

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Meeting with Advisory Council Leadership and Budget Work Session #4
March 15, 2018

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 6:34 PM at 1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair (arr. 6:38 PM)
Monique O’Grady, Member
Tannia Talento, Member (arr. 6:36 PM)
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 & Community Relations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Terance Proctor, Director, Technology Services
Girish Rajput, Director, Enterprise Solutions
Matt Smith, Coordinator, Special Projects
Jorge Velasquez, Budget Analyst

Advisory Council Leadership

Matt de Ferranti, Chair, Budget Advisory Council
Cecilia Ciepiela-Kaelin, Vice Chair, Budget Advisory Council
Tina Kuklenski-Miller, Advisory Council on Instruction Co-Chair
Meredith Purple, Advisory Council on Instruction Co-Chair
Stacy Snyder, Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs
John Giambalvo, Vice Chair, Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs

Meeting with Advisory Council Leadership

Dr. Kanninen welcomed advisory group leaders to the work session to participate in the discussion of the Proposed FY 2019 Budget, and invited the Chairs to share feedback from the Councils.

Mr. de Ferranti provided feedback from the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), confirming their support for specific proposed efficiencies. He also shared other topics discussed by the BAC, such as

MC/MM funding, class size and FLES, and other efficiencies and reductions being considered. After sharing feedback on proposed budget enhancements, he confirmed the BAC will continue to consider the proposed budget and will submit additional comments in writing.

Noting that the full ACI had not yet discussed the proposed budget, Ms. Kuklenski-Miller shared the ACI leadership's feedback on aspects of the proposed budget. She confirmed their support of efforts to look for efficiencies, and stated they believe that any change to class size should be equitable throughout the schools. Ms. Kuklenski-Miller also shared comments on dual certification, staff compensation, and communications between programs. Board members invited the ACI to provide more feedback on the Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) program.

Ms. Snyder provided input from the FAC, encouraging the Board to consider how increasing class size would impact facilities, particularly common spaces. The FAC also suggested the Board consider how changes to FLES would affect capacity. Mr. Giambalvo shared concerns about using one-time funds for Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) and asked that the Board use this approach judiciously. Ms. Snyder also noted the importance of considering the cost of parking at new and renovated facilities.

The advisory leaders responded to Board questions on debt capacity and project planning, staffing, compensation and professional development, and Transportation Demand Management. The group briefly discussed how the proposed budget affects inclusion programs, as well as discussing possible budget add-ins. The Board appreciated collaboration between the advisory groups and discussed strengthening these efforts. Board members thanked the groups for their feedback and their work. Dr. Kanninen encouraged the community to follow the budget process using the Engage Web Page.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:40 PM and reconvened at 7:45 PM.

Mr. Adusumilli presented the Information Services Department overview, sharing the Department's mission, vision, and key areas of focus. He also provided information about staffing and the departmental budget. After sharing customer satisfaction data, he highlighted growth initiatives and proposed reductions. He reviewed changes in service delivery that minimize costs while still maintaining needed support. Information about student instructional devices was also presented, including breakage costs and the implementation of shared devices.

Board members asked for more detailed information about the cost per device and staff technology costs. The group was also interested in alternative forms of technology that might be used in the classroom. Staff responded to questions about repair of devices in terms of cost and time to complete repairs, as well as the service provided by the Information Services Department. Mr. Adusumilli clarified that this service includes assistance to staff for issues with hardware, software and access to applications. The group briefly discussed options that might be used to charge for repair of devices. Staff also shared information on the purchase process for software and hardware, including information about the buy-back program.

Dr. Natrass then described the instructional focus of the use of digital devices, reviewing how technology is used to support authentic and engaging learning experiences. She briefly reviewed the Virginia Technology plan and how it relates to instruction, as well as summarizing classroom resources that support learning. She explained the industry's move away from textbooks and to

electronic resources, and she confirmed the focus on open educational resources that can be easily accessed and easily shared. These resources have been used by APS to develop specific curriculum lessons. Dr. Natrass noted that if APS chooses to move away from devices, there will be a cost impact as more classroom materials will need to be purchased. She also described how using devices allows more flexibility in meeting individual student needs.

Dr. Natrass responded to questions, clarifying how digital media can be used in the classroom and she agreed to provide more information on costs. The group briefly discussed how to measure the impact of devices on student learning, and considered the impact on instruction if there are reductions or changes in delivery of services. Mr. Adusumilli also discussed challenges with ensuring safety and security on devices being used.

Ms. Peterson then presented information on the funding and purchase of technology for students and staff. She explained how devices are purchased, described the lease payment process, and confirmed that by using this process, APS will have full funding of the replacement cycle by year 4. She also explained how moving to a 2:1 shared model in Grade 2 would affect the budget. Responding to questions she explained how changing the number of devices purchased would affect funding as well as program needs, and she agreed to bring more detailed information back to the Board illustrating the changes to costs. Responding to Board questions and comments, Dr. Natrass and Mr. Adusumilli also spoke to the impact that fewer devices could have on classroom instruction and on student assessment.

Ms. Peterson then spoke to savings that would be achieved by moving to a 2:1 shared model program in grades 2 through 4. The group discussed the importance of having keyboards for students and how devices currently in use were selected. Board members shared thoughts for future discussions, including how to ensure that the best devices are being used, that teachers are trained, and that parents are informed and understand how these devices are supporting instruction.

The Board appreciated the presentation and work of staff. Dr. Kanninen then reviewed the budget adjustments the Board will continue to consider as the budget process moves forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board