

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 5:31 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair

Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair (arrived at 5:40 PM)

Mary Kadera, Member (Participated virtually using Microsoft Teams from San Francisco, California due to personal reasons)

David Priddy, Member

Bethany Zecher Sutton, Member

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

A. CLOSED MEETING ON PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to discuss the performance of a public school employee, 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 3 – 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Priddy, and Ms. Zecher Sutton voting affirmatively. Ms. Diaz-Torres and Ms. Kadera were not present at the time of the vote.

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:03 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:

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

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING (7:03 PM):

1. Call to Order

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2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: All-Virginia Music Honors, National Scholastics Art Awards and Latin Exam Awards

To begin the meeting, the Board was proud to recognize the achievements of some APS students. Dr. Pam Farrell, Supervisor of Arts Education, presented the students who went through the rigorous audition process to achieve a spot in the All-Virginia band, chorus, orchestra or jazz ensemble. She then recognized students who received awards in the National Scholastics Art Competition. Moreover, Ms. Elisabeth Harrington, Supervisor of World Languages, recognized students who received a gold medal and were awarded Suma Cum Laude in the National Latin Exam.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:21 PM):

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 May 10, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the May 11, 2023 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 31 Resignations
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Retirement

3. Amendments to School Board Policies C-2.7 Superintendent Evaluation and J-8.3.1 School Health Services
4. Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees

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5. School Board Charge to the Superintendent for Development of the 2024-2030 APS Strategic Plan

Mr. Goldstein announced under consent, the School Board adopted amendments to School Board Policy C-2.7 Superintendent Evaluation in alignment with the Code of Virginia. The School Board also adopted amendments to Policy J-8.3.1 School Health Services to allow high school students to carry and administer Narcan with the consent of their parent/guardian, if under the age of 18 years old. Consequently, the Superintendent approved the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) related to these policies accordingly. He then announced that during the 2023-24 school year, Arlington Public Schools will develop the 2024-30 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap to guide and focus the work of the school division on key priorities that are established in the Strategic Plan. Thus, under consent, the School Board approved its charge to the Superintendent to define the key tasks the Superintendent is responsible for as part of the process to develop the 2024-2030 APS Strategic Plan. In addition, Mr. Goldstein announced that effective July 5, the Board appointed Dr. Julie Crawford as the Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Student Support Officer. In addition, effective July 1, the Board appointed the following individuals:

Dr. Kenneth Brown, Supervisor, Special Education
 Sergeant Aaron Queen, Director, School Safety and Emergency Management
 Emily Haslebacher, Assistant Division Counsel, Special Education
 Marcello Alvaro Flores, Assistant Principal, Barcroft Elementary School
 Lauren Johnson, Assistant Principal, Dorothy Hamm Middle School

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:38 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

May 30 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 May 30 – Committee of the Whole, 6:30 PM, Board Room
 June 6 – Retirement Celebration, 4 PM, Top of the Town
 June 7 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8 AM, Board Conference Room
 June 7 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room, Tentative
 June 8 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 June 8 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Ms. Kadera and Mr. Goldstein shared announcements about events at their liaison schools. Ms. Kadera congratulated Nicole Maldonado and Zakiya Wilson for winning the 2nd Annual John M. Langston Essay Contest. She also congratulated Ms. Sharwarko and her Jamestown Elementary School 5th-grade students for their recognition in the Caring for Our Watersheds Competition and creating action plans to benefit the Chesapeake Watershed. Mr. Goldstein shared about the Abingdon Elementary School Arithmetic Avengers math dice team participation in the 17th Annual Math Dice Tournament. Lastly, he shared about his visit to Claremont Elementary School to recognize Arbor Day where a tree was planted.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán started his announcements by sharing updates about the Summer School Program noting that at the time of the meeting, it had a student enrollment of 3,436. The Every Student Counts school year initiative highlight was the Summer School Program and the different options for students. On another note, Dr. Durán informed that beginning May 26, with parent consent, students in grades 9 and above will be able to carry Naloxone in schools. He also shared information about guidelines and upcoming training for students. Next, Dr. Durán shared updates related to COVID-19. Effective May 11, the federal government ended the COVID Public Health Emergency, hence moving COVID-19 efforts out of the emergency phase and to be managed in

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schools using established practices for the flu and other diseases. He also noted that APS will end the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for staff and volunteers, effective June 1. Moreover, the Superintendent was pleased to announce the community members, staff and students appointed to the 2024-2030 APS Strategic Plan Steering Committee who will work with APS staff and the community during the 2023-24 school year to develop a proposed six-year strategic plan. He invited the community to visit the 2024-30 Strategic Plan Engage web page to learn more information. In support of efforts to end gun violence in schools and communities, Dr. Durán welcomed everyone to attend the Arlington Moms Demand Action Wear Orange Rally on June 3. Lastly, the Superintendent was proud to share about Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Parent Leadership Trainings for parent leaders who were nominated by their communities to attend the training.

