

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and Work Session #2 with the
Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL) Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 5:30 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 (participated virtually via Microsoft Teams due to medical reasons from Arlington, Virginia)

Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer

Michel Hodge, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider as many as 17 appointments, 7 changes in position/salary, 2 classification specifications, 6 resignations, 5 resignations with prejudice, and 1 retirement as authorized by Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1). He also moved that the Board convene in a closed meeting as authorized by Virginia Code § 2.23711(A)(1) to make a determination on two grievances.* The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy, and it 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 closed meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Mr. Goldstein 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 Ms. Kadera and was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye; and Ms. Zecher Sutton – Aye.

Also present were:

Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer

Sarah Putnam, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Kerri Hirsch, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Jenny Roahen Rizzo, Chair of the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning

Christopher Martini, Director of Career, Technical, and Adult Education Advisory Committee

Rosie O’Neil, Co-Chair Career, Technical, and Adult Education Advisory Committee

Elaine Perkins, Coordinator of Early Childhood

Maggie Slye, Chair Early Childhood Advisory Committee

Sarah Cruz, Supervisor of English Language Arts, Elementary

Lori Silver, Supervisor of English Language Arts, Secondary

Mike Miller, Co-Chair of the English Language Arts Advisory Committee

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

Terri Murphy, Director of the Office of English Learners
 Sam Klein, Supervisor of English Learners
 Jared Peet, Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee on English Learners
 Debbie DeFranco, Supervisor of Health, Physical and Driver Education, and Athletics
 Desiree Jaworski, Chair of the School Health Advisory Board
 Terrell Fleming, Supervisor of Social Studies
 Caroline Rogus, Chair of the Social Studies Advisory Committee
 Dr. Darrell Sampson, Executive Director of Student Services
 Kirsten Pickle, Co-Chair of the Student Services Advisory Committee
 Dana Milburn, Member of the Student Services Advisory Committee

As the first meeting in the new year, Mr. Goldstein began by hoping that in 2023 we prioritize instruction and the health and well-being of our community. He also welcomed new School Board member, Ms. Zecher Sutton.

ACTION ITEMS (6:38 PM):

Due to the time-sensitivity of two information items presented at the December 15, 2022 meeting, the Board acted upon the Middle and High School Programs of Studies and the Swanson Middle School Kitchen and Entrance Renovations Construction Contract Award before the work session.

1. Middle and High School Program of Studies

Dr. Mann informed the community that APS was committed to providing intensified classes in the 6th grade in Social Studies, English, and Science for the 2024 – 25 school year.

Mr. Priddy move that the Board approve the Middle School and High School Program of Studies for the 2023-2024 School Year, seconded by Ms. Kadera.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye; and Ms. Zecher Sutton – Aye.

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

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the School Board take the following actions:

- Award contract 57FY23 for renovations at Swanson Middle School to The Bennett Group in the amount of \$2,468,770;

- Approve a project budget of \$4.17 million from the Kitchen and Entrance/Security Vestibule Renovation Program funding to support renovations at Swanson Middle School; and

- Authorize the School Board Chair to sign a Parking License Agreement with Westover Baptist Church, provided the final document is reviewed and approved as to form by APS legal counsel.

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: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye; and Ms. Zecher Sutton – Aye.

Introduction

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Mr. Goldstein introduced the new chair of the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL), Ms. Rizzo, and thanked her for taking on this leadership role. In return, Ms. Rizzo thanked Ms. Zecher Sutton and all her work when she was chair. She also acknowledged the seven committees that presented and thanked them for their time, volunteerism, and commitment to APS students.

ACTL Presentation

The seven ACTL committees that presented were Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Early Childhood, English Language, English Learners, School Health Advisory Board (SHAB), Social Studies, and Student Services. Each committee had an allotted time to present its recommendations. During their time, they shared the resources needed by their departments and summarized their respective reports.

Dr. Durán commented on the Social Studies presentation regarding APS's commitment as a school system to support its Social Studies teachers.

School Board Discussion

The Board reviewed each committee's recommendations, such as graduation requirements, writing strategies required for all content areas, focusing on more accessible communication to parents so that they may understand the ways APS works, interpreters, cell phone policy, curriculum, Standard of Learning updates, teacher workload, and Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Analysis. They also discussed grant funding and the costs related to the recommendations.

Conclusion

In closing, Ms. Rizzo highlighted the passion, experience, and professionalism that chairs and members bring to their committees. Mr. Goldstein expressed the importance of the ACTL work sessions. He shared that the Board will work on a process to capture and consider the recommendations as the Board drafts its priorities and budget direction. He thanked all the ACTL committees for the productive work sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

ATTEST:

Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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