

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:02 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair (absent)
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member
Mary Kadera, Member (participated virtually via Microsoft Teams from Brooklyn, NY due to work reasons)
David Priddy, Member
Claudia Mercado, Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
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

A. CLOSED MEETING: NONE

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center AF JROTC Cadets Corps

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:04 PM):

Ms. Diaz-Torres *moved for the adoption of the consent agenda*, seconded by Mr. Priddy. The motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Dr. Kanninen, Ms. Kadera, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes
 - a. C-1-a Minutes for the January 20, 2022 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting
2. Personnel Actions
 - P/E-SCALE
 - 2 Changes in Position/Salary
 - 1 Classification Specification Request
 - Lead School Safety Coordinator
 - T-SCALE PERSONNEL
 - 1 Appointment
 - 15 Resignations
 - 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
 - 7 Retirements

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A-SCALE PERSONNEL

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

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 1 Retirement
- 1 Termination
- 1 Classification Specification Request
School Safety Coordinator

3. Revisions to School Board Policy I-12 Evaluation
4. Revisions to School Board Policy B-4.4 Electronic Participation in Meetings by Individual Members

Dr. Kanninen announced that under consent, the Board approved the appointment of Ms. Frances Lee as principal of Ashlawn Elementary School, Mrs. Bridget Loft as Principal of Swanson Middle School, and Joanne Uyeda as the Interim Chief Academic Officer.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:10 PM):

1. Board Announcements:
 - May 5, 2022 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 - May 5, 2022 – Committee of the Whole, 6:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 - May 5, 2022 – Public Hearing on the School Board FY 2023 Budget, Board Room
 - May 11, 2022 – Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8:30 AM

Dr. Kanninen announced that the Board was accepting applications for the School Board advisory committees.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán acknowledged Administrative Professionals Day and Afterschool Professionals Week and extended his sincere appreciation for their hard work at APS. He also highlighted other recognitions that APS observed in the month of May. Dr. Durán noted that on May 4 APS hosted a Celebration of Excellence where the Principal, Teacher, and Support Employees of the Year were honored for their outstanding service. The Superintendent then announced that APS was seeking 30 staff, students, families, and community members to participate in the Virtual Learning Program (VLP) Task Force to help explore virtual learning options and develop a comprehensive instructional model to propose for implementation. He also shared that the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) testing would be administered to students in grades 3-12 in May. Dr. Durán highlighted sustainability education at APS and raved about the work that Sustainability Liaisons were doing to engage students in outdoor learning and connect them to the environment and their community. As a bright spot, Dr. Durán applauded Dan Paris, a teacher at the H -B Woodlawn Secondary Program, for being one of two teachers from Virginia to be nominated for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award in the National History Day (NHD) National Contest. Lastly, he excitingly shared that APS was named 2022 Best Communities for Music Education for its outstanding support of music education, enriching the lives of children, and advancing student achievement.

Ms. Kadera inquired about SOLs, the process of communication with families, and including the results in the new academic dashboard.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:25M):

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The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Jennifer Bartlett	President, Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium	Supporting funding for the Planetarium
Jill Kern	Friends of David M. Brown Planetarium	Supporting the re-opening of the Planetarium, including the hiring of a new Director

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding the Career Center Concept Design:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Kristi Sawert	President, Arlington Heights Civic Association	Advocating for a long-range plan for the Career Center
Heather Atkins		Supporting the Career Center programs
Jonathan Hui	Montessori Public School of Arlington	Supporting the concept design
Sean Bender-Prouty	Student, Washington-Liberty High School	Advocating for an animal science program
Jayde Springs	Student, Washington-Liberty High School	Advocating for an animal science program
Kaya DeMarco	Student, Arlington Tech	Supporting expanding the Career Center
Akram Bikoni	Student, Arlington Career Center	Supporting expanding the Career Center
Margaret Varona	Parent, Arlington Tech	Supporting expanding the Career Center
Amanda Trevino	Coordinator, English Learners Institute, Arlington Career Center	Supporting expanding the Career Center
Michelle Van Lare	Program Coordinator, Arlington Career Center	Supporting expanding the Career Center
Margaret Chung	Principal, Arlington Career Center	Supporting expanding the Career Center
Haywon Kim	Chair, Arlington Tech Advisory Committee	Sharing highlights of the success of Arlington Tech

