

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 8, 2023**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**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

**A. CLOSED MEETING ON THE PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE**

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 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Mr. Priddy, and Ms. Zecher Sutton voting affirmatively.

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
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps

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3. Recognitions: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps and the Multicultural Student Achievement Network (MSAN)

Colonel Scott Dierlam, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, recognized the VA-821 Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps students graduating from APS and some alumni for their achievements. He also commended the Space Force JROTC Cadets for earning many accolades during the school year. Dr. Byrd shared about the Multicultural Student Achievement Network (MSAN), a national coalition of multiracial school districts that have come together to understand and eliminate racial opportunity gaps that persist in their schools. To this end, Arlington Public Schools (APS) collaborated with students to lift their voices and create a partnership to better address racial inequity at schools.

**C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:15 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 4, 2023 Budget Work Session # 6 and Work Session on Homework and Communication of Student Progress](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the May 18, 2023 Closed Meeting](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the May 24, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for the May 25, 2023 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

**P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL**

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

**T-SCALE PERSONNEL**

- 46 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 43 Resignations
- 8 Retirements

**A-SCALE PERSONNEL**

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Resignations
- 2 Retirements
- 1 Termination

**SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL**

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- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
  - 4 Resignations
  - 2 Retirements
3. 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
  4. 2022-2023 APS Educational Technology Strategic Plan
  5. Plan Renewal of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Program Applications

Mr. Goldstein announced under consent, the School Board adopted 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. The School Board also adopted the retirement of G-1.31 Human Resources Policies and Policy Implementation Procedures. Consequently, the Superintendent approved the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) related to these policies. In addition, the School Board approved the 2022-2023 APS Educational Technology Strategic Plan, as required by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Lastly, effective July 1, the Board appointed the following individuals:

- Ms. Enis Majeed, Assistant Principal at Carlin Springs Elementary School
- Ms. Autumn Kenney, Assistant Principal at Hoffman-Boston Elementary School
- Ms. Deitra Brady-Pulliam, Assistant Principal at Long Branch Elementary School
- Mr. Adrion Walker, Assistant Principal at Oakridge Elementary School
- Ms. Paula Davis, Assistant Principal at Randolph Elementary School
- Ms. Meghan Smeenk, Assistant Principal at Swanson Middle School
- Ms. Nicole Johnson, Assistant Principal at Williamsburg Middle School
- Ms. Jessica Salvador, Assistant Principal at Wakefield High School
- Ms. Kristie Saini, Assistant Principal at Wakefield High School
- Mr. Wilson Ramirez, Assistant Principal at Escuela Key
- Ms. Erika Sanchez, Assistant Principal at Gunston Middle School

Mr. Goldstein called for a brief recess at 7:30 PM and reconvened at 7:33 PM.

#### **D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:33 PM):**

##### 1. Board Announcements:

- June 20 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
- June 20 – Work Session on Pre-Planning for CIP, 6:30 PM, Board Room
- June 21 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8 AM, Board Conference Room
- June 22 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
- June 22 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Mr. Goldstein shared about events at his liaison schools, including his visit to Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School on Drew Day.

##### 2. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

In celebration of the LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, Dr. Durán presented the Every Student Counts video that spotlighted students and staff sharing about their support and celebration of Pride Month in June. He then

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provided information about the Summer School Program, which was expected to serve nearly 4,000 students — an enrollment increase of nearly 1,000 students due to expanded eligibility criteria. As a result of the revisions to School Board Policy I-7.2.3.34 Reporting Student Progress and Grades, Dr. Durán provided an update on the revisions to the elementary and secondary grading policy implementation procedures (PIPs), taking effect in the 2023-24 school year. Referencing increased scrutiny in the current political climate and as social studies standards are debated in Virginia, the Superintendent expressed his undying support for all APS teachers, specifically for elementary and secondary teachers of social studies who consistently teach difficult and important lessons about Virginia, the United States, and World History and Social Science. Next, Dr. Durán encouraged the community to share their feedback on the school division communication with students, staff, and families by participating in a survey. The survey responses will be used to improve communication methods and inform the development of an APS strategic communications plan. In addition, he shared information on the 2023 graduations and promotions, as well as important year-end calendar dates. To conclude Dr. Durán was proud to announce that the APS All Stars Program received a golden achievement award by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

The Board thanked Dr. Durán for his public statement of support for teachers and highlighted the importance for students to learn history, including the difficult truths of the past. Mr. Goldstein echoed Dr. Durán’s sentiments of support for teachers, expressing that they are the most valuable asset of the school system as they educate, support and inspire future generations. On behalf of the School Board, Mr. Goldstein shared the Board’s full support for educators who teach the APS-approved curricula and engage students in a full, accurate, and inclusive history. In addition, the Board appreciated the recognition of Pride Month and shared the message that APS is an inclusive school system. In addition, Board members were appreciative of the updates on summer school and grading practices. Moreover, Ms. Kadera inquired about the air system at APS due to the air quality condition alerts; Dr. Mayo noted that masks are available to staff and students and that APS was continuing the use of air purifiers. Lastly, Ms. Diaz-Torres doubled down on encouraging the community to participate in the communications survey, available in the five major languages spoken at APS.

