

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Joint School Board/County Board Work Session
April 8, 2016

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Friday, April 8, 2016, at 9:32 AM at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA.

Present were:

School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Reid Goldstein, Member
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

County Board

Libby Garvey, Chairman
Jay Fisette, Vice Chair
Katie Cristol, Member
Christian Dorsey, Member
John Vihstadt, Member
Mark Schwartz, County Manager
Hope Halleck, Clerk

Also present were:

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Linda Erdos, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Deirdra McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Dr. Kristi Murphy, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Connie Skelton, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Dr. Brenda Wilks, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and Special Education

Opening Remarks

Ms. Garvey called the meeting to order, and she and Dr. Violand-Sánchez welcomed participants and visitors.

1. **Arlington Public Schools Proposed FY 2017 Budget**

Dr. Violand-Sánchez presented the School Board's proposed FY 2017 budget, confirming that it supports Board strategic goals and priorities. She identified specific needs that will be addressed, outlined prior reductions implemented to manage costs, and highlighted strategic use of reserves. She then summarized enrollment growth and cost per pupil, and outlined the basic requirements of APS. Additional detail was provided on compensation, investments in infrastructure and other areas of focus. In closing, she reviewed next steps in the budget process and looked forward to continued collaboration with the County.

School Board members responded to questions on past reductions, staffing changes, and use of online materials. Recognizing the challenges of growing enrollment, the group discussed options to add capacity being used or considered, such as maximizing current

space, renovations/additions, alternative schedules and program modifications. The Boards are collaborating to determine if there is space in County facilities for school use. The group also briefly discussed results of the APS Internal Auditor's work. The School Board has reviewed functions to identify efficiencies or savings, and agreed to continue sharing audit results with the County. School Board members and staff spoke to the enrollment verification process, noting the importance of investigating concerns carefully and sensitively, and confirmed a significant number of non-residents have been withdrawn.

Responding to questions, School Board members spoke to compensation, particularly for staff at the top of the pay scales. Also discussed was use of lapse and turnover funds for a compensation reserve. The School Board plans to complete a compensation study and will look to restructure pay scales to minimize impact of increases on future budgets. Also discussed was the budget gap between the Manager's and the School Board's proposed budgets, and how gaps were addressed in past budgets. County Board members recognized the challenges of a gap, but also recognized APS has worked hard to use funds efficiently and conservatively to address increasing needs. Dr. Violand-Sánchez summarized items in the proposed budget that add costs, stressing that many of these will support future efficiencies. It was confirmed that this budget was framed by continuing growth.

Dr. Kanninen recognized County Board concerns about use of one-time funds to address the budget gap, and highlighted focuses of the budget; compensation, instruction, and the cost of growth. Mr. Schwartz briefly spoke to the status of the County Budget and whether additional funds might be available to address the gap. In closing, Ms. Garvey appreciated the discussion, highlighted the strong work being done by both Boards to address needs while minimizing costs, and looked forward to continued collaboration.

2. Community Facilities Study (CFS)

Ms. Garvey introduced John Milliken and Ginger Brown, co-chairs of the Community Facilities Study Committee. Mr. Schwartz briefly reviewed the CFS process and the stated the presentation focuses on recommendations 17 (create a formal, strategic planning committee, an integrated staff team, and a joint advisory committee) and 18 (implement the proposed Facility Siting Process). Monthly joint meetings are held by the County and Schools leadership, as well as monthly meetings of the Superintendent and County Manager, and Mr. Schwartz commented that staff believes these meet the second and third items in recommendation 17. Staff is considering the role and purpose of a joint advisory committee. Dr. Murphy noted the need to consider facilities processes already in place, and looked forward to collaborating with the County Manager to refine these processes and incorporate the CFS recommendations. He described the APS Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan, which informs development of capital plans, and suggested a similar document to facilitate the proposed process. In terms of recommendation 18, both staffs are piloting processes that consider properties for specific identified needs. Examples are Lubber Run and the APS South Arlington Working Group. Mr. Schwartz and Dr. Murphy described these processes in more detail. Reiterating that these are preliminary responses, Mr. Schwartz summarized next steps staff will take to respond to the study.

The Boards discussed the pilot processes underway, and staff shared detailed information about possible uses for potential sites throughout the county. The group recognized the challenge of assessing a site without knowing the needs to be addressed, and also discussed how a more comprehensive look at all possible sites might better inform decisions about specific locations. Acknowledging this challenge, Mr. Schwartz confirmed that County staff look at all possible uses for sites. Both Boards recognized that this is a preliminary discussion and a new approach, and suggested a work session be held to strengthen Board understanding and further develop this approach to land use. The Boards also confirmed the importance of collaborating, as amenities at many sites are shared, and acknowledged that each site will present unique aspects and focus on diverse needs. Aspects of several specific sites already being considered by the County were reviewed.

Board members recognized the importance of civic engagement as site development is considered, and the group discussed whether a new facilities advisory committee is needed, or if existing groups could fill that role. Also discussed was the suggestion that the current leadership meetings could serve in this process, and there were mixed feelings as to whether this will provide the guidance needed. It was agreed the Boards should continue to consider these suggestions and discussion, and a work session was suggested to provide additional opportunity to discuss next steps.

In closing, Ms. Garvey and Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked all participants.

The meeting adjourned 12:04 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair
Arlington School Board