

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
December 3, 2015

Item D-1-b

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 7:30 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Abby Raphael, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent

Also present were:

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Deirdra McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education

B. MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called the meeting to order and called for a moment of silence for the victims of the recent violence in California.

2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AFJROTC Cadet Corps.

3. RECOGNITIONS (7:33 PM)

Students from the Arlington Career Center, along with Principal Margaret Chung and teacher Tom O'Day, were recognized for the video they produced which was awarded first place in the VSBA Student Video contest.

¹ Video clips of regular School Board meetings can be viewed on the APS Web site at the following link:

<http://www.apsva.us/page/3067>

DVDs of all regular School Board meetings are also available for viewing in the School Board office.

3. Announcements: (7:39 PM)

Dr. Murphy invited students to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Visual Arts contest, and shared highlights of the Nauck Community Portrait show at Drew Model School. Upcoming events include winter concerts, plays, and community budget forums. Dr. Murphy then shared highlights of recent school visits. Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Kanninen announced upcoming student performances at Wakefield and Yorktown.

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:45 PM)

Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- a. September 24, 2015 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
- b. September 29, 2015 Closed Meeting and Joint School Board/County Board Work Session

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Resignations
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Termination

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

3. ACI Appointments

4. ~~Wakefield Capital BikeShare Agreement~~ REMOVED FROM AGENDA

5. Stratford CM at Risk Contract Award

6. County/Schools Capital Joint Fund

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:46 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Meghana Kulkarni, PAVE: Promoting Awareness/Victim Empowerment: sharing information about the upcoming SafeBAE National Summit at Wakefield High School.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (7:51 PM)

1. Recommended Site for New Neighborhood Elementary School in South Arlington

After Dr. Murphy thanked the Facilities staff and South Arlington Working Group (SAWG) for their efforts, Mr. Zachary Larnard, Facilities Planner, briefly reviewed the SAWG's three preferences related to the site for a new neighborhood elementary school in South Arlington. He confirmed that based on the SAWG report, the Superintendent recommends that the School Board select Jefferson as the site for the new South Arlington. If the School Board approves this recommendation, it will then go to the County Board for approval. Contingent on the County Board's approval of this site for the new elementary school, this action will also direct staff to take next steps and work with the Henry, Drew and Montessori communities on SAWG's recommendations. In closing, Mr. Larnard reviewed the timeline for next steps.

Dr. Kanninen made the following motion:

Based on the charge to the South Arlington Working Group, and having reviewed its report and the Superintendent's recommendation and staff response, I move that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to select Thomas Jefferson as the site for the new South Arlington neighborhood school.

I further move the School Board take the following actions regarding the South Arlington Working Group's other recommendations:

Patrick Henry Elementary School

The Board directs that a meeting be convened with the Patrick Henry Elementary School community following, and conditional upon, County Board approval of Jefferson as the site for a new neighborhood elementary school. The meeting will be held before March 1, 2016 and will provide a broad description of a timeline for construction and serve as an opportunity to begin to gather input on related issues.

Montessori Program at Drew

The Board directs that a meeting be convened with the Drew Montessori community following, and conditional upon, County Board approval of Jefferson as the site for a new neighborhood elementary school. The meeting will be held before March 1, 2016 to begin to gather input on issues related to the possible move of the Drew

Montessori Program to the Henry site and to explain that a review of the Montessori Program will take place to determine possible cost efficiencies if it is determined the program would move.

Drew Model School

The Board directs that a meeting be convened with the Drew Model School community following, and conditional upon, County Board approval of Jefferson as the site for a new neighborhood elementary school. The meeting will be held before March 1, 2016 and serve as an opportunity for the Drew School community to discuss academic goals along with other factors involved if the Montessori Program moves to the Henry site.

These meetings should all be concluded by March 1, 2016 and a recommendation brought to the School Board by March 17, 2016 regarding the move of Henry to the new site at Jefferson, the move of the Drew Montessori Program to the Henry site and the transition of Drew Model School to a stand-alone school.

Finally, I move that the School Board direct the Superintendent to prepare a report, based on 2016-2025 projections and additional CIP information, on options and next steps regarding the possibility of a new elementary school in the Pentagon City area post 2019. This report will be presented to the Board no later than April 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Ms. Raphael.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Terri Arnao, Penrose Civic Association: stating that the Civic Association and the Henry community opposes the recommendation to move Henry students to the new school.

