

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
January 4, 2018

Item D-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 5:02 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair (arr. 5:07 PM)
Monique O’Grady, Member
Tannia Talento, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CONVENE IN CLOSED MEETING

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider the appointment of Principal, new Montessori School at the Patrick Henry Elementary site, and to consider a personnel matter, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), and to consider a student discipline matter as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(2), seconded by Ms. Talento. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the vote.

The closed session adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Dr. Kanninen moved to certify that to the best of her knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting, and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Goldstein, and Ms. O’Grady voting affirmatively. Ms. Talento was not present at the vote.

Dr. Kanninen called for a brief recess for the Board to attend a welcome reception for new member Monique O’Grady.

The Board reconvened in an open meeting at 6:32 PM

¹ Videos 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.

Also present were:

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

B. MEETING OPENING

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Boy Scout Troop 164

Dr. Kanninen announced that due to family matters, Ms. Van Doren was unable to attend the Board meeting. She acknowledged County Board members Libby Garvey, John Vihstadt and Eric Gutshall, and on behalf of the School Board, welcomed new member Monique O’Grady. Ms. O’Grady appreciated the opportunity to serve and thanked her new colleagues on both the School and County Boards. Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Talento both welcomed Ms. O’Grady to the Board.

3. Recognitions

Tyrone Byrd, Supervisor, Secondary Education, and Director of Career, Technical and Adult Education introduced students Abby Dhakal from Arlington Tech, Megumi Thurston from Wakefield High School, Jamie Kang from H-B Woodlawn, and Alex Pascocello from Washington-Lee High School. These students shared highlights of their experiences in the many option programs available to Arlington students.

4. Announcements

Dr. Kanninen spoke of three APS community members who recently passed away and called for a moment of silence in their honor. Dr. Kanninen also announced the following meeting:

January 12, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting, 8:30 AM, Room 101

Dr. Murphy announced important dates throughout the month. He invited community members to the Career Center Open House on Saturday and the Martin Luther King, Jr. event on Jan. 15 and Kindergarten Information Night. He then updated the Board on the options and transfers process, reminded all to be safe during winter weather.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:04 PM)

Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Talento. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady,

and Ms. Talento voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. October 17, 2017 Joint School Board/County Board Work Session
 - b. November 2, 2017 School Board Meeting
 - c. December 13, 2017 Legislative Breakfast

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 5 Resignations
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 5 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 6 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 2 Retirements
- 1 Termination

3. Grants and Restricted Programs:
 - a. STEM Competition Team Grand
4. Receive Briefing Reports:
 - a. Family and Community Engagement Update
 - b. ESOL/HILT Update
5. Revised School Board Liaison Assignments for 2017-18

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, Cathy Genove was appointed Principal of the new Montessori school that will be housed at the current Patrick Henry site. She also announced that revised Board Liaison Assignments were approved. In addition, the Board received the Family and Community Engagement and the ESOL/HILT Briefing reports, and Dr. Kanninen encouraged all to review these reports to learn about APS programs.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:08 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Rob Crowe, former APS student: stating concerns about the impact of the new middle school boundaries on the diversity of Williamsburg Middle School, and encouraging the Board to try to increase diversity throughout all schools.

Michael Beer, parent, resident: proposing that all elementary schools be converted to dual immersion schools and that additional international approaches be implemented in the schools to strengthen education and the community.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:13 PM)

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

Dr. Murphy presented the update, reviewing the status and timeline for new policies and policy revisions underway, preparations for new schools and program moves, operational planning projects, and capital initiatives. He encouraged all to visit the Engage Web page on the web site for updates and engagement opportunities.

2. School and Community Relations Update: (7:18 PM)

Ms. Erdos updated the Board on the work of the Department of School and Community Relations (S&CR). She briefly reviewed the program evaluation done in 2006, and two reviews conducted in 2017, one as part of the Baldrige site visit, and the second performed by McGinn. She highlighted the staff who are part of S&CR, including communications, Print Shop and Arlington Educational TV staff. She then reviewed strengths that were identified in the evaluations. Both evaluations noted that the department has a well-deployed, integrated approach to communicating with the community and demonstrates strong responsiveness. Next, Ms. Erdos shared recommendations from the reviews and outlined efforts that are underway or being considered to implement the recommendations and strengthen communications.

The group discussed the use of PeachJar to communicate with families about events and activities. Board members appreciated the elimination of paper with this communication tool, but also expressed concerns about accessibility for those with limited access to technology. Ms. Erdos explained how staff works with families to ensure they can access messages. The group also discussed creating a staff photo directory and improving voicemail so it is more efficient and effective, as well as plans to allow APS to send emergency announcements by text. Ms. Erdos also briefly described the ambassador program established to strengthen communications in the schools and efforts to provide translation services.

