

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Budget Work Session #4

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:04 PM. The 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
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member
Reid Goldstein, Member
David Priddy, Member
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
Zac Pope, Director, Safety, Security, Risk and Emergency Management
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Tameka Lovett-Miller, Budget Director
Alvera Wilson, Budget Analyst
Jorge Velazquez, Budget Analyst
Kimberley Graves, Principal, Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School
Renee Harber, Principal, Swanson Middle School
Dr. Chris Willmore, Principal, Wakefield High School
Maureen Nesselrode, Principal, Campbell Elementary School

Ms. O’Grady called the work session to order at 6:04 PM.

Dr. Durán provided a brief overview of the agenda and introduced the principals in attendance.

Schools Reductions

Ms. Peterson provided an overview of the School Tier 1 Reductions that have been proposed. At the elementary level, the proposed reductions include reducing Montessori satellite classes, eliminating some School Test Coordinators, reducing exemplary project staffing, and reducing allocations for materials and supplies. At the middle school, Tier 1 reductions focus on academic, athletic, and Team Lead stipends, and on reducing clerical staff. At the high school level,

reductions to clerical staff at the comprehensive high schools and increasing the number of students per school counselor are proposed. Tier 2 reductions at the elementary level are to increase class size at the kindergarten level by 1, and at the high school, to increase the planning factor for School Counselors slightly, increase class size by 0.5, as well as to eliminate the H-B Woodlawn Activities Coordinator position.

Staff responded to questions about how the reductions would affect counseling services, the impact of changes to Montessori, and the reduction in test coordinators. Also discussed was the exemplary staffing reduction and how the Montessori reductions would affect younger students. Ms. Harber explained that the middle school principals proposed elimination of stipends to minimize the impact of reductions on instruction, and she explained how staffing and practices could be adjusted to make up for these changes.

Facilities and Operations (F&O)

Ms. Lin presented an overview of the offices, staff, and responsibilities handled by the Department. F&O. These offices include Aquatics, Maintenance, Plant Operations, Design and Construction, and Transportation. Ms. Lin shared statistics, metrics, and data on the work accomplished by F&O, and then reviewed the proposed budget for Facilities and Operations, highlighting staffing and other costs. She also outlined baseline increases, proposed reductions, and new funding requests. In closing, proposed Tier 1, 2 and 4 reductions were presented.

Responding to questions, Ms. Lin clarified some of the information presented on transportation staffing, bus and support fleet repair or replacement, the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance budget, and increased rental costs for the Syphax Education Center.

Administrative Services

Dr. Allen presented the overview of the offices, staff, and responsibilities handled by Administrative Services. She also reviewed the new organizational chart for Administrative Services, which will be renamed the School Support Office, and described the responsibilities that the Office will oversee. Important statistics, metrics, and data were shared by Dr. Allen, who also highlighted the alignment of the data with the strategic goals. Mr. Pope then shared recent safety, security, risk and emergency management statistics, metrics, and data. In closing the proposed budget for Administrative Services was presented by Dr. Allen and Mr. Pope, who reviewed staffing and other costs, new funding requests, and proposed Tier 1 and 4 reductions.

Dr. Allen responded to questions, clarifying information related to the proposed reorganization. The group discussed the annual Class Size report and staff explained how the pandemic has affected data, resulting in a delay in completion of the report. Staff confirmed the report will be completed and shared with the Board as soon as possible.

Information Services

Mr. Adusumilli presented the overview of the Department of Information Services (IS), describing the offices, staffing, and responsibilities of the department. He described five pillars of student technology, the department priorities, major services, and areas of focus. He also described how

IS has worked to support all functions of APS during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the increased support provided to families and staff for remote work and learning. He then reviewed the department budget including baseline increases, reinstatement of the FY 2021 one-year reductions, growth initiatives, new funding requests, and proposed Tier 1 and 4 reductions.

Mr. Adusumilli and Ms. Peterson responded to questions about recommendations in the budget, possible savings, lease payments in the IS budget, and the 1 to 1 initiative. The group recognized the challenges of moving forward with both virtual and in-person instruction in the fall.

Other topics

Ms. Peterson provided an overview of how the upcoming reorganization will restructure the Executive Leadership Team and APS departments and offices. She then reviewed the upcoming work sessions and the remaining budget calendar.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

ATTEST:

Melanie Elliott, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Monique O’Grady, Chair
Arlington School Board