#### **E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:01 PM):**

The following speakers addressed the Board:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>School or Affiliation:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>
Margaret Johnson	Arlington Teacher’s Union	Opposing forcing teachers to start Pre-Service Days on August 17 and 18
Cynthia Killough	Parent, Gunston Middle School	Expressing concerns about bullying and harassment at Gunston Middle School
Paul Weiss	Arlington Teacher’s Union	Opposing forcing teachers to start Pre-Service Days on August 17 and 18
Sheila Leonard	Arlington Parents for Education	Noting concerns about the elementary grading standard levels
Deborah Waldron	Teacher, Yorktown High School	Sharing inequities of the APS pay plan and employee leave
Josh Folb	Chair, Advisory Committee of Transportation Choices (ACTC)	Summarizing the ACTC final report

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Laurie Vena	Teacher, Yorktown High School	Expressing concerns about the APS administration
June Prakash	President, Arlington Education Association	Sharing an appreciation poem
Reade Bush	Parent, Tuckahoe Elementary School	Sharing concerns about Special Education staffing

## F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:25 PM)

### 1. Professional Learning Monitoring Report Update

Cory Kapelski, Director of Professional Learning, presented an update on professional learning at APS which included a summary of the transition from supporting instructional staff professional learning to providing a district-wide support, as well as information on the alignment to the Strategic Plan performance objectives. In addition, Mr. Kapelski shared some bright spots, highlighting the improved use of Frontline, partnerships, mentoring, and more opportunities for participation in the National Board Certification. Moreover, he presented information on the Your Voice Matters and Frontline Professional Learning Management System used to evaluate professional learning at APS. The data showed that while more staff reported participating in central office professional learning, the central office-based learning offerings did not meet their needs. He also noted that the evaluation data in Frontline showed that teachers would recommend individual learning opportunities. Mr. Kapelski then presented the work to develop a cohesive definition, framework, and vision for professional learning. Lastly, he shared about the different opportunities for professional learning support for teachers and other staff.

The Board was interested in learning about cross-collaboration work, building a robust professional learning catalog to engage the diverse work force, and creating a framework for adult-learning opportunities. Additionally, the Board was thankful for the work to create a clear definition and vision of professional learning, appreciating that equity is embedded in the framework. Ms. Kadera requested more granular data about the types of professional learning opportunities offered in Frontline to be able to review trends. She encouraged a better integrated system to tie together performance evaluations and professional learning. Lastly, Mr. Goldstein inquired about the metrics to gauge positive outcomes of professional learning and the effectiveness of the offerings. In response to Board comments and noting that Mr. Kapelski is relatively new in his role, Mr. Kapelski provided the Board with a high-level overview of the work to move professional learning forward at APS.

### 2. FY 2023 3rd Quarter Fiscal Monitoring Report

Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services, presented an overview of revenue and expenditures, and the status of the FY 2023 Budget as of March 31, 2023. Pointing out that these funds would be the only funds available to replenish the reserves, Ms. Peterson provided no recommendations for reallocation of these funds at the meeting. She then presented an update on the FY 2023 capital construction, highlighting major project changes.

The Board briefly discussed the timeline of the construction projects and projected expenditures.

## G. ACTION ITEMS (9:26 PM):

### 1. Long Range Planning - Facility Evaluation Assessment Contract

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Mr. Priddy moved that the School Board take the following actions:

- Approve Proceeding with Stage 2 for the Long-Range Plan to Renovate Existing Facilities for review by APS by the end of August 2023 and the final report anticipated to be delivered by September 2023.
- Approve a fee of \$832,273 to MTFA Architecture.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Zecher Sutton.

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 (9:28 PM):**

1. Replacement of HVAC Equipment at the Wakefield High School Pool

Mr. Jim Meikle, Director of Maintenance, explained that temporary measures were in place at the Wakefield High School Pool to keep the HVAC equipment operational using remote and manual adjustments to maintain adequate air flow. However, the entire system at the Wakefield High School Pool requires replacement. Thus, he provided a funding and timeline recommendation for the replacement of the HVAC equipment at the pool.

The Board discussed the impact of the equipment replacement on the school swim classes, ensuring the installation of an energy efficiency system, and further discussed the project funding and timeline.

**I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Claudia Mercado, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Arlington School Board

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