

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Joint School Board/County Board Retreat  
May 5, 2018

**Item C-1-c**

The Arlington School Board convened on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 9:15 AM at 3939 Campbell Avenue, Arlington, VA.

**Present were:**

**School Board**

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Monique O'Grady, Member  
Tannia Talento, Member  
Nancy Van Doren, Member  
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent

**County Board**

Katie Cristol, Chairman  
Christian Dorsey, Vice Chair  
Libby Garvey, Member  
Eric Gutshall, Member  
John Vihstadt, Member  
Mark Schwartz, County Manager  
Tina Peters, Acting Clerk

**Also present were:**

Members of the School Board Executive Leadership Team  
Members of the County Board Executive Leadership Team

Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees, who introduced themselves. Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Goldstein then provided an overview of the agenda for the retreat.

**Exploring Opportunities for Joint Collaboration**

The first topic discussed was exploring opportunities for the two Boards to collaborate. The group reviewed past collaboration and then identified challenges facing the County. Small group discussions were held on potential opportunities for coordination. The group then reconvened and shared their discussions to identify common themes for reflection.

**A Six Step Public Engagement Guide for Capital Projects**

Bryna Helfer, County Director of Communications and Public Engagement, provided an overview of the Arlington County Government (ACG) Public Engagement guide, highlighting potential areas for enhancing coordination between Arlington Public Schools (APS) and ACG. Attendees then discussed topics such as identifying and connecting with stakeholders, applying a communications framework, the importance of early and frequent communication, and data analysis.

**Building Strategic Vision and Plans in Arlington**

APS Executive Director of Planning and Evaluation Lisa Stengle, and Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, described approaches and strategies used by APS to engage the broader community in developing and implementing a strategic plan. A

discussion was then held that focused on the benefits of a strategic plan, the pros and cons of having separate and/or joint strategic plans; and what, if any considerations should be given for advancing future plans.

### **Legacy of Residential Segregation in Arlington**

Consultant Marty Swaim then provided an overview of residential segregation in Arlington and guided a conversation on how this legacy impacts equity in delivering public education and municipal services.

The group took a recess for lunch from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

### **Small Group Discussions: Our Norms, Practices and Policymaking Environment**

The Boards and staff members then held small group discussions on a number of topics. Topics included laws and restrictions that challenge the Boards' ability to accomplish work, how policies are created and adopted, and what norms or practices work when addressing difficult challenges. After these discussions, highlights of the conversations were shared with the full group.

### **Defining our Core Values**

The two Boards and staff members then considered the following five core values: Diversity, Accountability, Sustainability, Collaboration, and Affordability. Participants responded to questions related to these core values. The full group then shared key points identified in response to these questions, and discussed how to continue to work together in support of these values.

### **Taking it Forward**

Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Dorsey then shared highlights of the day's work and participants identified actions they will take to advance the work of the group.

The meeting adjourned 3:00 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board