

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 5:35 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

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Christine Smith, Division Counsel

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 as authorized by Virginia Code § 2.23711(A)(1) to reach a decision on the grievance of teacher dismissal Number 2021-11-29-1*, seconded by Ms. O’Grady. 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 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 PM, and the Board reconvened in an open session at 7:01 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
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AF JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: School Board Member, Ms. Monique O’Grady and Holiday Performance

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.

Ms. Pam Farrell, Supervisor of Arts Education, introduced the Gunston Middle School Choir who performed Choral of the Bells, Winter Dreams, and Winter Wonderland. The Board recognized outgoing Board member, Ms. O’Grady, and they expressed their gratitude for her dedicated service to Arlington Public Schools in over past 4 years.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:35 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: None

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE

1 Appointment

2 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

7 Appointments

7 Resignations

1 Resignations (With Prejudice)

1 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

8 Appointments

1 Resignation

1 Resignations (With Prejudice)

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

1 Appointment

3 Changes in Salary/Position

2 Reclassification Requests

Account Clerk

Administrative Specialist

3. L-3 Charter Schools

4. I-7.2.5.32 Summer Learning Opportunities

5. I-7.4.1.30 Extended Learning Opportunities

6. Career Center Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) Charge

7. Deed of Temporary Easement and Construction Agreement for the Thomas Jefferson Middle School Upper Field

8. Resolution Approving Participation in the Proposed Settlements of Opioid-Related Claims

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:37 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

January 4, 2022 - Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, School Board Conference Room

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.

Mr. Goldstein shared about events at his liaison schools highlighting the 1,000 cereal box collection at Ashlawn Elementary as part of their global citizen project.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán announced that schools and offices were closed for winter break from December 20 to December 31 and shared the winter break meal pick-up schedule. He shared a brief update on the immersion school transfers, the 2021-22 class size report, status of the APS and Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and the COVID testing winter schedule. He also announced that APS changed in-school COVID testing vendors and families were required to complete a new consent form to opt-in effective January 1, 2022. In addition, Dr. Durán shared information on the analysis of students' quarterly grades in the 2020-21 school year and the individualized interventions in reading and math, highlighting the instructional focus at Carlin Springs Elementary School. To conclude, Dr. Durán shared about First Lady Pamela Northam's visit to the Montessori Public School of Arlington, the first and only public Montessori school in Virginia, and reflections on kindness from students and staff at Oakridge Elementary School.

The Board thanked Dr. Durán for addressing literacy at APS and commended teachers for their work to support all students.

Mr. Jeff Brown, Manager of Resource Development of the United Way of the National Capital Area, recognized APS for its participation in the 2021 United Way campaign and helping to collect over \$40,000 that will help improve education.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:03 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

- Erin Wasiak, Arlington Parents for Education, supporting teacher compensation and more instructional hours in the school year calendar, and requesting smaller class sizes
- Chris Myers, former APS parent, concerning learning loss
- Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association, requesting to appropriate compensation for support staff
- Josh Folb, Arlington Education Association, requesting better alignment of the school year calendar, careful use of compensation funds, and the status of the Virtual Learning Program
- Milne Young, parent, requesting the redistricting of Boulevard Manor to Washington-Liberty High School
- Ky Johnson, requesting the redistricting of Boulevard Manor to Washington-Liberty High School

The following speakers addressed the Board supporting the addition of religious holidays in the proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Ari Pearlstein, student, Wakefield High School
- Noah Krischer, student, Washington-Liberty High School
- Shira Goldstein, student, Washington-Liberty High School
- Jennifer Pearl

The following speakers addressed the Board with concerns about workplace harassment and bullying at Transportation Services:

- Christina Childress
- Charles Smith
- Ivis Castillo
- Tammie N. Jones

The Board recessed at 8:39 PM and reconvened at 8:45 PM.

F. MONITORING ITEMS:

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.

1. ~~APS and Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update~~ Removed from Agenda

G. ACTION ITEMS (8:47 PM):

1. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Ms. O'Grady moved that the Board approve the Superintendent's Proposed 2022-2023 School Year Calendar as presented, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

Ms. O'Grady thanked the student speakers for sharing their feedback on the importance of including religious holidays in the school year calendar and the Board appreciated acting on the calendar earlier than previous years to better accommodate families and staff planning.

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

2. I-7.2.5.30 Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation

Ms. Loft noted that the policy was updated to include clarification of the State Code.

Ms. O'Grady moved that the Board adopt the proposed revisions to School Board Policy I-7.2.5.30 Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

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 (8:56 PM):

1. Final Fiscal Close-Out/Status and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Quarterly Report

Ms. Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Management Services, presented the FY 2021 Closeout Summary used to file the State Annual School Report to the Virginia Department of Education. The 2020-2021 fiscal year audited closeout resulted in net available funds of \$62.1 million. She provided a detailed summary of operations funds, County revenue, and reserve funds. In addition, Ms. Peterson also presented recommendations for the use of closeout funds to support the School Board's priorities. She then presented an update on the FY 2021 capital construction projects and the Minor Construction/Major Maintenance (MC/MM) status.

The Board briefly discussed reserve funds, expenditures related to literacy and math, and funding needed for employee compensation. The Board encouraged the community to share their feedback on the proposed recommendations.

2. Middle School and High School Program of Studies

Mr. Tyrone Byrd, Director of Secondary Education, presented an overview of the course changes to the 2022-23 Program of Studies for middle and high school.

The Board conversed about the proposed course offerings, the sequence of some courses, and the acumen of students in a foreign language,

I. NEW BUSINESS:

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.

1. Dismissal Number 2021-11-29-1

Dr. Kanninen moved to affirm the recommendation for dismissal by the Superintendent in grievance 2021-11-29-1, seconded by Ms. O’Grady.

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

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board

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.