

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Work Session on Elementary Boundaries  
October 10, 2018

**Item C-1-a**

The Arlington School Board convened on Wednesday October 10, 2018, at 7:01 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

**Present were:**

Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair  
Barbara Kanninen, Member  
Monique O’Grady, Member  
Nancy Van Doren, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation  
Wendy Pilch, Interim Director, Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
Kristin Haldeman, Director, Multimodal Transportation Planning  
Robert Ruiz, Principal Planner  
Gladis Bourdouane, Integrated Project Planner  
Zach Larnard, Integrated Project Planner

Mr. Goldstein called the work session to order and welcomed attendees. Dr. Murphy briefly reviewed the elementary boundary process.

Ms. Stengle reviewed conditions that led to the decision to change elementary boundaries and shared the goals of the process. She described the schools in the current boundary process, as well as schools that will be in a second boundary process in 2020. Abingdon, Barcroft, and Long Branch Elementary Schools will be part of both processes, and Ms. Stengle explained why each of these schools is being considered twice. After outlining the development of boundary proposals, she described factors that informed the overall approach. This included consideration of planning unit data, demographics, enrollment estimates, option school attendance, pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) classes, and expanded walk zones. Ms. Stengle then summarized community engagement and confirmed the process is focused on what is best for all students.

Staff responded to questions and provided clarifying information on how option school data was developed, how projections were done, and how the location of option schools and pre-K classes may affect enrollment projections. The group further discussed how projections were calculated and how they may need to be adjusted as more information becomes available and the two boundary processes move forward.

Next, Ms. Stengle described development of the initial boundary proposal. The impact on each school was evaluated against the policy considerations of proximity, efficiency, alignment, contiguity, and stability. She also shared the grandfathering recommendation that was proposed by staff. Additional information was provided on how the data and projections for the proposal

were developed and refined. Community input was shared, including input received on planning unit data and feedback on the policy considerations, as well as on other issues. Ms. Stengle confirmed that most of the feedback received on the grandfathering proposal was positive.

The recent extensive renovation of Abingdon and whether that should be considered when looking at boundaries was briefly discussed. Also discussed were the expanded walk zones, how they were developed, and factors that affect all walk zones. Staff also described how new home construction was factored into projections.

Ms. Stengle then shared scenarios being considered for incorporation into the boundary proposal and asked for Board feedback on various options, especially in terms of demographics, alignment, contiguity, and proximity. She confirmed that staff is also seeking clarity on changes that affect schools that will be part of the next boundary process.

In terms of alignment, the group discussed the variation in the number of students in different planning units, and what the minimum number of students is that should be moved together to a different school. Also discussed was how to manage parkland, major roads, or other features that affect contiguity. In addition, the group considered how transportation is affected by contiguity and how to balance efficiency with proximity. Ms. Haldeman described transportation options for families and several factors, such as variation in walk zones and safety, that affect transportation.

The Board discussed diversity and equity in this process, including how to avoid disparity in the Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) percentages between the schools in the process. The Board agreed that diversity is an asset, and the general preference is to have all schools at similar FRL levels. They encouraged staff to look closely at balancing FRL numbers, but also recognized the need to balance all policy considerations and to keep communities together as much as possible. The Board encouraged creativity in looking at this consideration as this process continues.

Mr. Goldstein appreciated the work that has gone into this process, and he reaffirmed that this is the next step in the capacity expansion plan that APS has been working on for years. He confirmed that these will all be great schools and amenities that will benefit the full community. Ms. Stengle then briefly summarized next steps and Dr. Murphy thanked the staff and the Board for their work.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

#### ATTEST:

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Arlington School Board