Carrie Johnson, community member: speaking to her work as Chair of the Thomas Jefferson Working Group, appreciating SAWG's process and work accomplished to identify issues and concerns. She recommended that the School and County Boards continue to focus on collaboration, especially in terms of traffic, construction impacts, storm water management, and energy conservation and planning at this site, and also suggested that the Boards consider moving forward with a joint BLPC/PFRC committee as recommended recently.

Dr. Kanninen thanked SAWG Chair Greg Greeley and the group's members for the extensive work done to thoroughly consider sites throughout the County. She also appreciated the regular and thorough updates provided to the Board by SAWG. Recognizing that the recommendation was not unanimous but was a strong consensus, she appreciated the plan that has been mapped out to move this project forward. Ms. Van Doren also appreciated SAWG's work and looked forward to the process, reiterating the importance of focusing on safety in the community. She encouraged that as possible boundary changes are considered, all communities be involved in the process. She also supported a joint BLPC/PFRC committee.

Mr. Lander agreed with his colleagues and, recognizing that there is disagreement within the community about this recommendation, appreciated the extensive effort to include all views and to find the best solution. He recognized that this is a complex change that will impact several school communities, and stated that he will not support a move of the Montessori program until there is a clear plan for staffing and the instructional program at Drew. Ms. Raphael affirmed that approving this motion is an important step, and clarified that this action only recommends the site for a new school at Jefferson, but is not determining changes to other programs or schools at this time. Dr. Violand-Sanchez appreciated all the work of the community and staff in this process and reviewed next steps that will follow approval of this motion.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote, and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.

2. Wilson Concept Design: (8:13 PM)

Dr. Murphy spoke to the need to move forward with the concept design for this site, and recognizing that this project has come in above the original cost identified in the CIP, commented that this project will serve both the students and the community. He confirmed the recommendation coming to the Board was modified to include a range of options so that staff can have flexibility and refine the project in an effort to contain costs as much as possible. He noted in particular the challenge of providing parking for this project, and confirmed staff is working to identify the most cost-effective options to move forward on this project.

Mr. Ben Burgin, Acting Director, Design and Development, then briefly reviewed the concept design, which includes a fanning bar design with the building frontage on Wilson Boulevard. He shared drawings of the site plan and presented the project funding range and sources. He also summarized options being explored for parking at the site. In closing, he shared the timeline for the project.

Ms. Raphael made the following motion:

The Arlington School Board's adopted 2015-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) addressed the continued increase in enrollment throughout Arlington County at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The CIP included a process to determine by December 31, 2014 the location or locations of an additional 1,300 secondary school seats to be located largely in the northern part of the County and to be completed in time for the start of school in September 2019. The CIP set the maximum funding available for these seats at \$126.00 million, comprising:

- *\$5.00 million in current revenue for planning and design;*
- *\$4.00 million in 2014 bond funding for planning and design; and*
- *\$122.2 million, primarily for construction, to be included in the 2016 bond referendum.*

As part of its December 18, 2014 amendment to the 2015-24 CIP, the School Board approved a new school at the Wilson Site for the following programs: H-B Woodlawn Secondary School, Stratford Program, ESOL/HILT and Asperger's Programs currently located at the Stratford site. The Project was approved to create an estimated 775 seats, with a maximum of \$80.2 million funding available for the total project cost.

Since December 2014, the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC), appointed by the School Board, has met ten times to consider the Project. The Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC), appointed by the County Board, has met four times to consider the project. The Advisory Council on Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC) has considered the project at several of its regular meetings. Arlington Public APS staff also participated in the County's Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS). Additional meetings held on the project leading up to the Concept Design proposed for School Board action include a joint kickoff work session between the School and County Boards, two School Board work sessions and a community gallery walk.

The BLPC provided letters to the School Board endorsing the proposed Concept Design dated August 6, 2015, November 2, 2015, and November 29, 2015. The PFRC provided letters to the School Board endorsing the proposed Concept Design dated August 7, 2015 and October 19, 2015. The FAC also provided a letter dated November 11, 2015 endorsing the proposed Concept Design. The Concept Design was presented by APS staff and the Project design team to the School Board for Information on November 5, 2015.

During the Concept Design phase several design options were considered, ranging in cost from \$85.57 to \$108.45 million. The proposed Concept Design presented to the School Board for Information on November 5, 2015 included 146,000 and 167,000 square foot building options. The BLPC and PFRC recommend the "Fanning Bars" design concept at 167,000 square feet with an estimated project cost of \$93.80 million. At its November meeting the FAC voted to support the BLPC's recommendation.

