

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and Budget Work Session #3 Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 5:32 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

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
Michael Hodge, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

CLOSED MEETING ON PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider as many as 15 appointments, 6 changes in position/salary, 11 resignations, 5 resignations with prejudice, 1 termination, and 8 retirements as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1).* 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 6:33 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 Mr. Priddy 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:

Christine Smith, Division Counsel
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent of Information Services
Renee Harber, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations
Michael Hodge, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services
Zac Pope, Director of Safety, Security, Risk, and Emergency Management
Kyle Lorentson, Assistant Director of Safety, Security, Risk, and Emergency Management
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

Introduction and Priority #2 Presentation

As part of his proposed budget, Dr. Durán presented Priority #2 – Recruit, hire, and invest in a high-quality and diverse workforce to ensure APS is where talented individuals choose to work. Ms. Peterson discussed the details of Priority #2, proposing sustainable and competitive salaries and benefits for all employees.

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

School Board Discussion on Priority #2

The Board discussed incentives for APS teachers and assistants interested in working summer school, substitute pay rates, and family medical and parental leave for employees. They also discussed the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and its benefits to employees although it is no longer managed in-house. In addition, the Board discussed the proposed request for a new Division Counsel that would solely focus on special education, as well the overall costs of having a Division Counsel. Moreover, the Board inquired about the compensation study and employee eligibility for a salary increase. Lastly, Board members requested clarification on the stipends for employees with advanced degrees, professional development, and funding for recruitment.

Priority #3 Presentation

Dr. Durán then presented Priority #3 – Improve Operational Efficiency. Subsequently, Ms. Peterson discussed the funding highlights of safety and security enhancements, network infrastructure and technology supports, and system-wide operations improvements.

School Board Discussion on Priority #3

The Board discussed electric buses and their associated costs. The Board also discussed the roles of School Safety Coordinators (SSCs) and whether SSC positions are planning factor-driven or based on enrollment, and metrics to evaluate the success and progress of the SSCs. Furthermore, the Board also talked about the network equipment replacement, a one-time expense, and the cyclical equipment that needs to be changed. They discussed the proposal for additional Information Services technicians that are to be phased into the schools within four years. In addition, the Board acknowledged the HVAC situation at Taylor Elementary School and discussed how to prevent a similar situation in the future at other aging buildings in the school system. Lastly, The Board asked questions about the funding for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), equity-related items, indoor air quality, relocatables, safety and securities enhancements, and the pros and cons of converting recurring costs to baseline rather than one-time costs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Superintendent reviewed future work session agendas and the FY 2024 Budget Calendar. Dr. Durán and Mr. Goldstein thanked staff for their work. Mr. Goldstein noted the Board would act upon the School Board Proposed Budget on March 30 and would meet with the County Board for a joint work session on March 31.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

ATTEST:

Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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