools in Resolution #1, I move that the School Board adopt the following resolution (Resolution #5):*

The School Board authorizes the Superintendent to use the amount appropriated at the adoption of the FY 2023 budget and from the County in Resolution #1 and carried over to FY 2023 as follows:

- *Addition to Compensation Reserve* \$21,000,000
- *Addition to Debt Service Reserve* \$ 4,641,850
- *Addition to Future Budget Years Reserve* \$ 6,847,989
- *FY 2023 Expenditure Recommendations* \$ 2,647,174
- *Medicaid Special Project Fund* \$ 369,725
- *Total authorized uses of carryover funds* \$35,506,738

The motion was 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: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye; Ms. Zecher Sutton – Aye.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS: NONE

I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

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J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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