

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2023**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 30, 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 (Absent due to personal reasons)

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. Tyrone Byrd, Interim Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel
Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

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: Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison

To begin the meeting, the School Board honored Ms. Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison, on her retirement after 56 years of service. A devoted public servant since 1967, Ms. Wise held many positions at APS during her career and displayed an unwavering support of the school system. Representing APS as the School Board Legislative Liaison for more than 25 years and believing that public education is fundamental to keeping our local community, the Commonwealth, and the entire country strong, Ms. Wise was a strong advocate for high quality public schools in the Virginia General Assembly. In addition to advocating for so many critical issues in support of students, staff and community, Ms. Wise was a reliable source of information and “a teacher” to many legislators and their staff to help them understand the short- and long-term impact of legislative issues being considered. On behalf of the School Board and the entire APS community, Ms. Wise was applauded for her dedication and commitment to APS and for being a steward of public education. To conclude, Senator Barbara Favola and Delegate Alfonso Lopez shared their gratitude for Ms. Wise on her thoughtful and effective advocacy to support topics that matter to the school system.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:25 PM):

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved for the adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.

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Ms. Zecher Sutton was not present at the time of the vote. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes

[C-1-a Minutes for the March 7, 2023 Closed Meeting and Budget Work Session 2](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for March 14, 2023 Budget Work Session 3](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the March 16, 2023 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for March 21, 2023 Budget Work Session 4](#)

[C-1-e Minutes for the March 22, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-f Minutes for the March 23, 2023 Closed Meeting and Public Hearing on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2024 Budget](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

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

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 10 Resignations
- 3 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirements

- 3. Revisions to School Board Policies I-11.5.2.30 High School Credit at the Middle School, J-5.3.1 Homeless Education Services, M-3 Financial Management-Financing Construction and Site Acquisition, and M-11 Student ID Badges
- 4. Amendments to School Board Policy B-4 School Board Meetings
- 5. Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees

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Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent, the School Board adopted School Board Policies I-11.5.2.30 High School Credit at the Middle School, J-5.3.1 Homeless Education Services, M-3 Financial Management-Financing Construction and Site Acquisition, and M-11 Student ID Badges to clarify language, requirements, and practices. Revisions also include updates to references to the applicable statute and regulation, respectively. Consequently, the Superintendent approved the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) related to this policy. He also announced that effective July 1 the Board appointed Dr. Lori Wiggins as Principal at Arlington Community High School and Dr. Chris Willmore as the Director of Secondary Education.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:35 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

March 31 – Joint School Board/County Board Budget Work Session, 3 PM, County Board Room
 April 11 - Committee of the Whole, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 April 12 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8 AM, Board Conference Room
 April 13 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 April 13 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Mr. Goldstein announced that the Arlington Education Association (AEA) filed a request seeking certification as the Exclusive Representative for licensed personnel and support personnel. The certification election was scheduled for April 24 to April 27, 2023, through secret ballot over email. Each Notice of Election was sent to the bargaining unit employees via email on March 28 and a notice was posted in common areas at each worksite. Any other labor organization or Employee Association that would like to be included for consideration as the Exclusive Representative must file a request to intervene within 7 business days of the notice, by the close of business on April 13. If there was an intervenor, the date of the election would be delayed.

