

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
May 31, 2018

Item C-1-d

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 6:02 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹ Prior to the meeting, Board members attended a reception for the 2018 APS Honored Citizens.

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair
Monique O’Grady, 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. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

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

Board members recognized the 2018 Honored Citizens, appreciating the many hours of service they have given to APS and thanking them for their work.

Jim Larson, Arlington County Commuter Services Bureau Chief, and Lois DeMeester, Executive Director of Arlington Transportation Partners recognized APS “Champion Schools” for their commitment to providing sustainable transportation options to staff and families.

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.

4. Announcements

Mr. Goldstein shared announcements of achievements and events at several schools. Dr. Kanninen spoke to the Wear Orange movement and shared information about Wear Orange events throughout the community.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Update

Dr. Murphy congratulated the Glebe Odyssey of the Mind Team for their participation at the world competition and recognized Washington-Lee Teacher Wilson Ramirez, Northern Virginia's 2018 Teacher of the Year. He announced additional events and shared important dates. He then provided a brief update of the status of the 2017-18 Action Plan initiatives.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:05 PM)

Ms. Van Doren moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Talento. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes: NONE

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes in Position/Salary
- 4 Retirements

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 2-Year Extensions of Probationary Period
- 13 Resignations
- 4 Retirements
- 1 Termination

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 3 Retirements

3. Contract Award for Architecture and Engineering Services for the Education Center Renovation

Dr. Kanninen announced that under consent the Board appointed Carmen de la Cruz-Scales and Kimberley Jackson-Davis as assistant principals at Washington-Lee High School.

D. CITIZEN COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (7:09 PM)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Jeremy Daross, student: encouraging APS to implement the “No One Eats Alone” initiative in schools to help students feel connected to their school community.

Dean Fleming, alumnus: stating that the School Boards should practice good governance and stating the Washington-Lee renaming process has ignored community input.

Alice Brennan, parent: asking the Board to be cautious when considering changes to the walk zone and transfer policy for Arlington Science Focus School.

The following speakers also addressed the Board, stating concerns about options being considered for a fourth high school at the Career Center, and asking for all amenities for the new high school. One speaker suggested considering other sites for the school:

Mark Bayer, Penrose resident

Matthew Ambrose, resident

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:21 PM)

1. Report on Superintendent’s Committee on Immigration and Refugee Concerns:

Julia Burgos, Chief of Staff, presented the report on the committee’s work and recommendations, and outlined the committee membership which includes representatives from the Dream Project and VOICE. She also described efforts to train APS staff on helping meet the needs of immigrant communities. Ms. Green, committee member, confirmed that the group will continue their work and reviewed some of the recommendations, particularly in terms of documentation. Member Dr. Emma Violand-Sánchez shared additional recommendations, particularly in terms of involving families at their children’s schools.

The following speakers addressed the Board, supporting the working group’s efforts and recommendations, and encouraging the Board to continue to support immigrant and refugee students and their families:

Jenny Ozawa, resident

Barbara Martinez, committee member

Adiba Hafiz, committee member

Michael Hall, committee member

Burke Kappler, committee member

Sylvia Obando, committee member

Janeth Valenzuela, committee member

Board members recognized the importance of this work and thanked the staff, the working group, and the community for supporting these families. The group briefly discussed APS volunteer forms and encouraged staff to be sure that families know they are welcome in the schools.

2. Minority Achievement Update: (8:10 PM)

Carolyn Clark, Supervisor, Minority Achievement, summarized the vision and mission of Minority Achievement, stressing that the program supports all historically marginalized communities. After reviewing staffing, Ms. Clark described efforts responding to the 2015 program evaluation. She shared goals to improve services and outlined programs presented in the current year. She also described community involvement and family engagement, and shared baseline data on student interactions with Minority Achievement Coordinators. In closing, she presented next steps for addressing recommendations from the program evaluation. Minority Coordinator Monica Lozano then provided a description of a parent education program that teaches families to advocate for their children.

Responding to questions, Ms. Clark and Ms. Lozano described various initiatives being undertaken by staff. Board members appreciated the efforts of the Minority Achievement Office and looked forward to this work continuing.

F. ACTION ITEMS: (8:42 PM)

1. License Agreement for Parking at Buck Property:

Mr. Jim Meikle, Director, Maintenance, described the need for the additional parking. He confirmed that this is a temporary solution and staff will continue to find a more permanent parking location for these vehicles.

