

**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting  
March 11, 2021

**Item C-1-f**

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:15 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, using Microsoft Teams.<sup>1</sup>

**Present were:**

Monique O’Grady, Chair  
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair  
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member  
Reid Goldstein, Member  
David Priddy, Member  
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

**Also present were:**

John Cafferky, School Board Counsel

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING**

*Ms. O’Grady moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider Grievance SY 21-02, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Dr. Kanninen. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 - 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. O’Grady, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.*

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

*Ms. O’Grady moved to certify that to the best of her knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy and 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.*

Ms. O’Grady called for a brief recess. The Board reconvened in an open meeting at 7:01 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

**Present were:**

Monique O’Grady, Chair  
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair  
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member  
David Priddy, Member

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Melanie Elliott, 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  
Cathy Lin, Interim 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

**B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING:**

1. Call to Order

Ms. O’Grady called the meeting to order and announced that Mr. Goldstein was not able to attend as he was ill.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking for compensation in the budget, noting challenges such as increasing class size which impact staff. One speaker was concerned at not being invited to participate in a budget work session:

*Ryan Zito*, Teacher, Yorktown High School  
*Deborah Waldron* on behalf of *Margaret Johnson*, teacher, Yorktown High School  
*Brandon Durlinger*, teacher, Gunston Middle School

The following speakers addressed the Board, asking for in-person instruction five days a week:

*Pauline Devinger*, parent, Arlington Traditional Elementary School  
*Steve Everley*, parent  
*Blair Tak*, parent  
*Courtney Schwartz*  
*Jessica Hawkins*, parent  
*Julie Hannink*, parent  
*Aaron Asimokopoulos*, parent  
*Richard Huber*, parent  
*Deanna Caputo*, parent  
*Sheila Kelly*, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

*Christine Bolon*, Teacher, Yorktown High School, supporting a policy to encourage outdoor lunch at schools.

*Dan Carroll*, Teacher, Yorktown High School, concerning class size, particularly during hybrid instruction, and the Open Office Hours meeting format.

*Elizabeth Allen*, teacher, Jefferson Middle School, requesting better communications from Human Resources regarding accommodation requests.

*Mern Horan*, parent, supporting following public health protocols.

*Edward Brown*, parent, concerning in-person instructional model, expressing disappointment that many teachers are working virtually.

*Jeremy Siegel*, Jefferson Middle School activities supervisor: opposing any cuts in the budget to athletics in the schools.

#### 4. Recognitions

Pam Farrell, Supervisor, Arts Education, presented a virtual celebration of Arts in the Schools month, sharing artwork and musical performances by students throughout APS. Wendy Carria, Supervisor of School Psychologists and Social Workers, and Phyllis Thompson, School Social Worker, recognized School Social Work Week, sharing highlights of the contributions and support social workers provide to students.

#### 5. Announcements

- *March 17, 2021 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM*
- *March 18, 2021 School Board Retreat, Rooms 452-454-456, 5 – 8 PM*
- *March 22, 2021 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 2 PM*
- *March 24, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Board Room, 6-8 PM*

Mr. Priddy shared information about his liaison schools. Ms. O’Grady spoke to her visits to some of her liaison schools on their first day of in-person learning. Ms. O’Grady then announced that the Board is accepting nominations for the 2021 Honored Citizens and shared an update on communications received by the Board.

#### 5. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán acknowledged Social Workers Week, Equity in Education Month, March is Arts in the Schools Month and Women’s History Month. He also provided an update on meal services, including the Spring Break schedule, and reviewed upcoming dates of interest, including the Virtual Instructional Job Fair. In closing, he provided an update on progress on the School Board 2021 Action Plan in terms

of the FY 2022 budget, the Instructional Program Pathways initiative, school naming processes, and policy revisions.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA: (8:20 PM)**

Ms. O’Grady announced that Dr. Kanninen asked that Personnel Actions be removed from the Consent Agenda, and she confirmed that the Board would vote on Personnel immediately following Consent.

*Dr. Kanninen moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – 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 17, 2020 School Board Meeting
  - b. December 3, 2020 School Board Meeting
  - c. December 17, 2020 School Board Meeting
  - d. February 18, 2021 School Board Meeting
  - e. February 22, 2021 Policy Subcommittee Meeting
  - f. February 25, 2021 School Board Meeting and Budget Work Session #1
2. Personnel Actions: REMOVED FROM CONSENT
3. Technology 1:1 Update Brief
4. Visual and Performing Arts Brief
5. Revisions to School Board Policy F-7 Real Property

**PERSONNEL ACTIONS:**

Dr. Kanninen explained that she asked for Personnel to be removed from consent because she did not receive answers to certain questions she had about the proposed actions.

*Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the Board approve the personnel actions, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 3 – 0 with 1 abstention. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – abstain; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.*

The following actions were approved:

P/E SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 1 Classification Request
- Classification Specification - Director of Strategic Outreach

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

4 Appointments  
2 Changes In Position/Salary  
5 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

1 Appointment  
2 Resignations  
1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

1 Appointment  
5 Changes In Position/Salary  
1 Resignation

Ms. O’Grady confirmed that under consent, the Board accepted the Technology 1:1 Update Brief and the Visual and Performing Arts Brief. The Board also adopted revisions to School Board Policy F-7 Real Property and received updated versions, approved by the Superintendent, of the accompanying Policy Implementation Procedures F-7 PIP-1 Acquisition of Real Property and F-7 PIP-2 Use and Disposition of Real Property. The Board also appointed Jessica Gregory as Director of Counseling Services, Washington-Liberty High School, and Marcus Gregory as Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations.

**D. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:28 PM)**

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Durán presented the update, reviewing health and operational metrics such as vaccination plans and implementation of staff and student screeners. He reviewed the return-to-school timeline, noting that overall, 65% families have chosen hybrid and 35% virtual. He confirmed the goal for the fall is to offer 5 days in school, with families having the option to continue virtually. He then shared photos of the first days of hybrid learning in schools. Additional information was presented on 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grading and on interventions being implemented, and an update on assessments was also shared. In closing, Dr. Durán presented updates on operations in terms of meal services, transportation services, and air quality.

The group discussed the importance of supporting students as they return, information on cases of COVID in the community, and continuous improvement efforts. Board members appreciated the work underway and looked forward to more information about the performance-based assessments that are being planned. Ms. Loft provided additional information on current performance-based assessments, and Mr. Redding shared an update on the status of staff accommodation requests. Also briefly discussed were plans to address learning loss and how students with concerns about indoor meals will be accommodated.

2. FY 2021 Mid-Year Fiscal Monitoring Report: (9:18 PM)

Ms. Peterson presented the FY 2021 Mid-Year Fiscal Monitoring Report, sharing the status of the FY 2021 budget as of December 30, 2020 in terms of revenues and expenditures. She also reviewed the coronavirus relief payments that APS received, COVID-related expenditures that impacted the budget, and additional funds that have been set aside due to the pandemic. In closing, she confirmed that staff does not have any recommendations at this time related to the mid-year fiscal status. Ms. Peterson then briefly summarized the Major Construction and Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MCMM) mid-year budget status.

The group briefly discussed COVID related purchases made by APS and the budget set-asides that have been established due to the unusual circumstances. Also discussed was CARES Act funding that has been received, and the Board acknowledged and thanked the County for their support.

3. English Learners Update: (9:50 PM)

Sam Klein, Supervisor, English Learners Program presented the update, sharing the program profile, staffing, English Learners (EL) population data, and services provided to these students. He also reviewed components of the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement that have been incorporated into the EL program. He then provided information about staff training as well as EL progress, assessments including WIDA Access data, and demonstrations of student success. He also spoke to APS and community partners who support ELs, and summarized findings and recommendations from the recently program evaluation. In closing, he shared lessons learned related to the impact of the pandemic on EL families.

The group discussed the bilingual family liaisons, WIDA testing and standards, and engaging students in social/emotional learning. Mr. Klein provided additional information in response to Board questions related to staffing, translation services, and preventing dropouts.

**E. ACTION ITEMS: (11:13 PM)**

1. Proposed Name for the New Elementary School at the Key Site

Dr. Durán confirmed there have been no changes to this item.

*Dr. Kanninen moved to approve the name Innovation Elementary School for the new school at the Key Site, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.*

3. The Heights FY 2022 CIP Estimated Funding

Dr. Durán confirmed there have been no changes to this item. Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction, explained how not approving this item would affect the project and confirmed staff efforts to prevent funding issues in the future.

*Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the Board approve the following actions:*

- *Approve the estimate, to be performed by CBRE Heery for a fee of \$15,568;*
- *Approve transfer of \$15,568 from the Capital Reserve into The Heights Building Phase 2 project; and*
- *Approve transfer of up to \$30,000 from the Capital Reserve into The Heights Building Phase 2 project as a contingency for additional work that may be required to support the FY 2022 CIP.*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanninen, and was adopted in a vote of 3 – 1. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Nay.

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (11:17 PM)**

1. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Arlington County for Underground Stormwater Management Facility at Reed site

Mr. Chambers presented this item, explaining the purpose of the stormwater facility that is proposed, and he confirmed there is no cost to APS for this work and it will not affect the Reed project. He reviewed the terms of the MOA and also briefly described the construction phases and the project funding.

2. New Elementary School at Reed Project Changes due to Phase 2 Stormwater Improvements: (11:26 PM)

Mr. Chambers presented this item, confirming that the change order will allow stormwater improvements covered by the MOA with the County. Responding to questions, Mr. Chambers provided clarifying information and confirmed that with this arrangement, APS will conduct the work while the funding will come from the County.

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

*Ms. O’Grady moved that in Grievance 21-02, the Board find the matter to be non-grievable, and confirm that Chair of the Board will issue a letter to that effect, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.*

**H. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie Elliott, Clerk  
Arlington School Board

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Monique O’Grady, Chair  
Arlington School Board