3. Social Studies Annual Update: (7:55 PM)

Ms. Cathy Hix, Social Studies Supervisor, presented the update, sharing the Program's purpose and confirming that instruction is aligned with the 3C framework of College, Career and Civic Life. She shared data from 2015-17 SOL end of course assessments as well as data on specific courses such as Virginia Studies, Civics and Economics, and World History. After highlighting the increased enrollment in advanced courses, Ms. Hix shared WISE Financial Literacy enrollment and pass rates. Also reviewed were recommendations from the program evaluation and action steps taken to date to address these recommendations. In closing, Ms. Hix reviewed next steps and expected completion dates for implementing the recommendations.

Responding to questions, Ms. Hix described efforts to incorporate both diversity and local history in the curriculum. The group discussed pass rates and Ms. Hix confirmed that these rates have improved, primarily due to staff development and content support being provided to teachers. She also described work to strengthen instruction and curricular materials for students who struggle with World Geography. Board members appreciated efforts to make the curriculum engaging, and the group briefly discussed the use of alternative assessments, as well as efforts to add rigor in middle school. Also briefly discussed was how to ensure that all students have equal opportunities to visit historical sites as part of the social studies curriculum.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:30 PM)

1. Transfer of Funds from the Capital Reserve to the Stratford and Wilson Projects

Ms. Peterson explained that this transfer was included in the Capital Improvement Plan, and the funds will be used to complete the two projects. She also explained that the Wakefield project came in under budget so the unspent funds will be returned to the Capital Reserve.

2. Final Design and Construction Contract Award for full GMP for Fleet Elementary School: (8:34 PM)

Mr. Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction, reviewed the Fleet final design, noting minor changes made to the site plan that was presented at schematic design. He described the facility and reviewed the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) process and changes that have been implemented to address excess costs identified through the GMP using the value engineering approach. Throughout this process, staff has worked to minimize the impact of changes on teaching and learning, on community improvements, and on future maintenance costs. Mr. Burgin also highlighted BLPC participation in this process. Ms. Peterson then presented an update on the budget and proposed funding. She also reviewed features being funded by the joint fund, including the parking deck, accessible restrooms, Connect Arlington wiring and road repaving. In closing, Mr. Burgin reviewed the staff recommendation to approve the final design and the budget and funding and to award the contract to Whiting-Turner.

The following speaker addressed the Board:

Michael Beer, parent: supporting this project as well as the Wilson project, but stating his concern that because APS delayed decisions on the projects, the costs are higher for both.

Staff confirmed that additional information on the value engineering process will be shared with the community and reviewed the Construction Manager at-risk process. The group discussed involving the Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) in the value engineering process. Staff responded to questions about specific options considered but not included in the final design due to costs, and confirmed that some of these options will be kept as add alternates. Ms. Peterson explained where funds might be found to reinstate some of these features. Also discussed were opportunities for outdoor learning at the site. Dr. Kanninen reviewed next steps and Mr. Burgin confirmed that the Board can provide input on the alternates they would like staff to consider as the project moves forward. In closing, Dr. Murphy and Mr. Chadwick stressed the importance of keeping the project on schedule and agreed to provide a timeline to the Board for input.

3. Final Design and Construction Contract Award for full Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for New School at Wilson: (9:19 PM)

Mr. Chambers presented the proposed final design for Wilson project, reviewing the timeline and site plans for phase 1. He also confirmed that Phase 2 will require additional collaboration with the County. After describing the site plan, Mr. Chambers shared highlights of the Construction Manager at Risk process, summarized early work that has been completed, and reviewed GMP development. This project is over budget, in large part due to cost escalation. Mr. Chambers then reviewed the value engineering options that were accepted, and confirmed that no changes affected the educational program at the school. Ms. Peterson then reviewed factors that resulted in the increase costs which total about \$2.4 million. She confirmed that the staff recommendation is to add \$2.62 million to the project budget from Closeout funds, so that the instructional program can remain intact. She also outlined the proposed funding, presented items identified for joint funding, and summarized the project budget. She then shared the staff recommendations.

Mr. Chambers responded to questions, confirming that revisions to the design for the theater would benefit students, and provided additional information about site issues that contributed to the cost increase. He also provided information about the use permit process and he and Mr. Chadwick also described aspects of the project that are related to the temporary fire station at the site. The group discussed funding for future phases of the project. Board members appreciated the presentation and information and stated their support for community engagement as the process moves forward.

4. Crane Swing Agreement for Fleet Elementary School: (9:56 PM)

Mr. Chambers described this item, reviewing the terms of the agreement and confirming there are a number of adjoining properties that will be part of this agreement. He also confirmed that staff is working to minimize the impact of the placement of the crane on the neighboring properties.

Responding to questions, Mr. Chambers described possible issues that this agreement will cover.

H. NEW BUSINESS: (9:59 PM)

Ms. Talento announced that she has recuse herself from this matter.

Dr. Kanninen moved that in the matter of student appeal no. 18-01, the School Board deny the appeal and affirm the interim decision of the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 0, with Dr. Kanninen, Mr. Goldstein, and Ms. O’Grady voted affirmatively.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board