

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Work Session on Special Education  
January 16, 2019

**Item C-1-c**

The Arlington School Board convened on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:03 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

**Present were:**

Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Tannia Talento, Vice Chair  
Barbara Kanninen, Member (participated via electronically from home in Arlington, VA)  
Monique O’Grady, Member  
Nancy Van Doren, Member  
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

**Also present were:**

Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services  
Tyrone Byrd, Director, Secondary Education  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Nadia Facey, Vice-Chair, Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC)  
Paul Jamelske, Director, Special Education  
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Dr. Tara Natrass, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning  
Wendy Pilch, Director, Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
Wendy Pizer, Chair, Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC)  
Sarah Putman, Director, Teaching and Learning  
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation  
Regina Van Horne, Assistant Director, Planning & Evaluation  
Erin Wales-Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Dr. Natrass began the Work Session on Special Education by highlighting the agenda which included an overview of Special Education, the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) annual report, and the Program Evaluation of Services for Students with Special Needs. She also provided information about the three different rotation groups structured to give Board members a better understanding of Special Education. Dr. Natrass and Mr. Jamelske shared about the Strategic Plan performance objectives and correlation to Special Education student success.

On behalf of ASEAC, Ms. Facey thanked staff for their work in partnership with the committee. Ms. Pizer recommended areas of attention for the school system such as greater accountability, including special education performance in principal evaluations, creating a manual for special education, increased professional development, required special education competency, and improving parent communication.

Next, Board members participated in three different rotation groups and staff provided the following summary:

Process for Student Support – Ms. Pilch shared that the group talked about establishing consistency in implementation and creating a family-friendly manual.

Professional Development – Ms. Putnam shared that the group spoke about requirements for special education staff and other staff.

Accountability and Communication – Mr. Byrd shared that the group spoke about providing consistent resources and providing the same level of training across the school system.

Lastly, Ms. Van Horne presented an update on the evaluation of APS Services for Students with Special Needs and summarized the work that has taken place such as site visits, classroom observation, staff and parent feedback, and data analysis. In addition, she shared upcoming action steps through December 2019 and the intended goals for the evaluation.

To conclude, the Board thanked staff for their work leading up to the Work Session and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to listen to different perspectives, areas of expertise and input. The Board also thanked ASEAC for their feedback and continued commitment to the special education community.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.

## **ATTEST:**

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Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Reid Goldstein, Chair  
Arlington School Board