

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Planning Work Session  
August 31, 2017

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, August 31, 2017, at 6:06 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.

**Present were:**

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

**Also present were:**

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services  
Lisa Stengle, Director, Planning and Evaluation  
Zach Larnard, Planner  
Sarah Johnson, Planner  
Ginger Brown, Chair, Joint Facilities Advisory Council  
Greg Greeley, Vice Chair, Joint Facilities Advisory Council  
Stacy Snyder, Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs  
John Giambalvo, Vice Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs

Opening Remarks

Dr. Kanninen called the meeting to order and explained that this work session will provide Board input on project plans for this year, and confirmed that no decisions will be made at the work session.

Dr. Murphy explained that there are thirteen projects that will begin this school year, and stated this work session will gather Board feedback and identify adjustments to be considered on proposed plans. This will focus on Fall 2017 facility processes including the Career Center, the Education Center and Reed. He then briefly reviewed background information about APS and the upcoming projects.

1. Options & Transfers Follow Up – Staff Proposal

Ms. Stengle summarized work completed to update the Options and Transfer Policy last year and noted three items identified for further review; alternate approaches to lotteries, sibling preference for secondary options, and defining “option school.” Staff is proposing that the upcoming Strategic Plan Committee review those issues as part of their process. Ms. Stengle shared the rationale for this proposal and highlighted the timeline for recommendations on the three issues.

Staff responded to Board questions and shared information about how options and transfers considerations correlate with future boundary decisions. Ms. Stengle highlighted the roles of staff and the strategic plan committee in this process. Dr. Kanninen clarified that developing the next strategic plan is one of the projects the Board will undertake this year. She also confirmed that the Board appears to support the staff proposal to move forward and gather input on transfers and options for Board consideration through the strategic plan process.

## 2. Community engagement plans for Career Center, Education Center and Reed Processes

- 2017-18 Community engagement

Ms. Stengle reviewed plans for community engagement for upcoming projects. She highlighted a special event, “Engagement Saturday”, that will kick off engagement in each of these projects.

- Building Level Planning Committees (BLPC) and Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC)

Mr. Chadwick briefly outlined the purpose, membership, and responsibilities of these two committees that support facilities development for both the Schools and the County.

- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Mr. Chadwick explained the purpose, timing and planning for the CIP process conducted every other year to develop plans to address facilities needs. He confirmed that Minor Construction/Major Maintenance is also covered by the CIP.

- Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC) and Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC)

These two committees provide input and advice to the School Board and the County on facilities needs and plans.

- SB’s June 29, 2017 motion for 1,300 high school seats

Mr. Chadwick reviewed the motion passed by the Board providing direction to explore options to add capacity at the Education Center and the Career Center. The motion also directs the Superintendent to include options for a possible fourth comprehensive high school in the upcoming CIP.

## 3. Career Center

Dr. Murphy shared a staff proposal to revisit the Career Center as a possible location for a fourth comprehensive high school. Staff also suggests having the FAC and JFAC look at possible use of the Career Center site for an additional high school and provide feedback to inform the staff recommendation to the Board. Dr. Murphy reviewed the rationale for this proposal, noting in particular the need to collaborate with the County on this site. He also reviewed considerations to be aware of such as programmatic adjustments, and shared a tentative timeline for this proposal.

Responding to questions and comments, staff provided additional information on the direction that will be given to JFAC and FAC, and confirmed it will be consistent with the Board's motion on high school seats. This process will not look at an instructional focus for a fourth high school. The group discussed the definition of comprehensive as well as how several of the current projects interrelate. Board members shared concerns about ensuring that currently planned seats are provided as approved as this new option is explored. Mr. Chadwick appreciated this concern but also noted the importance of optimizing all sites. The group recognized that the relocation of programs currently at the Career Center may need to be revisited. Also discussed were how this proposal relates to the upcoming CIP process, the importance of providing clear parameters and expectations to JFAC and FAC, and the maximum number of seats being considered for this site. Dr. Murphy agreed that any recommendation must be feasible and incorporated into the CIP, and he stated that the County is aware of this conversation. Dr. Kanninen appreciated input from the Board and thanked staff and the advisory committees, and looked forward to the feedback from JFAC and FAC.

#### 4. Education Center

Dr. Natrass reviewed the timeline for two phases of the Education Center process, the first phase is to identify an instructional focus and the second is to confirm plans for renovation. She described the planned process to identify the instructional focus and confirmed a recommendation will be brought to the Board by the Superintendent in November. This will include a pre-engagement process and community outreach. Phase two will then begin in early 2018.

The Board agreed with the proposed timeline and process.

#### 5. Reed School

Ms. Stengle stated that staff is proposing to consider Reed as a neighborhood school. She shared the rationale for this recommendation, which included lessons learned from recent school siting processes, and then outlined the proposed timeline.

The group discussed how designating Reed as a neighborhood school would affect accommodation of anticipated enrollment growth, and how it would mesh with the strategic plan focus on defining visions for option programs and K-12 alignment. Staff confirmed that there are sufficient students to fill a neighborhood school and much of the anticipated growth is in that area. Because of the location of current elementary choice programs, Ms. Stengle suggested a neighborhood school at Reed would help support the community and would reduce the need for transportation. Referencing the sample K-12 alignment model shared with the Board previously, Mr. Lander recognized that the locations of choice programs may be different when Reed is completed. Dr. Natrass agreed and confirmed that as part of their work, the strategic planning committee will look at how programs are balanced throughout the County to ensure that access and options are available to all neighborhoods. Summarizing, Dr. Kanninen confirmed the Board is supportive of moving forward with this proposal, and she reviewed the timeline for Board action on the next steps.

#### 6. Summary of feedback & timeline for Board info and action items

Staff briefly reviewed feedback received in the previous discussions.

## 7. Preview for September 12 Work Session on Middle School Boundaries

Mr. Chadwick provided a brief preview of the upcoming work session on middle school boundaries. He described the planning unit study that was conducted and shared recommendations, which were to continue using planning units to define boundaries, and to subdivide those planning units that are significantly larger than others. He also explained the numbering system that will be used for the newly created planning units. Ms. Stengle then briefly reviewed additional topics that will be discussed at the upcoming work session.

Board members provided suggestions that clarify information in the slides, and Dr. Murphy reviewed the thirteen initiatives that are underway and briefly reviewed the timeline for this work.

Board members thanked staff for all of the great work that has been done, especially for work accomplished over the summer, and appreciated the good dialog that took place at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

### **ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board