Ms. Kadera wished the best of luck to the Yorktown wind ensemble on their participation at the Music for All Festival at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. She also sent a big shout-out to Escuela Key for raising \$19,000 for the American Heart Association Virginia Chapter. Lastly, Ms. Kadera expressed her deep appreciation for the contributions of Dr. Willmore, Dr. Wiggins, and Ms. Wise, whose true calling is education. Mr. Goldstein shared that the Abingdon Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) was delighted to recognize that the school beat their read-a-thon goal by reading a combined total of 272,774 minutes.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán announced that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of Narcan as an over-the-counter medication and he directed staff to provide him guidelines and recommendations for students to carry this critical medication. Dr. Durán expected to provide additional information at the April 13 School Board meeting. Dr. Durán acknowledged that in April APS recognized Month of the Military Child, Arab American Heritage Month, Occupational Therapy Month, Autism Awareness Month and School Library Month, as well as Public School Volunteer Week (April 17-21). He encouraged everyone to wear purple on April 19 for Purple Up Day in recognition of military families and students. Dr. Durán then provided an update on the enhanced APS website redesign launching in July 2023 and proposed staff and families participate in sharing their input during the user testing phase in April. In addition, the Superintendent announced the phase one launch of the new content filter system on APS devices, Lightspeed Content Filter, over Spring Break, replacing Global Protect to address key improvements to manage content control and parental control. Furthermore, Dr. Durán announced the 2023 National Scholastic Arts Awards, noting that 14 APS students achieved national medals. He exclusively highlighted Ms. Marceline Castrillon, Wakefield High School, for earning a Portfolio Gold Medal. Lastly, the spotlight of the Every Student Counts school year priority was about programs and partners who support arts education in APS in honor of Arts in the Schools Month.

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As a parent, Ms. Kadera thanked the Information Services team for the content filtering system being put into place. Mr. Goldstein proudly sent a shout-out to the arts education staff for their work to support arts education.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:55 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Aaron Lopez	Student, Washington-Liberty High School and Voters of Tomorrow	Requesting prioritizing compensation for teachers and counselors
Josh Folb		Sharing concerns about the change in bathrooms protocols and requesting compensation
June Prakash	President, Arlington Education Association	Expressing concerns about the teacher and substitute shortage
Alfonso Lopez		Requesting better compensation for teachers
Danielle Jones	Vice President, Arlington Education Association and Speech and Debate Coach	Requesting support for the speech and debate team at Yorktown High School
John Bloom	Sierra Club Potomac River	Sharing feedback on School Board Policy F-2 Goals and suggested discussing electric buses with the County Board

F. MONITORING ITEMS: NONE

G. ACTION ITEMS (8:12 PM):

1. School Board Proposed FY 2024 Budget

Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services, presented an overview of the Superintendent’s Revised Proposed FY 2024 Budget, revising the total expenditures to include the Spring enrollment and staffing update and the Educational Leadership Program with George Mason University.

Mr. Goldstein moved that the School Board adopt the Superintendent’s FY 2024 Revised Proposed Budget as the School Board’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget with the following changes:

- *Reduce funding for relocatables in the MC/MM budget by \$200,000*
- *Reduce funding for the Compensation Study by \$100,000*
- *Add \$221,000 for virtual tutoring services based on usage*
- *Add \$21,820 to increase uniform funding for Transportation*
- *The remaining amount of \$57,180 will be returned to the Future Budget Years Reserve.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

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The Board admitted not having Board consensus on the proposed budget, however they looked forward to continuing budget discussions and deliberations until the final budget was adopted on May 11. Ms. Diaz-Torres and Mr. Priddy were particularly interested in discussing family leave. Mr. Priddy also expressed desire to consider printed report cards and some initiatives at the middle school level, noting that the challenge lies in weighing budget reductions. He encouraged for community advocacy and was interested in receiving community feedback. Seeing financial stewardship as one of the Board's most important responsibilities, Ms. Kadera thanked staff who constructively helped the Board throughout the budget process. She encouraged discussion around creating an alternative program for middle schools, funding for support for high school students struggling in reading, and addressing youth mental health and substance abuse. Ms. Kadera was particularly looking to produce a sustainable budget and further discuss the use of reserves. Similarly, Mr. Goldstein shared his specific interest in fiscal sustainability. He noted his concern on the use of over \$41 million of reserve funds that could possibly not be replenished in future years. He also noted that any additions to the proposed budget would have to be offset with a discussion on reductions.

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; Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye. Ms. Zecher Sutton was not present at the time of the vote.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS (8:26 PM):

1. Revisions to School Board Policies F-2 Goals and I-9.1.5 Exemplary Projects

Mr. Steven Marku, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, presented proposed revisions to School Board Policies F-2 Goals and I-9.1.5 Exemplary Projects which included title changes and language clarification.

Mr. Priddy inquired about the reference to the Arlington's Community Energy Plan and APS alignment to environmental sustainability.

I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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