

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
August 26, 2021

Item C-1-c

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member (due to a personal emergency, Ms. Diaz-Torres left at 8:02 PM)
Monique O’Grady, Member
David Priddy, Member
Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dan Redding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Dr. Kanninen called the meeting to order.

Dr. Kanninen moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to consider 66 appointments, 24 changes in position/salary, 11 resignations, 1 retirement and 1 reclassification request, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1), seconded by Mr. Priddy. 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.

Dr. Kanninen 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.

Dr. Kanninen called for brief a recess, and the Board reconvened in open session at 7:02 PM.

Also present were:

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations

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.

Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Bridget Loft, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance

C. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:03 PM)

Ms. O’Grady moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Priddy. 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 following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:
 - a. June 14, 2021 Capital Improvement Plan Work Session #4
 - b. July 29, 2021 School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting
 - c. August 11, 2021 Policy Subcommittee Meeting

2. Personnel actions

P/E-SCALE

- 1 Appointment
- 7 Changes In Position/Salary
- 4 Resignations
- 1 Classification Specification Request
Learning Management System (LMS) Administrator

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 55 Appointments
- 7 Changes In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 5 Appointments
- 6 Changes In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 5 Appointments
- 4 Changes In Position/Salary
- 1 Retirement

Dr. Kanninen announced that as a part of consent, the Board appointed Dr. George Hewan, Principal, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Program, and Patrick Johnsen, Assistant Principal, Wakefield High School.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (7:21 PM)

1. Board Announcements:

September 8, 2021 Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8:30 AM, Board Conference Room

The School Board recognized Ms. Melanie Elliott, Clerk of the School Board, on her retirement after 13 years of service at APS.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán shared an update on the preparations for back to school on August 30, 2021, the 2021-2022 school year priorities, and the multi-layered health and safety mitigation protocols. He gave kudos to Sue Sarber and the Professional Learning Team for coordinating the Building and Supporting Educators (BASE Camp), a new teacher training orientation.

The Board discussed school site COVID-19 testing and safety protocols. Mr. Priddy encouraged families to take advantage of the free testing. They also discussed the topic of accelerated support which was followed by Dr. Durán explaining the process for families to request extra support for their students. Ms. Diaz-Torres inquired about training for staff who might have missed the pre-service week and Ms. Loft shared that new teachers are assigned a mentor to help them navigate the school system and receive the appropriate training.

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (8:17 PM)

1. Fall 2021 Planning Projects:

Mr. Stockton presented a preview of the 2021-22 planning initiatives and the opportunities for community engagement. Daryl Johnson, Director of Strategic Outreach, spoke about the importance of continuing virtual community meetings. He carefully reviewed the levels of community engagement to frame expectations from stakeholders, and the many ways people can learn about planning projects. Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation, presented the monitoring progress on the School Board's Proposed Priorities that will highlight the Strategic Plan objectives. She also reviewed the 2021-22 planning projects which included policy revisions, review of the APS relationship with School Resource Officers (SROs), fall boundary adjustments, refining elementary immersion feeder schools, Arlington Career Center, Proposed FY 2023 Budget, and the Proposed FY 2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The Board discussed the community engagement model, virtual community meetings, boundary adjustments, and student enrollment.

2. Academic Progress Update: (8:47 PM)

To begin Ms. Loft stated that the Virginia Department of Education noted that statewide participation in SOL testing during 2020-21 was down significantly in all subject areas compared with pre-pandemic participation in 2018-19. Ms. Loft presented the 2021 reading and math Standards of Learning (SOL) performance and spoke about the reading supports and interventions for the 2021-22 school year.

Ms. O’Grady inquired about disaggregated data and Dr. Kanninen highlighted the message from the Virginia Department of Education that the goal is for our schools to provide each child a plan to help them grow and recover from unfinished learning. In addition, the Board discussed math courses, supports and interventions, socio-emotional supports, and screen use,

F. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:09 PM)

1. School Board 2021-2022 Priorities:

Dr. Kanninen presented the School Board 2021-2022 Priorities developed annually to keep the Board’s work focused and in alignment with the APS Strategic Plan.

This year’s School Board priorities are:

- Ensure student well-being and academic progress
 - Identify, report, and address all students’ social-emotional and academic needs
 - Focus on literacy and math
- Advance 2018-24 Strategic Plan goals with focus on innovation and equity
- Recruit, hire, and invest in a high-quality and diverse workforce to ensure APS is the place where talented individuals choose to work
 - Develop phased plan to ensure all salary scales and benefits are market competitive and sustainable
 - Establish plan and timeline to begin the collective bargaining process
- Improve operational efficiency
 - Strengthen and improve system-wide operations with focus on financial sustainability
 - Collaborate across departments to plan innovatively, cost effectively, and within budget to meet student seat needs

H. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board