



**Barbara Kanninen**  
**School Board Organizational Meeting – July 2, 2018**

Good afternoon.

First, let me congratulate and thank Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Talento on their new leadership roles. I'm looking forward to working with you both. You have earned these new positions by being hard working, ethical, and always focused on what matters most: our students and classroom learning. I'm sure we're going to have a busy, challenging, and ultimately, productive and successful year. Thank you for your leadership.

Thank you to all of my School Board colleagues for putting your trust and confidence in me over the course of this past year. I have been truly honored to serve as Chair of this Board and hope that I have done this institution proud.

Many thanks to the superintendent, our executive leadership team, and to all the school leaders, teachers, and staff in our system. You are all committed professionals, who bring your "A games" to APS every day.

Special thanks to our clerk, Melanie Elliott and her staff: Claudia Mercado and Julieanne Jones. Thank you for supporting me, as Chair, and the entire School Board in so many ways this past year.

Thank you to everyone in our audience today and to the community at large.  
Special shout-out to our County Board colleagues and other elected officials here today.

Thank you all for a great year.

As we head into the summer and, before we know it, the new school year, I look forward to working with all of you – especially, with our new leadership team -- as we go forward and strive to implement our newly defined mission:

- To ensure all students learn and thrive in safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments

As we strive to achieve our newly defined vision:

- To be an inclusive community that empowers all students to foster their dreams, explore possibilities, and create their futures

And, as we always bear in mind our newly defined core values:

- Excellence, Equity, Inclusivity, Integrity, Collaboration, Innovation, and Stewardship.

There is much to be excited about and much still to do. I continue to be energized and optimistic and I am looking forward to collaborating, positively and constructively, with this team and our full community. Together, we will make Arlington Public Schools the best they can be. Thank you.

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