

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on Elementary Boundaries
November 12, 2020

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 6:02 PM. This meeting was held by electronic communications due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, using Microsoft Teams.

Present were:

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Vice Chair
Reid Goldstein, Member
Tannia Talento, Member
Nancy Van Doren, Member
Melanie Elliott, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation
Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Zac Pope, Emergency Manager
Jonathan Turrisi, Director, Strategic Planning
Gladis Bourdouane, Integrated Project Planner
Michael de Palma, Facilities Planner
Kristin Haldeman, Director, Multimodal Transportation
Sarah Johnson, Planner
Kathy Mimberg, Coordinator, Community Engagement

Ms. O’Grady called the work session to order and announced that the meeting was being held electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency. She welcomed all participants. Dr. Durán introduced the work session and reviewed the agenda.

Ms. Stengle highlighted 2020 student enrollment data and summarized the discussion of 2020 projections that took place at the Nov.10, 2020 work session. She then outlined the approach that will be taken for developing the next set of projections and how they will be considered as part of this boundary process. She recognized that it is not known how the impact of the pandemic will affect future enrollment but confirmed that staff anticipates enrollment will continue to increase and they are taking a cautious approach to the boundary decisions.

Ms. Stengle reviewed factors considered to determine the scope of this boundary process and outlined the Superintendent’s boundary recommendation. She then shared responses to questions that have been received from the community and the School Board members related to the recommendations. She also provided additional information about several topics, including the decisions to not include grandfathering and transfers as part of this boundary process. She spoke briefly about how walkability plays into this and the future boundary processes. After summarizing the changes that will take place at the elementary school level in Fall 2021 with this proposal, Ms. Stengle confirmed that in Fall

2022, APS will conduct a countywide elementary boundary process for implementation in 2023-24. She then reviewed tools that will be used to manage enrollment prior to the next boundary process.

Staff responded to questions on walk zone recommendations, grandfathering, transfers, and proposed plans for the Key site. Board members shared questions and feedback on various aspects of the recommendation and staff agreed to provide additional information. Additional topics discussed included how Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) data was considered in the boundary process, ongoing concerns about the accuracy of projections due to the unusual circumstances, and how families might be affected if transportation is not offered with grandfathering. Board members shared suggestions and concerns to be considered as the process moves forward, and staff spoke about engagement efforts with the affected communities. Additional topics discussed were better balancing enrollment across the elementary schools and increasing green space at Science Focus School. Ms. O’Grady confirmed Board interest in additional information related to grandfathering.

Ms. O’Grady, Ms. Stengle, and Dr. Durán acknowledged the Planning and Evaluation Team as well as Ms. Haldeman from Facilities for their work and support throughout this process. Dr. Durán confirmed next steps in the process and stated that the only changes he is looking at making to the recommendation are related to grandfathering. If changed, the revised recommendations will be posted for public review by November 25.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board