

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2023

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, April 27, 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

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent of School and Community Relations
Dr. Tyrone Byrd, Interim Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff
Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer
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: Service Awards and 2023 Honored Citizens Awards

The School Board was pleased to highlight 43 employees who achieved significant professional milestones of 30, 35, and 50 years of service at APS and their crucial roles to help the success of students and programs. In particular, the Board extended a heartfelt thank you to Yorktown High School teacher, Mr. Bruce Hanson, for achieving 50 years of service. He was presented with a commemorative clock and jersey signed by students and colleagues. In addition, the School Board presented the 2023 Honored Citizens Award to Ms. Janna Dressel, Dr. Rick Jackson, and Carmina Sinani. These individuals were chosen as 'Honored Citizens' because they stand out for having demonstrated an ongoing, sustained commitment to students, schools, and the community for at least five years. Through their volunteer work, Honored Citizens support the APS Strategic Goals of providing multiple pathways to student success; ensuring that students are healthy, safe, and supported; and building and maintaining strong and mutually supportive partnerships.

Ms. Diaz-Torres called for a recess at 7:38 PM and the Board reconvened at 7:43

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:43 PM):

¹ The recording of School Board meetings is posted on the APS Web site following the meetings. Regular meetings are also broadcasted on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved for the adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion 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 following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

[C-1-a Minutes for the March 28, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the March 30, 2023 School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the March 31, 2023 Joint School Board and County Board Budget Work Session](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for the April 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#)

[C-1-e Minutes for the April 12, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-f Minutes for the April 13, 2023 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 9 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 13 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment

3. Revisions to School Board Policies J-5.3.2 Home Instruction and J-15.32 Records Management

4. Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees

Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent, the School Board adopted revisions to the School Board adopted revisions to School Board Policies J-5.3.2 Home Instruction and J-15.32 Records Management to clarify language and align the policies with Virginia Code. Consequently, the Superintendent approved the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) related to this policy. The Board approved the following leadership changes effective July 1, 2023:

Dr. Jeannette Allen, Arlington Community High School, Assistant Principal

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Sarah Cruz, Supervisor of Secondary English Language Arts
 Danielle Harrell, Yorktown High School, Assistant Principal
 Maggie Hsu, Washington-Liberty High School, Assistant Principal
 Scott McKeown, Supervisor of Outdoor Lab
 Suzanne Paul, Swanson Middle School, Assistant Principal
 Gabriela Rivas, Supervisor of Elementary English Language Arts
 Holly Vesilind, Ashlawn Elementary School, Assistant Principal

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:52 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

May 2 – Committee of the Whole, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room, Tentative
 May 4 – Budget Work Session #6, 5:30 PM, Board Room
 May 4 – Work Session on Homework and Communication, 6:30 PM Board Room
 May 9 – Committee of the Whole, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room, Tentative
 May 10 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8 AM, Board Conference Room
 May 10 – Committee of the Whole, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room, Tentative
 May 11 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 May 11 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Ms. Kadera and Mr. Goldstein shared announcements about upcoming events at their liaison's schools. In addition, Ms. Kadera congratulated Mr. Mikey Samayoa, teacher at Escuela Key, on his recognition as the Arlington Rotary Club "Educator of the Year" for 2022-2023. Mr. Goldstein took the opportunity to highlight The Clothes Line for Arlington Kids, a local non-profit that collects donations from the community and distributes quality clothing free of charge to low-income school-aged children in a welcoming space. He encouraged the community to contact The Clothe Line at <http://www.clotheslinearlington.org/> or 703-243-2615 to inquire about volunteer opportunities. Lastly, Mr. Goldstein extended his gratitude to staff on Administrative Professional's Day recognizing that their work is crucial to support the business of education.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

In recognition of After School Professionals Appreciation Week, Dr. Durán began his announcements by extending his appreciation for the Extended Day staff who provide daily before and after school care to about 3,000 students. The Every Student Counts school year initiative spotlight shared the APS commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and the creative ways schools immerse every APS student in science. Dr. Durán acknowledged that in May, APS recognized Educators Week, Jewish American Heritage Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, School Nurse Day on May 10 and School Communicators Day on May 14. In addition, he provided an update on substance use education and prevention at APS, noting that students would be allowed to safely carry naloxone in schools by May 26. Dr. Durán then shared about the Secretary of Education visit to Escuela Key which allowed APS to showcase the robust immersion program. He also shared about the Washington-Liberty High School students attending a White House event to welcome the President of the Republic of Korea to recognize the partnership between the two countries.

Ms. Zecher Sutton was interested in learning about substance abuse support programs during the summer and Dr. Duran communicated that APS would provide information to families on how they could access supports during the summer break. Additionally, substance abuse counselors will be available during summer school. Ms. Kadera recommended the Second Chance Program as a resource and support related to substance abuse.

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E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:13 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Ellie McGinn	Student, Wakefield High School	Sharing concerns about the accessibility for disabled students
Cecilia Kline	Drew Elementary School and Arlington Special Education PTA (SEPTA)	Sharing concerns about the accessibility for disabled students and speaking about the results of a parent survey to address accessibility issues at all the schools
Jenn Seiff	Arlington Special Education PTA (SEPTA)	Sharing concerns about district-wide accessibility issues for disabled students
Sheila Kelly	Arlington Parents for Education	Sharing concerns about the draft calendar policy and suggesting community engagement
Joshua Folb		Suggesting improving employee retention and sharing concerns about the calendar
Sharon Burd	President, Abingdon Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)	Expressing concerns about the pause of the overnight Outdoor Lab field trip
Daniela Sicuranza	Arlington Parents for Education	Requesting no funding for virtual tutoring program and scrutiny of the budget
John Bloom	Sierra Potomac Club	Noting concerns about the Barcroft Elementary School HVAC replacement and climate crisis

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:35 PM)

1. English Language Arts Literacy Update

Ms. Sarah Cruz, Supervisor of English Language Arts, presented the literacy alignment to the Strategic Plan and the literacy instruction supports at the elementary and secondary levels. She also detailed the implementation of the different structured literacy programs and resources. Furthermore, Ms. Cruz presented about the cross-curricular collaboration to address the diverse instructional needs and the use of assessments to inform instruction. Lastly, Ms. Cruz shared the next steps to develop the Arlington K-12 Literacy Plan and align literacy with evidence-based practices.

The Board discussed data trends and assessments, addressing barriers to improve literacy, the need to refocus classroom libraries, and school action plans. They also discussed optimizing professional development in the science of reading and the work of the literacy coach. Ms. Cruz noted that literacy coaches were engaging and

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collaborating with teachers on the implementation of the comprehensive literacy models. She also detailed information on the administration of assessments and screeners. Furthermore, Ms. Cruz spoke about the literacy curriculum shift over the years and the systemic change in practices to achieve reading comprehension. In addition, Ms. Kadera thanked classroom teachers on the monumental shift on literacy at APS

G. ACTION ITEMS (9:40 PM):

1. Barcroft Elementary School HVAC Replacement Construction Contract Award

Moving forward, Ms. Kadera suggested including information about the decision-making on the types of energy-saving equipment used for HVAC projects in the School Board presentations.

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

- *Award contract 95FY23 for Barcroft Elementary School HVAC Replacement Project to Shapiro & Duncan, Inc., in the amount of \$9,426,000;*
- *Approve a project budget of \$12.9 million from the Major Infrastructure funding minus the \$5.3 million provided from the COVID State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) to support the HVAC Replacement Project at the Barcroft Elementary School.*

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

H. INFORMATION ITEMS: NONE

I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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