The following speakers addressed the Board, appreciating staff outreach to the community but reiterating concerns about the plans for this site and the selection process, and encouraging APS to work to minimize disruption:

M. Meier, resident

Nia Bagley, Ballston-Virginia Square Civic Association

Mr. Meikle responded to questions, confirming that there will be minimal noise impact. The group discussed terms of the agreement and the process followed to bring the recommendation forward. It was noted that zoning concerns about the site are under the purview of the County and not the School Board.

Ms. Talento moved that the Board approve the proposed license agreement for parking at the Buck Property and authorize the Chair to execute the proposed Agreement, seconded by Ms. Van Doren.

Dr. Murphy confirmed that APS has asked the County about possible use of the Buck property for school or facility needs through communications with the County

Manager. He also confirmed that the Board will be notified if auto-renewal of the parking lease is considered in the future.

The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O'Grady, Ms. Talento and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

Dr. Kanninen called for a 5 minute recess at 8:59 PM.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:08 PM)

1. Change to Guaranteed Maximum Price for the New School at Wilson:

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, presented the proposed change order, needed to address a large volume of contaminated and unsuitable soils discovered at the Wilson site. He explained how this contamination was identified and confirmed that this change order is within current funding. He then summarized the revised budget and shared the staff recommendation. Responding to questions, Mr. Chambers provided additional information about how the contamination was identified and will be handled.

2. English/Language Arts (ELA) Briefing Report: (9:13 PM)

Dr. Natrass introduced Dr. Lori Silver, ELA Supervisor, who presented the update. She outlined services provided, stressing the importance of professional development. She then shared common measures of success used to collect data, and trends seen in student assessments. Highlights of areas of focus, including new curriculum, resources and interventions were also shared. After describing collaboration with other offices, Dr. Silver summarized next steps.

Dr. Silver responded to questions about variations in the SOL scores, particularly in terms of gaps, and the goals of the program and identifying success. Also briefly discussed were the use of digital devices, efforts to strengthen reading support in middle school, and the importance of personalized instruction. The Board was interested in viewing additional data and meeting the needs of individual students, and they looked forward to this work continuing.

3. Revision of School Board Policy 20-3.400 Family Life Education: (9:48 PM)

Ms. DeFranco described the proposed revisions, confirming that the changes move operational items into the Policy Implementation Procedure and align the policy with state SOLs and other requirements. She confirmed that the proposed revisions have been reviewed by the appropriate advisory groups.

4. Revision of School Board Policy 20-3.600 High School Credit at Middle School: (9:53 PM)

Tyrone Byrd, Director, Secondary Education, outlined changes being made to this policy to incorporate changes in state requirements. He explained that this change

gives students and families flexibility in managing credits towards their diploma. Mr. Byrd then responded to questions, describing options available to students and confirming that there are five courses that can be counted for high school credit.

5. Revision of School Board Policy 50-1.10 Naming of Facilities: (10:01 PM)

Ms. Erdos presented the proposed revision, initiated as part of the regular policy review process to facilitate the naming of new schools. After reviewing current policy, she described community interest in school naming. She then outlined Board direction to staff concerning the naming policy and described the process to solicit input on the policy. This included surveys, focus groups and establishment of a staff committee to develop criteria for the naming policy and to review current school names. The committee also reviewed naming criteria developed by Yale University. Ms. Erdos described the criteria, which focus on names of individuals, geographical names or names based on other considerations. The committee applied these criteria to all APS schools, and determined that the Washington-Lee name does not meet the criteria. In closing, Ms. Erdos described next steps.

The following speakers addressed the Board, opposing changing the name of Washington-Lee High School, noting that there is support in the community for keeping the name, and stating concerns about the costs of making such a change:

Betsy Lockman, APS Alumna

David Miller, APS Alumnus

Lynne Lilly, APS Alumna

Tom Hafer, APS Alumnus

Board members thanked Ms. Erdos and staff for their work on the proposed criteria and policy revisions. Mr. Goldstein suggested postponing the decisions to allow time for more input and to consider the best way to move forward. Ms. Talento noted the need to move forward to select names for new schools, and agreed timing of a name change for Washington-Lee could be adjusted. Dr. Kanninen summarized the Board's decision to review this policy and described the careful, deliberative process undertaken. She appreciated staff efforts to provide a clear and rational policy proposal. In closing, she summarized next steps before the Board.

I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board