

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
September 10, 2020

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 7:03 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, using Microsoft Teams.¹

Present were:

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

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Cintia Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management
Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Jeff Chambers, Director, Design and Construction

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. **Citizen Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items:**

Ms. O’Grady reviewed the speaker process for virtual meetings.

¹ Video clips of regular School Board meetings can be viewed on the APS Web site at the following link: <https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/view-school-board-meetings/>
DVDs of all regular School Board meetings are also available for viewing in the School Board office.

The following speakers addressed the Board, supporting the return to in-person learning. Some speakers provided suggestions about groups to prioritize for returning to school, and others noted concerns with distance learning:

Jenifer Cory, parent
Erin Neal, parent
Sheila Leonard, parent
Raymond Sendejas, parent
Andrew Prensky, substitute teacher
Natalie Bernstein, student
Stephen Hughes, resident

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association: appreciating staff's resilience.

Jeff Harris, parent: supporting the School Board Action Plan.

Jandira Lamas, parent: encouraging better metrics to re-open schools and the need for more support for her students.

5. Announcements

- *September 17, 2020 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *September 22, 2020 – Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Noon*

Mr. Goldstein spoke about his liaison schools, Barrett Elementary, Barcroft Elementary, Arlington Career Center and New Directions, and the support provided by staff and PTAs to their communities. In response to public comment, Mr. Goldstein requested parent input on in-person instruction and the risk of infection with reopening of schools. Ms. O'Grady shared her virtual classroom visits and thanked staff for their dedication in providing instruction to students in the distance learning model.

Ms. Talento shared that September is National Suicide Prevention Month and September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day, raising awareness on resources to support mental health and to prevent suicide.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán acknowledged the concerns received from parents regarding the distance learning model and reaffirmed his commitment to accountability and working through challenges to bring students back to school. He commended APS staff for their dedication and hard work in a new learning environment. Dr. Durán then shared a summary of his first day of school visits. He spoke about the technology challenges on the first day of full-time distance learning and how APS was able to

mitigate issues to ensure better connectivity. He presented first day enrollment statistics, data related to connectivity and device use, meal services updates, and other important information related to the beginning of the school year.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:30 PM)

Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- a. May 21, 2020 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting
- b. May 27, 2020 Capital Improvement Plan Work Session #1 and Public Hearing on Superintendent’s Proposed Capital Improvement Plan
- c. June 4, 2020 School Board Meeting
- d. June 25, 2020 School Board Meeting
- e. June 29, 2020 Joint School Board/Executive Leadership Team Retreat
- f. August 13, 2020 Closed Meeting
- g. August 18, 2020 Work Session on The Heights
- h. August 25, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- i. August 27, 2020 Planning Work Session

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Retirement

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 45 Appointments
- 13 Changes In Position/Salary
- 4 Resignations
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 8 Appointments
- 4 Changes In Position/Salary

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 4 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation
- 2 Retirements

3. Adoption of New Policy E-5.1.2 School Start Times

4. Grants and Restricted Programs:
 - a. School Security Equipment Grant – Taylor Elementary
5. Appointment to Budget Advisory Council

Ms. O’Grady announced that as part of consent, the Board approved new School Board Policy E-5.1.2 School Start Times and appointed Valerie Smith to the Budget Advisory Council.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:32 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán presented an update on the return to school which included information on health metrics, data trends of COVID-19 cases in Arlington, and a summary on the Return-to-School Task Force. In addition, Dr. Durán provided information on registration, attendance, social-emotional supports, APS device use, and childcare. He spoke about guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting, air quality and ventilation, and water systems. Lastly, he provided a financial outlook on revenue and expenditures.

Dr. Durán encouraged families to review the weekly APS School Talk email messages and shared several other communication channels where families can find important information related to the phased return to school plan.

The Board discussed distance learning instruction, accessibility of content to students, connectivity and personal devices, student conduct and expectations, attendance, and ensuring proper communication of technical support and resources to families. The Superintendent shared that the phased return to school plan would be discussed at future Board meetings.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (9:40 PM)

1. Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar:

Mr. Redding reviewed the recommendation to change professional learning time from Wednesdays to Mondays to align with the asynchronous schedule.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board adopt the proposed revisions to the 2020- 2021 School Calendar as presented, transferring the professional learning time from the early release Wednesdays to Mondays on the same week, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:42 PM)

1. School Board's 2020-2021 Action Plan:

Ms. O'Grady presented the School Board's proposed 2020-2021 Action Plan. She reviewed the overarching goals and explained the Board's areas of focus, which are student success and well-being and operational planning.

The Board thanked the Superintendent, staff, and their colleagues for the collaboration in finalizing this important document which will guide the Board's work for the school year.

2. Transportation Staff Facility Construction Contract Award:

Mr. Chambers proposed awarding the construction contract to The Mathews Group, Inc. in the amount of \$1,847,427 to renovate and expand the current Transportation Facility due to increased staffing and outdated space.

The Board briefly discussed funding.

3. New Elementary School at Reed Temporary Change to Project Funding:

Mr. Chambers explained that due to issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, for construction to continue and the new school to open on time, \$11 million must be transferred into the Reed project to meet cash flow requirements. This change will compensate for the delay in receiving the remaining project funds from the spring 2020 bond sale. He noted that no increase to the previously approved funding is required and that this is a temporary transfer to address project cash flow needs.

1. License Agreement for School Bus Parking at the Trades Center West Lot:

Mr. Chadwick requested Board approval for the proposed License Agreement for School Bus Parking at the Trades Center West Lot that will temporarily allow APS the use of the parking lot located on the County Parcel known as the Trades Center for school bus parking and as an ancillary use.

G. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board