The Board discussed the new guidelines for the use of Narcan, Summer School curriculum, and they encouraged the community to engage in the critical work of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:16 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Wendy Pizer		Expressing concerns about the COVID-19 mitigation guideline changes
Deborah Waldron	APS Teacher	Sharing concerns about employee leave disparities

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:24 PM)

1. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Wellness Update

Dr. Darrell Sampson, Executive Director of Student Services, presented about the implementation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and its alignment to the Strategic Plan. He provided information on the continued focus on the SEL implementation at the secondary level, particularly high schools. Dr. Sampson explained the work to provide more time and opportunities for adults to build their own SEL competencies and using the information from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) audit to drive improvement. Dr. Sampson also presented the data and results of the 2023 SEL survey. Lastly, he presented three different recommendations to support SEL implementation.

The School Board engaged in a rich discussion on multiple topics related to SEL such as the analysis of the data of the SEL survey. Ms. Zecher Sutton highlighted the valuable findings of the CASEL Audit, an important investment by the Board. Ms. Kadera was sad to note that sometimes students experience a different school culture than the CASEL curriculum. She shared her desire to see the embedding SEL tenets in the school culture and the reinforcement of acceptable behavior as a system. Appreciating the systemic change in SEL, Ms. Diaz-Torres spoke about the School Board Policy Subcommittee introducing a new policy on the return to school for students who must miss school for an extended period due to a mental health crisis. On a separate note, Mr. Priddy clarified that the discipline information will be shared with the Board in an upcoming monitoring report. Lastly, Mr. Goldstein inquired about measuring tools related to SEL. Dr. Sampson recognized that social-emotional learning measures are a challenge, not only at APS, but across all school systems. He explained the multiple data sources and tools utilized to create a picture of measurement for social-emotional learning. In addition, Dr. Sampson eloquently provided information on the work to achieve a unified SEL vision and an understanding of the needs of the school system to align with cultural responsiveness and equity work.

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G. ACTION ITEMS (9:24 PM):

1. The Heights Building Phase 2 Construction Contract Award

Ms. Zecher Sutton moved that the School Board take the following actions:

- *Approve a new project budget of \$18,930,000 and approve the following:*
 - *Transfer of \$4,050,000 from other project savings to the Capital Reserve.*
 - *Transfer of \$4,690,000 from the Capital Reserve to support The Heights Building Phase 2 Project.*
 - *Contract 85FY23 - The Heights Building Phase 2 – Garage Addition, Field, and Accessibility Site Work to Costello Construction in the amount of \$12,495,000,*
 - *Construction Manager Turner & Townsend Heery Construction Administration Fee in the amount of \$802,730,*
 - *Change Order to VMDO Architecture, in the amount of \$361,904, and establish their new contract as the base fee in the amount of \$1,402,051;*
- *Authorize the School Board Chair to sign a future Crane Use Agreement, if required.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

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 (9:27 PM):

1. Revisions to School Board Policies G-1.30 Goals, G-1.31 Human Resources Policies and Policy Implementation Procedures and M-4 Financial Management-Capital Improvement Plan

Steven Marku, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, presented proposed revisions to School Board Policies G-1.30 Goals, and M-4 Financial Management-Capital Improvement Plan which included title changes, alignment with Virginia Code, and language clarification. He also proposed the retirement of G-1.31 Human Resources Policies and Policy Implementation Procedures. In addition, Mr. Marku shared a summary of the public comments received on these policies.

2. Long Range Planning - Facility Evaluation Assessment Contract

Dr. Durán was excited to present the Long Range Planning - Facility Evaluation Assessment Contract which aimed at prioritizing a path forward and conducting a thorough assessment of buildings. He also noted that the information would help provide transparency to the community, and clarity to staff and the Board to assist in making long-term decisions. Dr. Durán encouraged the community to provide feedback on the process.

Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, explained that the School Board Adopted FY 2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) directed for the development of a long-range plan to renovate existing school facilities, therefore, Mr. Chambers presented the Long-Range Plan to Renovate Existing Facilities and its funding. The scope requests a complete facility evaluation for all schools and facilities using the framework evaluation criteria.

Ms. Diaz-Torres clarified that the Long-Range Plan created a framework that will help conduct a needs assessment of facilities and then identify priorities for the upcoming CIP projects to create equitable facilities.

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I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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