

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Work Session on Social-Emotional Learning Meeting Minutes**  
**November 15, 2022**

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 5:34 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair  
Mary Kadera, Member (Not Present due to personal reasons)  
Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Member  
David Priddy, Member (Participated virtually due to health reasons)  
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent  
Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer  
Dr. Darrell Sampson, Executive Director, Student Services  
Wendy Crawford, Supervisor, Student Services  
Heather Davis, Coordinator, Counseling Services  
Jennifer Gross, ATSS Specialist

Social-Emotional Learning Presentation

Dr. Sampson described what social-emotional learning (SEL) is at APS and emphasized that SEL modeling and instruction are the responsibility of all staff APS. He reviewed the Virginia SEL Guidance Standards and the SEL building blocks. He also spoke about the researched benefits of SEL and the importance of SEL related to the APS Strategic Plan. In addition, Dr. Sampson presented information on the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Audit, which evaluates the SEL program. The audit report will be published by February and will note strengths, areas for growth, and recommendations.

Ms. Crawford reviewed the 2022-23 SEL Survey and how the information will be analyzed to help schools focus on targeted supports. The survey response rate was 89% compared to 65% last spring. Ms. Gross reported on this year's stipend pilot program for SEL Lead positions at the schools and their responsibilities and expectations. Ms. Davis discussed coordinating multiple meetings with the SEL Leads to review responses, analyze areas of need by topic, and review current practices.

Dr. Durán thanked the presenters and the work that is being done in the schools. He stated that this was an opportunity for the Board and the community to understand what is happening at the schools regarding SEL.

School Board Discussion

The Board discussed the Virginia SEL Guidance Structure and the importance of having a systematized SEL in APS that each school adheres to. They noted that SEL is not a replacement for mental health support but a foundation for student learning; it will help with student behavior, allowing them to feel a sense of belonging. They agreed that having a centralized department would ensure that all students and staff can access information and resources, ensuring consistency and standardization. The Board hoped for collaboration between departments to bring forward the work. They asked what languages the Understanding your Child's SEL Survey Results would be presented and translated into for parents. Board members acknowledged that success could be defined by multiple measures such as SOLs, attendance, discipline, academic gains, etc. They also discussed the CASEL audit and the SEL Survey.

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

In conclusion, the Board thanked the presenters for an informative presentation on SEL.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Arlington School Board

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