

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, October 28, 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
Monique O’Grady, Member
David Priddy, Member (Participated via Microsoft Teams in Arlington, Virginia due to a medical condition)

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Christine Smith, Division Counsel
Jeff Chambers, Director of Design and Construction
Benjamin Burgin, Assistant Director of Design and Construction
David Webb, Director/ Procurement Agent
David Mancini, Troutman Pepper LLC
Robert Richardson, Law Office of Robert K. Richardson

A. CALL TO ORDER AND CLOSED MEETING

Dr. Kanninen called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting for consultation with legal counsel and a briefing by staff pertaining to litigation as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7); and for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(8)*, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. The motion was adopted in a vote 3 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. Mr. Goldstein and Ms. O’Grady were not present at the time of the vote.

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 as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion was seconded by Ms. O’Grady 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 a brief recess at 6:56 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 7:06 PM.

Also present were:

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Bridget Loft, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
Jason Ottley, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer
Christine Smith, Legal Counsel
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Claudia Mercado, Clerk

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order

¹The recording of School Board meetings is posted on the APS Web site following the meetings. Regular meetings are also broadcasted on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41.

2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AF JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: Tony Bentley, Wakefield High School, Virginia Association for Driver Education and Traffic Safety Behind the Wheel Teacher of the Year

Ms. Debbie DeFranco, Supervisor, Health, Physical and Driver Education and Athletics, presented Mr. Bentley with a plaque in honor of being named Virginia Driver Education Behind the Wheel Teacher of the Year and thanked him for his exemplary dedication to driver education at APS.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:15 PM):

Ms. O'Grady moved for adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres. 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. September 9, 2021 School Board Meeting
 - b. September 11, 2021 School Board and Cabinet Retreat
 - c. September 21, 2021 Closed Meeting
 - d. September 21, 2021 Work Session on Planning for the Superintendent's FY 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
 - e. September 22, 2021 School Board Policy Subcommittee
2. Personnel Actions
 - P/E-SCALE
 - 1 Appointment

 - T-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 8 Appointments
 - 1 Resignation
 - 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)

 - A-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 6 Appointments
 - 1 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 2 Resignations

 - SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
 - 4 Appointments
 - 2 Changes In Position/Salary
 - 1 Resignation

3. Religious Exemption

Dr. Kanninen announced that under Consent, the Board appointed Dr. Jason Ottley as Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, who had been serving as Interim Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:18 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

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November 3, 2021- Work Session on Boundary Proposals and Immersion Feeder Schools, 6 PM, School Board Room
 November 6, 2021- Equity Retreat, 9 AM, Dorothy Hamm Middle School
 November 9, 2021 - Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room
 November 9, 2021 - Work Session #1 with the Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL), 6:30 PM, School Board Room
 November 12, 2021 – Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 11 AM

Ms. Diaz-Torres shared that October was Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Awareness Month and spoke about her experience learning to use the variety of communication mechanisms. Dr. Kanninen invited the community to enjoy the faculty art exhibit in the Board Room hallway.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán highlighted the implementation of literacy initiatives at the elementary level, specifically showcasing the great work happening at Barcroft Elementary School. He spoke about improvements to outdoor lunch at the schools and thanked the County for their partnership in providing the resources to make lunch outside as comfortable as possible. In response to the substitute shortage experienced in the school system, Dr. Durán explained that APS was raising the hourly/daily rate to attract more substitutes and launching an incentive program effective November 1 to encourage daily substitutes to take more jobs by providing bonuses. In addition, the Superintendent gave an update on the Fall 2021 Boundary Process and Immersion Feeder Refinements and shared information on the status of the APS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD). To conclude, Dr. Durán congratulated Geraldine Maskelony who was among the five state finalists for the 2021 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, and Isabella Mahoney on her recognition by the College Board for earning a perfect score on the AP Drawing Exam.

