

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
March 9, 2017

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 7:30 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹ Prior to the meeting, the Board attended the Student Advisory Board meeting at 6 p.m. and attended a reception for APS employees for years of service.

Present were:

Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
James Lander, Member
Tannia Talento, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services
Dr. Laura Newton, Director, Student Services
Jennifer Harris, Communications Director, School and Community Relations

A. NO CLOSED MEETING

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

Ms. Van Doren paid tribute to Mr. James Smith, an APS and community volunteer.

2. Presentation of the Colors

3. Recognitions

Dr. Murphy and the School Board recognized employees for their years of service at Arlington Public Schools.

The Board took a brief recess and reconvened at 8:10 PM.

¹ Video clips of regular School Board meetings can be viewed on the APS Web site at the following link:
<https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/view-school-board-meetings/>
DVDs of all regular School Board meetings are also available for viewing in the School Board office.

4. Announcements: (8:10 PM)

Meetings:

- March 10, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting, School Board Conference Room, 8:30 AM
- March 15, 2017 Work Session on Enrollment and Transfers Policy, Room 101, 7:00 PM

Dr. Murphy reviewed the recent letter sent to the APS community reassuring them that the Board, Superintendent and staff are committed to ensuring all students are safe, respected and provided with opportunities to learn. Board members voiced their support for all students and their families, and reaffirmed their commitment to providing a nurturing and safe environment that supports learning.

Dr. Murphy congratulated students who participated in the Regional Science Fair and announced events such as the Whole Child Conference, Arts in the Schools Month, National School Breakfast Week, and the Week of Sharing Wisdom. He encouraged families to register for Summer School and Prekindergarten, and demonstrated the “Engage with APS” web page.

Mr. Goldstein appreciated the Week of Sharing Wisdom and the opportunity it provided to parents for conversation and collaboration. Dr. Kanninen recognized Wakefield High School’s Boys and Girls Basketball teams for competing in the state tournament. Ms. Van Doren recognized the scouts of Troop 647 who were in attendance, and Mr. Lander announced the Color of Leadership Conference for Boys.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:44 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Lander. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. Jan. 5, 2017 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
 - b. Jan. 9, 2017 Work Session on Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs
 - c. Jan. 14, 2017 School Board Retreat
 - d. Jan. 24, 2017 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session
 - e. Jan. 28, 2017 School Board Retreat
 - f. Feb. 17, 2107 Committee of the Whole Meeting on Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Program
 - g. Feb. 22, 2017 Closed Meeting
2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Reclassification Requests
 - Instructional Technology Coordinator
 - Communications Coordinator (Media Relations and Online Strategies)

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 7 Appointments

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 8 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:

Special Project #14 – Algebra Readiness

- 4. ACI Appointments
- 5. Receive Briefing Reports
 - a. Library Services Update

Ms. Van Doren appreciated the Library Services briefing report received by the Board as part of consent, and thanked Theresa Flynn, Library Supervisor, for her efforts.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:45 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board on behalf of the Dream Project, presenting a letter asking for support for immigrant students. Speakers appreciated the letter from the APS Board and Superintendent and thanked them for their commitment to keeping students safe. Speakers also appreciated County support for immigrants, encouraged APS to train staff and suggested mechanisms to support these families:

- Emma Violand-Sánchez*, Dream Project Board of Directors
- Laura Peralta-Schulte*, Washington-Lee parent
- Margie Clark*, Williamsburg and Yorktown parent
- Julia Paley*, Dream Project Board of Directors
- Florence Dale*, ESOL/HILT Teacher
- Ingrid Gant*, President, Arlington Education Association

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (9:08 PM)

1. APS 3-5 Year Plan Superintendent's Update

Dr. Murphy introduced the update, highlighting current initiatives and recognizing the importance of community engagement, and reviewed documents such as the Capital Improvement Plan that support the 3-5 Year Plan.

Dr. Natrass provided an update on the Drew visioning process, confirming that staff has gathered feedback that will help shape options to consider for the instructional focus at the school. She also shared information on the process to identify the focus for the new high school, confirming that an online tool is available to provide feedback. She also reviewed the project timeline and confirmed the Facilities Advisory Council will review options as they are developed.

An update on revision of the policy on enrollment and transfers was also presented. Dr. Murphy shared goals, reviewed community engagement, and outlined the process timeline. Recognizing continuing enrollment growth, Dr. Murphy also shared information about APS projections and County growth estimates. He confirmed that a consultant reviewed APS projections and confirmed that processes used are effective. APS has plans in place to provide the seats needed based on current forecasts and Dr. Murphy acknowledged that because continued growth is expected, a progressive process will be implemented to address capacity needs.

Staff responded to Board questions on development of the online survey and the data that has been gathered with this tool.

2. ESOL/HILT Update: (9:32 PM)

Sam Klein, ESOL/HILT Supervisor, presented the update, highlighting the purpose of the program and sharing information on students who receive ESOL/HILT services. He also presented data on proficiency and performance on reading and math SOLS by ELP levels. The four goals for the program were shared. These are to provide earlier access to high school content credits, to enhance literacy development at the secondary level, to focus on the whole child by supporting academic, social, and emotional development, and collaboration throughout APS to provide comprehensive supports. Mr. Klein then reviewed action steps to achieve these goals. These include sharing best practices, continued collaboration, expanding co-teaching efforts and supporting the adoption of instructional materials for English language learners.