The Concept Design presented to the School Board for Information also included three options for parking at the Wilson site: negotiate with the adjacent property owner to provide parking in conjunction with its site redevelopment, lease parking from nearby garages, or construct a parking structure on-site. Cost estimates for these options range from little or no cost to just over \$7.0 million.

The estimated project cost includes \$6.02 million for site related community improvements that would be funded by the County/School Board Joint Fund, including an artificial turf field with lights, safe routes to school improvements, undergrounding of utilities, and a dynamic terraced building design with public access to some of the terraces. It is anticipated that other community improvements may be required as the design develops to comply with conditions of the Arlington County Use Permit. APS and County staff will continue collaborating to finalize the scope of work for site related community improvements through the remainder of the design process.

Having carefully reviewed the extensive input from the BLPC, PFRC, FAC and various community groups and leaders as well as the Superintendent's recommendation, I move that the School Board approve the Concept Design for the Wilson School site as generally described in Exhibits A through G of the presentation made at the December 3, 2015 School Board meeting. By approving Exhibits A through G the School Board approves the following aspects of the Concept Design:

- *“Fanning Bars” building design;*
- *General site layout and circulation, including building frontage on Wilson Boulevard and athletic field on 18th Street North;*
- *Minimum seating capacity of 775 students for the following programs: H-B Woodlawn Secondary School, Stratford Program, ESOL/HILT and Asperger's Programs currently located at the Stratford site;*
- *Projected completion date to be in time for the start of school in September 2019;*
- *Total funding available for the Project, excluding structured parking, to range from a minimum of \$88.07 million to a maximum of \$93.80 million; and*
- *Up to \$7.02 million funding to be made available to provide a parking structure with approximately 92 spaces; this funding shall be in addition to the \$88.07 million to \$93.80 million funding range for the remainder of the project*

As the Superintendent and staff enter the Schematic Design phase of this project, the School Board requests that staff explore additional shared use of space and other options to bring the project in within the budget range provided. The School Board also requests that staff explore all options for avoiding and minimizing the cost of parking.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen. Dr. Kanninen proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to cap the bond funding in the high funding option at \$80.2 million and use other one-time funds to reach the total funding needed.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Melissa McCracken, Chair, Wilson BLPC: appreciating the work done by staff and the Board on the project design, including recognition of the need to provide adequate parking for staff and families. She spoke to the need for and inclusion of adequate space in the building design to accommodate the two programs being moved to this facility, and looked forward to completion of the facility.

Kelly King, Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC): confirming that the FAC supports the recommendation of the BLPC for a 167,000 sq. ft. building, and asking staff, the BLPC and the PFRC to look for possible reductions in space or cost that will not compromise instruction. The FAC also noted the importance of flexible space to ensure the ability to accommodate future uses, and a design that meets the needs of the community and the schools, and provides adequate parking.

Steven Sockwell, Chair, PFRC: sharing the PFRC's support for proposed design of the building, which they see as an excellent piece of architecture, and also supporting the Wilson Blvd. frontage. He confirmed that the PFRC was aware of the parking options being considered, but feels more information is needed before a determination can be made.

The following speakers addressed the Board, commenting on how this project will help address crowding in APS, and supporting the design for a 167,000 sq. ft. school. Speakers appreciated the design process and the Board's attention to community feedback, and recognized the challenge of providing parking at the site and the importance of maintaining the strong programs and culture of H-B Woodlawn and Stratford. Some speakers appreciated sustainability features included in the project and community involvement in the design. One speaker asked that the building include a full auditorium and black box theater.

Ronald Molteni, HB Woodlawn parent

David Tornquist, HB Woodlawn PAC Co-Chair

Laura Saul Edwards, HB Woodlawn parent

Danielle Arigoni, HB Woodlawn parent, BLPC member

Paul Mulligan, North Rosslyn Civic Association member of BLPC

Kristen Colston, HB Woodlawn parent

Richard Layman, HB Woodlawn parent, Wilson BLPC member

Terrig Thomas, Stratford parent

Nathaniel Klein, HB Woodlawn student

Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked the speakers and asked for Board comments on the proposed amendment. Mr. Lander appreciated the proposed amendment, but felt that, as there may well be escalating costs for this project such as additional costs for parking, the bond funding should be kept at the level in the staff recommendation. He stated his belief that it would be better management to keep the reserves available for potential cost overages. Dr. Kanninen spoke to her reasons for this proposed amendment and confirmed her belief that it will not negatively affect future projects. She reviewed expectations for close-out funds and how those funds may be used, as well as identifying upcoming projects and expenses, and confirmed her interest in reserving bond funding for these upcoming projects. She reiterated that this amendment leaves sufficient funds in reserves for other projects.

