

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Item C-1-f

Legislative Meeting

December 7, 2020

The Arlington School Board sponsored a legislative meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 8:20 AM. This meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, using Microsoft Teams.

Present were:

Monique O’Grady, Chair

Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair

Reid Goldstein, Member

Tannia Talento, Member (arr. 8:24 AM)

Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

The meeting was also attended by Virginia Delegates, Senators, and legislative aides, as well as School Board members and staff from the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and Falls Church City Public Schools (FCCPS).

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. She announced that Ms. Van Doren was unable to attend the meeting. As the APS Legislative Liaison, Dr. Kanninen welcomed attendees and Superintendents Dr. Durán, Dr. Gregory Hutchings (ACPS) and Dr. Peter Noonan (FCCPS) introduced their Board members and staff. Dr. Kanninen then introduced the discussion, noting in particular the challenges public education has faced and will continue to face due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lilla Wise, Legislative Liaison for Arlington Public Schools then presented the APS School Board’s approved 2021 Legislative Package, sharing highlights and thanking legislators for their support. ACPS School Board Chair Cindy Anderson and FCCPS Board Chair Greg Anderson shared highlights of their division’s legislative package. Senator Favola shared an update on the state Senate’s efforts as they relate to the legislative packages. The Delegates in attendance also spoke to initiatives and issues being addressed in the upcoming General Assembly. The group discussed many of these issues and concerns, particularly focusing on those issues resulting from the pandemic. The group also briefly discussed advocating at the national level for education support.

Ms. Wise and Dr. Kanninen thanked the legislators for their support and Drs. Durán, Hutchings, and Noonan appreciated the discussion and acknowledged ongoing challenges that all are facing. In closing, Ms. O’Grady thanked all for their participation and encouraged ongoing collaboration.

The meeting concluded at 9:32 AM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board