

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting  
November 2, 2017

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 6:30 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair  
James Lander, Member  
Tannia Talento, Member  
Nancy Van Doren, 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  
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations  
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning  
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management  
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. MEETING OPENING**

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors by the Arlington Career Center JROTC
3. Recognition

Kris Martini, Director, Career, Technical and Adult Education introduce students from Arlington Science Focus School, Williamsburg Middle School and Wakefield High School who shared their experiences as members of the Robotics Club.

4. Announcements

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Dr. Kanninen announced the following meetings:

- *November 7, 2017 Budget Work Session, 7 PM, Room 101 a/b*
- *November 8, 2017 Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room*

Ms. Van Doren thanked the County for installing a new stop sign and crosswalk that ensures student safety at Jefferson, and she shared information about transportation efforts in the County. She also congratulated the staff and community for the recent successful Dyslexia conference.

With end of daylight savings time, Dr. Murphy encouraged all to be careful as clocks are set back. He congratulated two APS programs that received Governor's Awards for Innovation and Excellence and announced awards received by School & Community Relations. In recognition of Veterans Day, he thanked staff who have served in the military. He also announced upcoming events including the Girls Leadership Conference.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:14 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. Goldstein, 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. August 17, 2017 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting
  - b. August 31, 2017 Planning Work Session

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

4 Appointments  
1 Change In Position/Salary  
1 Resignation

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

6 Appointments  
1 Change In Position/Salary  
1 Termination

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

8 Appointments  
4 Changes In Position/Salary  
1 Resignation  
1 Retirement

3. ACI Appointments
4. Grants and Restricted Programs:  
Special Project #9 – Project Lead the Way  
Special Project #10 – Title III, Part A-Limited English Proficient-Immigration  
Children and Youth Funds
5. Construction Contract Award for Early Work Package 2 for Fleet Elementary School

**D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:15 PM)**

The following speakers addressed the Board concerning middle school boundaries, asking for grandfathering for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and opposing some specific boundary changes being considered:

*Thomas Cynkin, Williamsburg PTA*  
*Erin Donohue, parent*  
*Dan Stern, parent*

The following speakers also addressed the Board, asking that students be allowed to transfer to Kenmore to take advantage of the Arts, Communications and Technology program:

*Julia Fanguy and Emily Boggs, students*  
*Lynda Boggs, parent*

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

*Gabriela Uro, parent:* stating concerns about social prejudices expressed against ethnic groups and referencing research that disproves claims made about these groups.

**E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:28 PM)**

1. Superintendent's 2017-18 Action Plan Update:

Dr. Murphy presented the update on the initiatives in the 2017-18 Action plan, highlighting the plan's focus and the status of projects and initiatives underway. He encouraged all to visit the website to keep up to date with these initiatives.

Dr. Nattrass provided a brief update on the acceptable use policy review. She described interim guidance that was provided to staff and students and reviewed the timeline for next steps in the process. Ms. Erdos updated the Board on the school naming policy process, which will include surveys and focus groups to gather information that will inform the policy revision. Dr. Murphy then presented next steps in the middle school boundary process, and noting that currently, middle school transfers have been put on hold while the new boundaries are determined. He affirmed that after decisions are made, APS will revisit the possibility of offering transfers and will communicate with families about what options will be available to them.

Wendy Pilch, Director, Elementary Education, briefly summarized the work being done to prepare for the Montessori move. Dr. Natrass then updated the Board on initiatives associated with operational planning, including development of the Strategic Plan, the FY 2019 budget and the AFSAP and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) framework. In closing, Dr. Murphy shared updates on the status of the Reed and Education Center processes, and reiterated that the Engage web page includes the most up to date information as well as options to provide input on these initiatives.

The group briefly discussed challenges in providing special needs students with needed apps on their devices in a timely manner. Dr. Natrass confirmed that staff is implementing a process to ensure that apps are loaded on to devices quickly. The Board recognized that with so many initiatives underway, it is important to manage communications carefully so recipients are not overwhelmed by information. Staff confirmed that messages and outreach on initiatives are being sent methodically and comprehensively. Board members thanked staff for their work. Dr. Kanninen reminded the group that the Board already acted on the decision to move the Montessori program to the Henry building, and Dr. Murphy confirmed the upcoming presentation will be to share plans for that move with the Board.

2. Professional Development Update: (7:58 PM)

Dr. Sue Sarber, Supervisor, Professional Learning, presented the update. After reviewing the purpose of professional learning, she described how staff professional learning goals are determined and training is provided. She confirmed that staff engagement in professional learning focuses on individual development, team and school improvement, and program implementation. She also outlined goals for professional learning, and shared data points about professional learning that was provided over the past several years.

