

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Work Session #4 Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 5:32 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair (Participated virtually using Microsoft Teams from Rochester, New York due to personal reasons)
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair
Mary Kadera, Member
David Priddy, Member
Bethany Zecher Sutton, Member
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk of the School Board

CLOSED MEETING ON PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Ms. Diaz-Torres called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the nominations for the Honored Citizen Award as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(11)*. 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 6:06 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Ms. Diaz-Torres 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.

Ms. Diaz-Torres called a recess at 6:06 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting at 6:30 PM.

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent (Absent due to personal reasons)
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer (Attended as the Superintendent’s designee in his absence)
Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff
Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services
Sarah Putnam, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director of Planning and Evaluation
Robert Ruiz, Principal Planner, Planning and Evaluation

Introduction and Presentation

Ms. Peterson presented the revenue and spring staffing updates. She also presented the Superintendent’s Revised Proposed FY 2024 Budget which yielded no monetary changes. Mr. Ruiz presented the FY 2024 Enrollment Projections for staffing using the projected enrollment for the 2023-24 school year and summarized the component that was used to estimate enrollment projections. Ms. Putnam gave an update on “Paper”, a virtual tutoring service paid for with one-time funds from the FY 2023 Budget. She presented the program background, the implementation, and the data showing grade levels, content areas, and student groups engaged with the service. Ms. Putman shared that Paper was

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

not included in the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2024 Budget for the 2023-24 school year and presented options for future use of the tutoring service.

School Board Discussion

The Board discussed the cohort leadership program sponsored by APS and expressed interest in learning who takes advantage of the scholarships for leadership opportunities. The Board also discussed the enrollment projections, clarifying that the spring enrollment update uses the fall projections for the next school year. It compares enrollment at the end of January to September and observes if enrollment is significantly changed by at least 3% at different grade levels. The tools to manage enrollment are embedded in the spring enrollment update. Schools will be provided with accurate information so they can hire staff in a timely manner. Furthermore, the Board discussed "Paper" and inquired about the number of students using the service and the frequency. Board members were curious to learn if more than half the students returned to continue using the tutoring service and the demographic groups of students using it. They also asked whether juniors and seniors used the writing center for college application essays. Finally, the Board discussed the pricing of the service.

In the final section of the work session, the Board discussed their proposed changes to the budget. Each board member reviewed a list of topics related to Human Resource which included substitute teacher incentives, creating a database of staff that has left APS in the last five years, and an attrition study. The Board inquired about the annual number of participants in the Assistant to Teacher Program and cost. In addition, the Board inquired about the average dollar increase for the steps and what is the dollar amount of the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment for each scale group. The conversation also centered on the cost of hiring staff for the reading elements program for high school students struggling with reading and low reading scores. Furthermore, they wanted to understand the cost to bring together reading specialists and classroom teachers to work on Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) during the summer. Similarly, the Board inquired about the cost of a group of teachers and central office staff to review the curriculum resource adoption process. The collaboration would optimize a comprehensive outcome and create inclusivity. Lastly, they discussed the cost of operations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Dr. Mayo reviewed the agendas of future budget work sessions and the budget calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

ATTEST:

Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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