Responding to questions, Mr. Klein confirmed that new staff are being hired with funds provided in the last budget, and he described the supports these additional staff members provide to students. The Board appreciated the strong SOL performance by ESOL/HILT students and asked about follow up for students at the higher proficiency levels whose performance seems to plateau. Mr. Klein recognized this issue and agreed to provide additional information to the Board. Noting the APS focus on literacy, Mr. Lander asked how APS can support students as they develop reading skills. Mr. Klein outlined goals and strategies being used to address this concern. Thanking the ESOL/HILT staff, Ms. Van Doren appreciated the program's focus on providing personalized learning to meet student needs.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (10:01 PM)

1. Revision of Select Student Services School Board Policies:

Dr. Wilks confirmed that there is no new information on this item.

Ms. Talento moved that the Board approve the proposed revisions to School Board Policy 25-2.1 Admission and Placement and School Board Policy 25-3 Support for Students – Wellness, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

2. Revision of Select Human Resources School Board Policies: (10:02 PM)

Dr. K. Murphy confirmed that there is no new information on this item.

Ms. Talento moved that the Board approve the proposed revisions to School Board Policy 35-4.6 Grievance Procedures and School Board Policy 35-4.9 Disciplinary Actions, seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (10:03 PM)

1. School Calendar

Dr. Murphy thanked the community for engaging in the calendar development process and confirmed that a new approach will be taken next year to better address the needs of employees and families. Recognizing that this agenda item covers both the academic calendar as well as professional learning, Dr. Murphy affirmed that he and the Board support expanding individualized professional learning opportunities and are working to implement flexibility around choices. He also highlighted three levels of professional learning and looked forward to working together to improve this aspect of planning the school year.

Dr. K. Murphy presented the proposed school calendar for 2017-18, reviewing the calendar development process and information that informed its design. Dr. Natrass then spoke to instructional priorities that affect the calendar and professional learning needs, and described the purpose, key elements and goals of high quality professional learning. She also described how staff is looking to provide flexible professional learning and she shared the timeline to implement these options. Dr. K. Murphy then reviewed the proposed calendar recommendations for 2017-18, including a brief review of professional learning planned for the preservice week in August.

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking for flexible options for professional learning, noting the challenges the current schedule presents to families, and sharing concerns about the calendar process, and the sense that input from the community was not accepted:

Josh Folb, teacher
Ingrid Gant, President, AEA

The group discussed community interest in a two-week winter break and challenges this year that eliminated that possibility. Dr. K. Murphy confirmed that future surveys will be revised to allow respondents to see more detailed options that would allow a longer winter break. Staff confirmed that the final calendar will list religious holidays so staff can avoid scheduling tests or activities on those days. Ms. Talento echoed speaker concerns about the challenges of finding childcare during the pre-service week. Mr. Goldstein reviewed previous discussions of professional learning that confirm that both Board and staff support more flexible options. He asked staff for specific information on implementing this approach. Dr. Murphy recognized these concerns and took responsibility for responding to them and moving forward with this initiative. He reiterated that the primary discussion at this time is approval of the academic calendar. Ms. Van Doren acknowledged the two components of this discussion, appreciated the passion of the Board, and confirmed that the Board's work is focused on supporting students while balancing personal, professional and system needs. She thanked staff for their work.

2. Revision of Select Finance School Board Policies: (10:56 PM)

Ms. Peterson presented the proposed changes to School Board Policy 40 Goals; School Board Policy 40-1.12 Financial Management – Services Provided to County Offices; and School Board Policy 40-5 Student Fees, Fines and Charges. She confirmed that the changes were minor wording or punctuation changes, as well as updating legal references.

Dr. Kanninen asked about a technology component to policy 40-5 to include fees for lost or damaged technology, and staff agreed to look into that issue.

3. Final Design for Wakefield High School Internal Modifications: (10:58 PM)

Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, presented the proposed internal modifications for Wakefield High School. He reviewed the timeline, process and project schedule. Architect Paul Lund of Hord Coplan Macht reviewed the final design. He explained how guiding principles for the project were developed, described strategies that will add capacity, and shared drawings of proposed changes to the school. He highlighted aspects of the project such as professional learning areas for teachers that address concerns and will support the move to a 6/7 instructional model. In closing, Mr. Lund reviewed the costs and timeline for this project.

Board members appreciated this approach to better utilizing space.

4. REMOVED FROM AGENDA

5. Change to a Fixed Fee Contract for Architecture and Engineering Services for the Discovery Elementary Project: (11:11 PM)

Mr. Burgin briefly reviewed the proposed change to the fixed fee contract for Discovery Elementary School. He explained the need for the expanded scope of this project, and summarized the original and revised costs for the contract. He then reviewed the recommendation, confirming that staff recommends using contingency funds so the total cost of the project does not increase.

Responding to questions, staff provided additional explanation about the work covered by this change and the status of that additional work.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Nancy Van Doren, Chair
Arlington School Board