

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Item D-1-a

Work Session on the Mathematics Evaluation and Academic Update
February 25, 2020

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 7:13 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:

Tannia Talento, Chair
Monique O’Grady, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent
Catherine Ashby, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Denice Arroyo, Teacher, Barcroft Elementary School
Christine Chapuis, Elementary Math Specialist
Shannan Ellis, Supervisor, Mathematics
Michael Frickel, Assistant Director, Planning and Evaluation
Stephanie Nichols, Secondary Math Specialist
Mitch Pascal, Principal, Tuckahoe Elementary School
Dr. Lori Wiggins, Principal, Gunston Middle School

Ms. Talento announced that Dr. Kanninen was unable to attend the work session due to illness.

Superintendent Recommendation on Election Day Closure: (7:24 PM)

Ms. Talento announced one item of new business. She explained that the Interim Superintendent recommended revising the 2019-2020 School Calendar by closing schools for students on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 due to the 2020 Democratic Primary Elections. The recommendation was to ensure the safety of students and address building security concerns. The Board decided to vote on the recommendation to provide families planning time, recognizing the difficulty this change imposes.

In considering this recommendation, the Board discussed the use of the visitor management system, building access at voting polls, concerns about childcare and collaboration with Arlington County Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Talento moved that the Board adopt the Superintendent’s proposal for amending the calendar and closing schools for students only on primary election day, March 3, 2020, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

Ms. Van Doren moved to direct the Superintendent to provide the School Board with a plan for Election Days, both federal and primary, that includes a plan for the safety of students and access of visitors that can be accommodating for our new practices in schools. The plan should be provided to the Board by the end of this school year, seconded by Ms. O’Grady. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 0, with Mr. Goldstein, Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Talento, and Ms. Van Doren voting affirmatively.

Work Session on the Mathematics Evaluation and Academic Update: (7:35 PM)

Ms. Ellis started by presenting the mathematics program evaluation. Staff shared about the data collection and presented major highlights of the program evaluation which included instruction, support, enrollment, and assessments. Ms. Ellis spoke about areas of improvement and areas of strength within the program at the different school levels. Ms. Ellis also presented four different recommendations and action steps to improve student achievement and their alignment to the strategic plan.

Next, Ms. Ellis presented the mathematics performance update. The update included a detailed review of data collection related to mathematics and provided information on the Standards of Learning (SOL) and math inventory (MI). She also provided recommendations and implementation strategies to help align the program with the strategic plan. The Board had the opportunity to listen to a Barcroft Elementary School teacher, as well as Tuckahoe Elementary School and Gunston Middle School principals, who shared about their work with mathematics coaches and the value of their mathematics expertise at their schools.

The Board discussed strategies to help students progress through the different math levels, concerns regarding accommodations, and differentiated instruction. The Board conversed about parent-teacher communication to ensure students are supported and SOL data questions were clarified accordingly. The Board also talked about the multiple pathways option and topics around equity in professional development.

In conclusion, the Board thanked staff for their work in closing the mathematical achievement gap. They appreciated the level of information provided and being able to openly share their concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board