

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Joint School Board/County Board Work Session  
April 17, 2018

**Item C-1-a**

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, April 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA.

**Present were:**

**School Board**

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Monique O'Grady, Member  
Tannia Talento, Member  
Nancy Van Doren, Member

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**County Board**

Katie Cristol, Chairman  
Christian Dorsey, Vice Chair (*by phone*)  
Libby Garvey, Member  
Eric Gutshall, Member  
John Vihstadt, Member  
Mark Schwartz, County Manager  
Hope Halleck, Clerk

**Also present were:**

John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning  
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation  
David Blorstad, Finance Director  
Kathleen McSweeney, Chair, Career Center Working Group

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

Ms. Cristol called the meeting to order and announced that Mr. Dorsey would participate by phone. She thanked the Career Center Working Group (CCWG) for attending to provide an update, and confirmed that no action will be taken by the Boards at this meeting. Dr. Kanninen stated that Mr. Goldstein was unable to attend the work session and thanked Ms. McSweeney, CCWG members, and Board liaisons Ms. Cristol and Ms. Talento for their efforts. She noted this discussion will inform development of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

**Career Center Working Group Update**

Ms. McSweeney introduced CCWG members and described the committee makeup, purpose, and process. She reviewed the Career Center site and noted that the committee participated in information gathering and data presentations, and received public comment. The CCWG focused on aspects of the site such as building height, density, accessibility, and cost/economy.

Mr. Schwartz summarized the County's adopted 2016-2025 CIP, noting it includes \$136.7 million for high school seats. He reviewed the timing of the next CIP, provided an update on anticipated revenues, and explained funding pressures the County will face with the CIP.

**Considerations and questions**

Ms. Sweeney then presented several considerations for Board discussion. The CCWG asked that the Boards actively engage owners of nearby properties and explore options for acquiring land.

Board members agreed that pursuing this recommendation was appropriate, and suggested additional mechanisms to expand the site such as leasing nearby properties.

Betty Siegel presented feedback from the CCWG Library subcommittee. This group supports a walkable, visible location with nearby parking, preferably near the current site. Sharing a facility with other departments or programs was also suggested. CCWG member Kristi Sawaert spoke in support of an onsite aquatics facility, noting the importance of aquatics instruction, challenges with busing students, and opportunities a pool would provide to the community. Ms. McSweeney stated the CCWG's interest in an articulated plan to expand CTE opportunities for students, and asked for feedback on how phased development would affect programs at the site.

Board members discussed approaches to providing a flexible educational program at the site. Mr. Chadwick described how phasing has been used during construction of other schools, allowing programs to continue on-site. Also discussed were challenges and costs of phasing. School Board members acknowledged community concerns about amenities and confirmed the importance of providing equitable opportunities to all students.

The CCWG charge includes retaining all existing programs at the site through 2022. The group discussed the possibility of moving Montessori after 2022 and how that would affect elementary capacity. Also discussed was adding a field at this site, funding restraints, and the increasing need for athletic facilities for school programs and community activities. The CCWG confirmed they are assessing parking at the site, and asked if the site should be considered for a fourth high school. School Board members asked for feedback from the group on this option, and both Boards encouraged optimizing the site. Dr. Kanninen noted the upcoming CIP will inform the group's work, and she encouraged the CCWG to look at all possibilities.

### **Closing Remarks**

Both Boards thanked Ms. McSweeney and the committee, and encouraged them to continue to look for creative ways to maximize site use and minimize the impact and costs. School Board members confirmed their commitment to adding needed seats, and recognized challenges to using the site within available funding. The Boards looked forward to the CCWG's final recommendations. In closing, Dr. Kanninen appreciated Ms. McSweeney for her leadership, and thanked the committee, staff and community for their efforts and engagement. She emphasized that in spite of constraints, the Boards are committed to working together on this project.

The meeting adjourned 8:53 PM.

### **ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington School Board