

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on the FY 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan
May 22, 2018

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Monday, May 22, 2018, at 7:02 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair
Monique O’Grady, Member (arr. 7:03 PM)
Tannia Talento, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Tameka Lovett-Miller, Budget Director
Robert Ruiz, Principal Planner

After welcoming attendees and Board and staff introductions, Dr. Kanninen briefly reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan development process and timeline.

Mr. Ruiz outlined the CIP process schedule and summarized the information being provided to the community. After reviewing all CIP scenarios that have been presented, Ms. Peterson described Scenario B1, which incorporates feedback from the Board, highlighting its impact on costs and debt service. Mr. Ruiz explained how Scenario B1 affects projections and the balance between enrollment and seats at each level. Summarizing all of the CIP scenarios, Ms. Peterson confirmed that only the Superintendent’s proposed CIP stays within the desired debt service ratio. She also explained how the Career Center would be affected by each scenario.

Dr. Murphy provided background on the CIP process, acknowledged the Career Center Working Group, and recognized interest in accelerating the plan for high school seats at the Career Center. After noting how this acceleration would affect the CIP, he confirmed that contingency funds have been used to partly finance some projects. Looking forward, he recognized the importance of community engagement and in focusing on the 2018 bond referendum.

Staff responded to questions about funding and the debt service ratio. Ms. Peterson confirmed that although the CIP identifies bond funding for specific projects, if needs change APS can use that funding for any capital school project.

The group discussed the timing of additional seats at the Career Center, and staff confirmed that the recommendation is to add seats in fall of 2025 is based on bond capacity and projections. The need for relocatables at the high schools with the different scenarios was considered, and it was noted that

other options can also be used to balance enrollment. Also discussed was space for relocatables at schools and moving them to other sites when possible. Ms. Peterson confirmed that 2016 Bond funds were approved for 1300 secondary seats. With additional secondary seats planned at the Education Center and Career Center, the Board briefly discussed how each of these projects would affect the debt service ratio and funding for other projects in this and future CIPs.

Acknowledging seat needs and constraints faced by APS, Dr. Kanninen reminded the group of the mission of APS to provide every student access to high quality programs. She then identified the topics for further consideration, including near term projects (Reed and the Education Center), the Career Center, longer term elementary and middle school projects, and tools to develop a more aggressive plan to add capacity.

Board members discussed the Reed and the Education Center projects, acknowledging concerns about cost escalation, especially with multiple projects underway. The consensus was support for these projects. Board members stressed the importance of maximizing the number of seats provided with every project, and providing seats quickly and efficiently. Additional topics considered were long term plans for the Education Center and whether all high schools should be of a similar size.

Options for a high school at the Career Center were discussed, including the size and type of school, whether it should be a phased project, and the impact on elementary seats at the site. Also considered was enrollment at option schools and the need for an additional comprehensive high school. Board members shared their thoughts on features, including field space, that should be considered for the Career Center site and whether the same features should be available at every high school. It was noted that each high school provides different opportunities to students.

The group discussed plans for elementary and middle school seats, and there was interest in exploring various approaches, such as leasing and refurbishing office space or purchasing property. Board members encouraged working with the County to identify potential locations and funding mechanisms for future schools. Dr. Kanninen reviewed recent use of reserves and noted that the CIP is flexible since it is revised every two years. Ms. Peterson confirmed that the target debt limit of 10% is not required. The Board then discussed the upcoming Joint Work Session.

Dr. Kanninen and Dr. Murphy thanked the staff for their work and the Board for their feedback.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board