Dr. Natrass reviewed recommendations from the program evaluation and action steps that have been implemented. This included providing teachers with more flexibility and expanded opportunities to participate in professional learning. The newly developed Professional Learning Framework that is focused on learning and allows staff to connect, create and innovate was then presented, and Dr. Natrass also described the four phases of understanding. In closing, she reviewed next steps and key completion dates to strengthen professional learning throughout APS.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

*Ingrid Gant*, staff member: appreciating the progress that has been made, but asking that broader opportunities be provided to all staff for professional learning, including online training from home.

Board members supported increased flexibility in training scheduling and Dr. Natrass confirmed staff is working to allow online training at home. She also confirmed that outreach is being done to staff groups to gather input. The challenge of providing staff with training in a timely manner so they can meet the needs of their incoming students in September was also discussed. Responding to questions, Dr. Sarber provided

information about implementing the system of record that is used to track professional learning, and described work to move to a new, more robust system to track professional learning required for licensure or certification as well as what has been completed. She also noted other benefits of the plans to improve the system of record. The group discussed how staff will determine the effectiveness of this initiative. Dr. Natrass confirmed it will be an ongoing process and the Board will receive regular updates as this work continues.

**F. ACTION ITEM: (8:45 PM)**

1. 2018 Internal Audit Work Plan

*Ms. Van Doren moved that the Board approve The 2018 Internal Audit Work Plan, seconded by Ms. Talento. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Lander, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.*

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:46 PM)**

1. Education Center Instructional Focus

Dr. Natrass presented this item, sharing background information and confirming the instructional focus will need to support holistic opportunities and options for high school students. This process will take into account the other projects underway and will address core criteria developed by staff. She confirmed the motion approved by the Board in June 2017 to adding high school seats has informed this work. After reviewing steps taken, Dr. Natrass stated sixteen potential options were identified. Community input was gathered and the options were analyzed based on the identified criteria. After the analysis, four options which best met the criteria were identified: expansion of Washington-Lee/IB; a STEAM focus; an Arts program; or an Early college focus. The review team next looked at logistical considerations such as the facility, transportation needs, and program specific costs. Another survey was conducted , and the option to expand Washington-Lee received the most support. Dr. Natrass then summarized what was learned and presented the recommendations. These are to move forward with the BLPC process for renovating the Education Center with a focus on building flexible space. In addition, the team recommended that APS solidify the vision for PreK-12 educational opportunities as part of the strategic planning process and define plans for the Education Center and Career Center in that vision.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

*Stacy Snyder, Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs (FAC): advocating for efficient use of space, addressing seat needs on time and on budget, and creating flexible and adaptable spaces. Recognizing anticipated growth, FAC also encourages making the most efficient and cost effective use*

of sites, and considering the impact site development will have on common spaces shared with Washington-Lee.

Responding to questions, Dr. Natrass explained how the strategic planning process will help identify the instructional focus for this facility and for all of APS. Mr. Lander appreciated the comments from the FAC. Board members thanked staff for their work, and discussed how this recommendation relates to the Board action taken on high school seats on June 29. They recognized that this is a sensible step to take to ensure that the instructional vision to be identified is reflected in the educational focus for this facility. Consistency, equity of access and sustainability were also recognized as guiding principles. The Board agreed to develop direction to staff to clarify next steps which differ from those laid out in the June 29 action. Dr. Kanninen confirmed that the Board will develop this direction to staff and will share it prior to voting on this item at the upcoming Board meeting.

2. Charge to the Career Center Working Group: (9:28 PM)

Dr. Murphy described the development of the Career Center Working Group (CCWG) that will explore the phased site development, and will be composed of both APS and County appointees. Recognizing that this initiative is related to the Education Center plans, Ms. Stengle presented the draft charge to the CCWG. Reviewing how the charge was developed, she shared a timeline for actions. She then reviewed key parameters of the charge that relate to APS, including retention of all existing programs at the site through 2022. She also shared other APS goals and noted that the County also has goals that can be found in the full document.

The group briefly discussed plans for the programs currently housed at the Career Center and whether they might move after 2022. Board members appreciate the deliberate process that is helping to guide the decisions to be made at that site. Dr. Kanninen confirmed that both the County and School Boards have worked together on the charge and work will continue as the document is refined. She also confirmed that both Boards will adopt the final document and will appoint representatives to the Working Group. In closing, she thanked Ms. Talento, who will be the School Board liaison, and Ms. Cristol who is the County Board's liaison to the working group.

**H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM.

**ATTEST:**

---

Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

---

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board