

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Joint School Board/County Board Work Session on the Capital Improvement Plan  
May 24, 2016

**Item C-1-b**

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at 6:04 PM at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201.

**Present were:**

**School Board**

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

**County Board**

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

Also present were:

John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations  
Deirdra McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management  
Leslie Peterson, Director, Budget  
Jennifer Harris, Director of Communications  
Zachary Larnard, Facilities Planner, Arlington Public Schools  
Ben Burgin, Assistant Director, Design and Construction  
Lionel White, Facilities Planner  
Michelle Cowan, Assistant County Manager

1. Opening Remarks

Ms. Garvey called the meeting to order and welcomed participants and visitors to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) work session.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez

2. Arlington Public Schools Proposed FY 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Dr. Murphy provided a brief overview of the presentation, speaking to seat deficits and appreciating staff for developing the plan. After reviewing projected enrollment growth over the next 10 years, Mr. Chadwick shared information on projections of elementary, middle and high school seat deficits. He then presented an overview of recently completed and current capital projects. Projects are complete at Ashlawn, Discovery, Jefferson and Washington-Lee, and projects underway include McKinley, Abingdon and a new elementary school at Jefferson. Committed projects are the middle school at the Stratford site and a new facility at Wilson, and Mr. Chadwick reviewed bond funding identified for these. Several projects are being funded with reserves, including work at the Career Center/Fenwick building and other schools.

Mr. Chadwick then described capital projects in the proposed CIP. He confirmed the most critical need is for high school capacity, and APS is looking at expansion at the Career Center/Fenwick site and possible use of the Education Center location to meet this need. Elementary seats at Reed and another location to be determined are also proposed. Ms. Peterson provided an overview of costs for the proposed CIP. She also outlined the items and costs that will be included in the 2016 Bond if this CIP is approved, as well as reviewing costs for future bonds. Summarizing this information, she outlined bond funding by project and presented the debt service ratios over the 10 years of the CIP, confirming that they remain under the goal of 10%.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez reiterated School Board support for the recommendations from the community facilities study, and spoke to County sites that the Schools are interested in considering for additional capacity. She then summarized the timeline for adopting the CIP.

### 3. Arlington County Proposed FY 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Acknowledging recent collaboration on the Fenwick building, Mr. Schwartz introduced the County's presentation. Ms. Cowan presented the proposed CIP, highlighting areas of focus such as transportation, government facilities, parks, technology and water/sewer infrastructure. She confirmed that this CIP was informed by recently completed and ongoing planning processes, and described components of the proposed CIP framework. She then reviewed needs and initiatives. Items included in the 2016 Bond were reviewed, as well as the financial and debt impact of these items. She also reviewed the County's debt policy compliance guidelines. In closing, she summarized what has changed since the last CIP on the County side, and reviewed the CIP timeline.

### 4. Discussion

The group discussed the proposed CIPs, recognizing that they have a two-year cycle, so plans are adjusted and revised as needed. County Board members appreciated efforts by the Schools to redesign facilities to better use space, as well as to use reserves to add capacity. The group briefly discussed how the proposed APS CIP will affect the programs Reed, and both entities were interested in options for a child care facility and agreed that collaborating to explore this would be helpful. Some County Board members agreed with the importance of the Children's School/Integration Station collaborative program, and Dr. Violand-Sánchez confirmed the School Board's plans to maintain the program.

The Boards discussed alternative approaches to adding high school capacity, such as distance learning and alternative schedules, which can be more cost effective and may improve learning. School Board members described efforts underway to provide more flexible learning opportunities, and referenced changing graduation requirements which will allow more flexibility in the future, at the same time teaching students how to apply knowledge learned as they transition into work or college. County Board members were interested in use of leased space, and Dr. Murphy confirmed APS is exploring this approach. It was recognized that leasing space does increase operating costs. The Boards

also recognized private properties in the County that are being considered for various needs, and Mr. Schwartz confirmed that some negotiations are underway.

Also discussed was the impact of residential growth in the County on school enrollment, and the group agreed this is an area for ongoing communication and collaboration. Mr. Fisette noted County studies, including the recent Community Facilities Study, which will help inform decisions. Mr. Chadwick also reviewed practices in place to closely examine housing throughout the County to strengthen enrollment projections, and he confirmed that APS staff work closely with their County counterparts when looking at growth. Mr. Lander pointed out the need to be cognizant of growth patterns that impact education, noting that growth is uneven across the county.

Briefly discussed were County owned sites that may be considered for use by APS, and Mr. Schwartz confirmed that schools will be considered as studies are being done. School Board members recognized that the proposed CIP includes unknowns, such as locations for future capacity. Field space was also recognized as an area for collaboration, and it was suggested that the current revenue sharing model should be reviewed. The Boards recognized concerns about managing debt capacity and how that affects both CIPs. County staff responded to questions about funding previously identified for a street car, and Ms. Cowan confirmed that those funds were 100% restricted to transportation so had no impact on debt capacity. In terms of transportation, Ms. Van Dorn and Mr. Fisette have committed to work together on alternatives.

#### Facilities Study/planning discussion

The Board briefly discussed next steps in terms of the Community Facilities Study. Mr. Schwartz noted County planning processes underway, and suggested that the Buck property may be a good location to consider using the proposed process. Some Board members felt a broader discussion was needed first and stated their support for the joint facilities 2x2 committee proposed in the Facilities study final report. Ms. Garvey asked Dr. Murphy and Mr. Schwartz to begin looking at a plan to move forward, and to bring information back to both Boards in the fall.

Dr. Violand-Sánchez thanked all for participating, and the meeting adjourned 7:50 PM.

#### **ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Emma Violand-Sánchez, Chair  
Arlington School Board