Ms. O'Grady inquired about lunch plans at the schools with Dr. Durán stating that lunch plans will be posted on the schools' websites. Dr. Kanninen clarified that the November 3, 2021 Work Session on Boundary Proposals and Immersion Feeder Schools would begin at 6 PM.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:48 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Camille Galdes, Arlington Parents for Education, concerning educational learning loss
 Dr. Dan Carroll, teacher, Yorktown High School, encouraging compensation and decreasing class sizes
 Alistair James Watson, expressing concerns regarding the book "Stamped"
 Dr. Margery Smelkinson, infectious disease doctor, supporting test to stay
 Sean Bender-Prouty, student, Career Center, supporting the Animal Science Program
 Michael Folb, student, sharing the challenges faced by the Virtual Learning Program
 Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association, encouraging additional employee support and compensation
 Josh Folb, Arlington Education Association, encouraging vaccines and an increase in bus driver compensation
 Alison Babb, Arlington Parents for Education, concerning educational learning loss

The following speakers addressed the Board with concerns about the Fall 2021 Boundary Process:

Caroline Elias, student, Kenmore Middle School
 Connolly Quarles, student
 Perryn Blackwell-Curtis, student Kenmore Middle School
 Elizabeth Young, student Kenmore Middle School
 Kelly Skupnik, president, Charles R. Drew Model School
 Brittany Knutson, parent, Charles R. Drew Model School
 Jennifer Dean, parent, Charles R. Drew Model School
 Cara Cueto

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Jeanette McComis
 Danielle Quarles, parent
 Rob Blackwell, parent

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding COVID-19 safety measures, employee concerns, and compensation related to Transportation Services:

Ivis Castillo speaking for Charles Smith
 Christina Childress
 Kimberly Goodwin
 Crystal Harris

Dr. Kanninen called for brief a recess at 8:41 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 8:47 PM.

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:47 PM):

1. Operational Efficiencies Update

Ms. Cathy Lin, Director of Facilities and Operations, presented an update on the Minor Construction Major Maintenance (MCMM) HVAC projects, status on the HVAC Building Automation Systems (BAS), and the renovation of identified equipment based on equipment age and analysis by consultants and the HVAC team. Ms. Kim Wilks, Director of Transportation Services presented a staffing overview, highlighted some of the operational challenges experienced by Transportation Services, and spoke about the impact of start and dismissal times on bus usage. Ms. Kristen Haldemann, Director of Multimodal Transportation Planning, provided an update on the hub stops program for options schools and proposed a comprehensive review of Policy E- 5.1.2 PIP-1 School Start Times. Mr. Rajesh Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent of Information Services, began his presentation by thanking the Information Services staff for picking up extra work and overcoming challenges during the past 18 months as a result of the pandemic to ensure schools and students were supported. He then shared an update on SMART boards, network connectivity improvements, and proposed the modernization of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system "STARS" to help stay in regulatory compliance and improve service to stakeholders and operational efficiencies.

The Board discussed school start times and bus usage, the impact of public transportation on Transportation Services, and the timeline for the ERP modernization. The Board also discussed the challenges with hub stops and the HVAC projects.

G. ACTION ITEMS (9:52 PM):

1. School Board Direction on the Superintendent's Proposed FY2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, provided an update on projects related to the School Board Direction on the FY2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that included the playground at the Arlington Montessori Public School and relocation of the Arlington Community High School. Ms. Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, presented the changes to the CIP direction since it was presented for information, highlighting the areas where additional detail was provided.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the School Board adopt the FY 2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Direction as presented, seconded by Mr. Priddy.

The Board expressed their support for the CIP direction because it clearly addressed the Career Center site.

Dr. Kanninen called for a vote and the motion 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

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2. Amazon AWS Think Big Space at Wakefield High School

Mr. Priddy moved that the Board approve the Amazon AWS Think Big Space at Wakefield High School and the external funding from Ralph Johnson in the amount of \$109,000 and Amazon in the amount of \$150,000, seconded by Ms. O’Grady.

Mr. Priddy expressed his excitement about this new space at Wakefield High School.

Dr. Kanninen called for a vote and the motion 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

H. INFORMATION ITEMS (10:08 PM):

1. Education Center Reuse- Change to Construction Manager Advisor Contract

Mr. Jeff Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, requested an increase to the Construction Manager Advisor (CMA) services contract with McDonough Bolyard Peck (MBP) due to changes in project scope and construction duration. The change is incorporated within the current funding approved by the School Board so no increase in funding was necessary.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board

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