Board members also discussed enrollment projections and how the growing enrollment needs to be considered when determining how to fund projects. Ms. Raphael explained her support for this amendment, noting all that changes is the source of funding for this project, and she reviewed the bond funding process. Acknowledging and agreeing with Mr. Lander's reservations, Dr. Murphy reiterated his support for the motion as presented, and noted the impact this amendment would have on the one-time funding and other reserves. Ms. Van Doren was concerned about the lack of time the Board had to consider the proposed amendment and stated she will not support it at this time. She also commented on the importance of focusing on instruction, which has not been part of this conversation, and stated the need to ensure

that the reserves are available to fund basic instructional needs. Dr. Violand-Sánchez stated her support for the original motion, as it provides the flexibility for APS to move forward with this project, and did not believe it is the time to change funding sources.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote on the proposed amendment, which was defeated in a vote of 2 – 3, with Dr. Kanninen and Ms. Raphael voting affirmatively and Mr. Lander, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez opposing.

Ms. Raphael spoke to the thorough process used to develop the concept design, which considered the community, needed seats, and timing. She recognized that the schematic design may come back at the top of the price range, and appreciated community involvement and support. She expressed her confidence that as this project moves forward, the process will result in an optimal learning environment that meets the needs of the schools and community. Dr. Kanninen appreciated the proposed concept design and agreed this motion provides a path forward. She recognized this is an expensive project, but also recognized the unique benefits it brings, adding needed seats, using land wisely, and providing a community amenity. She confirmed her support for this motion. Ms. Van Doren also appreciated the building design, and stated her belief that as the process moves forward, it will result in a good, strong community facility. Recognizing the upcoming needs for seats to accommodate the growing enrollment, she encouraged staff to focus on cost savings as much as possible. Dr. Violand-Sánchez agreed that this will be an amazing facility and will benefit the students and the community.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Raphael, Ms. Van Doren and Dr. Violand-Sánchez voting affirmatively.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:23 PM)

1. School Board FY 2017 Budget Direction:

Dr. Violand-Sánchez presented the proposed FY 2017 budget direction, which directs the Superintendent to present a budget consistent with Board priorities and goals, provides a compensation increase, funding for Arlington Tech, and funding as needed to add staff to support the growing enrollment. In addition, the document directs the Superintendent to provide a prioritized list of costs savings, include appropriate use of closeout and reserve funds, and to ensure long-term financial stability. Finally, the budget should consider feedback received from advisory and staff groups.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Gerry Collins, President, Arlington Education Association: appreciating the priorities stated in the budget direction and speaking to the bullet on compensation, he encouraged the Board to carefully vet the recommendations that will come from the compensation study currently underway.

Michael Beer, parent: supporting the budget direction, encouraging the County to increase revenues allocated to the schools, and suggesting moving to a multi-year budget direction. He also recommended looking at how some facilities positions are funded, and also encouraged looking at possible efficiencies in technology.

Ms. Van Doren thanked Mr. Lander for developing this document. Ms. Violand-Sánchez confirmed this item will return for action at the Dec. 17 Board meeting.

2. Summer School Fees: (9:34 PM)

Ms. Skelton presented the proposed summer school fees, reviewing the process and considerations in setting fees, and stressed that APS continues to support families with demonstrated economic need. She then reviewed the methodology for determining fees and shared the proposed fees. She explained that, because of the cost and falling enrollment in drivers education, staff is recommending not offering the full course, but is considering a pilot program.

The Board discussed the availability of scholarship funding and encouraged that this information be communicated broadly, as many community members are not aware of this. Board members also expressed concern about the cost of some of the offerings, suggesting that this may have a negative impact on enrollment and diversity. Board members also shared concerns about the increased registration fee and how it will affect enrollment, particularly for low income families. The group recognized that importance to providing summer school opportunities, and was interested in working towards increasing options and a more vibrant summer school experience. Dr. Kanninen also suggested combining the annual summer school report with the summer school fee presentation and staff agreed with this suggestion.

H NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Van Doren shared a concern that there was no discussion of instruction at this meeting, and stated her belief this should be a top priority of the Board.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board