

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
January 7, 2021

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, January 7, 2021 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
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member
Reid Goldstein, Member
David Priddy, Member
Claudia Mercado, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services
Jeannette Allen, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
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
Tyrone Byrd, Director, Secondary Education
Dr. Laura Newton, Director, Student Services
Sherri Furlott, Coordinator, Summer School

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:

1. Call to Order

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Yorktown High School Chorus Performance of *America the Beautiful*

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.

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

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting reopening schools:

Katie Sunderland, parent
Lucia Sicuranza, student, Discovery Elementary School
Julie Hannink, parent, Oakridge Elementary School
Karen Simpson, parent
Miranda Turner, parent
Aude Rabault, parent, Public Montessori School
Erin Neal, parent
Kinsey Fabrizio, parent, Drew Elementary School
Anjali Jolly, parent
Andy Alexander, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting delaying reopening schools:

Dr. Eric Feigl-Ding, parent, epidemiologist, Federation of American Scientists
Ingrid Gant, President, Arlington Education Association
Deborah Waldron, teacher, Yorktown High School

The following speaker also addressed the Board:

Josh Folb, Chair of Compensation Committee, Arlington Education Association, concerning employee compensation and supporting delaying reopening schools.

4. Recognitions

The School Board and the Superintendent welcomed new members Cristina Diaz-Torres and David Priddy.

The Board congratulated Dr. Shantha Smith, Equity and Excellence Counselor at Gunston Middle School, who received the Virginia Department of Education Mary Peake Award for Excellence in Education Equity. The Board also enjoyed a virtual performance by the Wakefield High School Chorus, led by Chorus Director Nadim Nadir.

5. Announcements

- *January 11, 2021 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *January 14, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *January 14, 2021 Work Session on the Career Center After Action 6:30 PM*

Mr. Goldstein shared events and activities at some of his liaison schools, Arlington Science Focus Elementary School, Arlington Traditional Elementary School, and

Long Branch Elementary School. Dr. Kanninen spoke about the Complete Vaccine Committee, composed of community members and county staff, and their role in spreading information about the COVID-19 vaccine in the community. Ms. O’Grady provided an update on communications the Board has received.

6. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán addressed the disturbing events that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, and shared resources to support students, staff, and families while processing such an unprecedented situation. He also announced the 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visual and Literary Arts contest and provided important academic calendar reminders. He also presented an update on the School Board’s 2021 Action Plan.

Ms. Diaz-Torres commented on the community engagement process for the APS-School Resource Officer Work Group and Mr. Goldstein expressed his desire to learn more about the immersion program visioning process.

C. **CONSENT AGENDA:** (8:24 PM)

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

1. Minutes:
 - a. November 30, 2020 Policy Subcommittee
 - b. December 10, 2020 Closed Meeting
 - c. January 4, 2021 Closed Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

7 Appointments
1 Change In Position/Salary

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment
2 Changes In Position/Salary

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

4 Appointments
1 Change In Position/Salary
2 Retirements

3. Revised School Board Liaison Assignments
4. School Board Code of Conduct
5. Amendment of School Board Policy I-7.2.30 Prevention, Intervention and Remediation
6. Dominion Right of Way (ROW) Agreement and Plat for Langston Property

Ms. O’Grady confirmed that the Board approved the revised School Board liaison assignments and the School Board Code of Conduct.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:26 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Recognizing the fluid and uncertain COVID-19 situation, Dr. Durán provided an overview of the mitigation factors that are considered by APS in assessing the return to in-person instruction. He spoke about health metrics and their alignment with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Virginia Health Department (VDH) and provided a comprehensive summary on COVID-19 testing, the new health screening app, and vaccination information. Moreover, he shared the phased return-to-school plan, emphasizing that the top priority is the health and safety of staff and students. Dr. Durán detailed the mitigation measures in place in schools and buildings to ensure that consistent CDC and VDH requirements are met to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure. He also shared a tentative timeline for staff and students to return to school. As part of this instructional update, Dr. Durán spoke at length about the Fall 6-8 Math Inventory and student performance by disaggregated groups. Lastly, he provided a financial summary.

The Board discussed air ventilation, contact tracing procedures, targeted support to improve student performance, the timeline for the return-to-school plan, the CARES Act funding, and the budget implications of the pandemic.

2. Graduation Taskforce Update:

Dr. Newton presented an update on the Graduation Taskforce, formed in 2010 to ensure students graduate on time by providing recommendations and support to at-risk students. For the class of 2020, Dr. Newton highlighted that the on-time graduation rate was 93.4%. She also shared progress made by the different reporting groups, the alignment of the Graduation Taskforce to the Strategic Plan and performance objectives, and strategies for continued interventions.

The Board discussed the drop-out rate, partnerships, and equity.

3. Compensation Study Report:

Mr. Redding explained that the FY21 Compensation Study aimed at analyzing job market competitiveness, the compensation structure, and compensation patterns of other school jurisdictions. Heather Kazemi, consultant with The Segal Group, then presented the study methodology and a summary of the study findings. She presented recommendations to achieve competitive and sustainable compensation at APS with the goal of retaining and recruiting highly qualified and talented educators, administrators, and staff to serve APS students and the community.

Ms. O'Grady announced that the Board plans to discuss the Compensation Study in more detail at a future budget work session. The Board briefly discussed pay scale changes and engaging employee groups.

E. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:29 PM)

1. Middle School and High School Program of Studies

Mr. Byrd presented the 2021-2022 Middle and High School Program of Study, describing proposed course additions, deletions, and updates.

The Board discussed the process for considering adding courses based on student interest, work force needs, and post-secondary options. In addition, the Board discussed the implementation of virtual courses, dual enrollment courses, and intensified courses.

2. Summer School Report and Fees:

Ms. Furlott provided an update on the 2020 Summer School Program which included an overview of the course offerings, registration, enrollment, and staffing. She spoke about challenges faced by the program due to the pandemic and highlighted work done to support students. Ms. Furlott also presented a brief budget analysis of the program and the proposed Summer School fees for 2021.

The Board discussed Summer School connectivity and technology challenges, FY 2021 budget implications, and the need for extra student support in the future.

3. FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan:

Ms. Stengle presented the proposed FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Direction, describing factors for the Superintendent to address in the Four-to-Six-Year CIP. She also provided a summary of some of the proposed projects.

The Board discussed the Career Center use, funding, and proposed projects.

4. Revisions to School Board Policy L-9 Accreditation of Schools:

Ms. Stengle reviewed proposed revisions to School Board Policy L-9 Accreditation of Schools which ensure Arlington Public Schools complies with Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:3 to attain accreditation standards according to the Virginia Department of Education.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O'Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board