F. MONITORING ITEMS: NONE

G. ACTION ITEMS (7:59 PM):

1. Revisions to School Board Policies B-3.6.30 School Board Advisory Committees, B-3.6.34 School Board Health Advisory Committee, and B-3.6.35 Student Advisory Board

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Review Team Lead, presented new revisions to School Board Policies B-3.6.30 School Board Advisory Committees since last presented to the Board on February 3. The policy was updated to reflect the charter for the Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee (ASEAC) and the School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) as Board committees.

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Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the Board adopt the revisions to School Board Policy B-3.6.30 School Board Advisory Committees and retire policies School Board Policies B-3.6.34 School Board Health Advisory Committee and B-3.6.35 Student Advisory Board, with the changes being effective July 1, 2022, seconded by Mr. Priddy.

Ms. Diaz-Torres acknowledged the robust work that took place to manage Board committees. Ms. Kadera appreciated that staff and the Policy Subcommittee carefully considered feedback from ASEAC to clarify their position as a committee.

Dr. Kanninen called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 4 - 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote.

2. Arlington Career Center Concept Design

Dr. Durán thanked Principal Chung, parents, and students who spoke during public comment. He reiterated this strong support for the Career Center and moving forward with the project to provide students with an adequate facility. Dr. Kanninen acknowledged the Building Planning Level Committee Chair, Mr. Ted Black.

Mr. Priddy move that the School Board take the following actions:

- *Approve the revised Base and Alternative Educational Specifications (Ed. Specs.);*
- *Approve the revised Project Requirements as shown on slide 3 of the April 28, 2022 Arlington Career Center Project Proposed Concept Design presentation which will be made part of the official record*

He further moved that the School Board take additional actions:

- *Direct staff to begin the Schematic Design phase and at its conclusion present to the School Board for approval a proposed:*
 - *Schematic Design and reconciled cost estimate meeting the Base Ed. Specs.; and*
 - *An alternative Schematic Design and reconciled cost estimate meeting the Alternative Ed. Specs., designed to accommodate a future addition.*
- *Include the Arlington Career Center project, based on the approved Project Requirements, in the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2023-32 CIP.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

Ms. Kadera moved that the School Board postpone its vote on the Career Center concept designs, revised base and alternative educational specifications, and revised project requirements until immediately after the CIP is approved in June. She further moved that the revised educational specifications and project requirements be updated before the School Board votes this summer in order to reflect this brief delay in concept design approval, and in full consideration of the totality of facilities needs and their associated costs as reflected in the CIP, the motion was not seconded, and the motion failed.

Speaking of the motion presented by Mr. Priddy, he expressed his support for the project, and as the Board liaison to the project, he explained the work accomplished thus far to move the project forward. Ms. Diaz-Torres shared her whole-hearted support of the motion and expressed her commitment to the community. She noted that staff delivered on the direction provided by the Board despite extreme exigencies and economic inflation. Dr. Kanninen thanked the students who participated in public comment. She observed that student voices are the most important and they are the best advocates to tell the Board their needs. Quoting Mr. Goldstein from a previous meeting, Dr. Kanninen expressed her support for a buildable, affordable, and on-schedule project. She then provided an extensive rundown of the project timeline which began in 2018 and the sequence of events leading to the April 28 vote.

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Ms. Kadera explained that she respectfully requested a postponement of the vote to have a better cost estimate, consider the CIP, and demonstrate good stewardship of public funds. She further explained that it would be irresponsible to move forward with a project with an unknown price tag and not prioritize upgrading other school facilities. In addition, Ms. Kadera clarified that her opposition to the vote in no way translated into her not supporting the Career Center community.

Dr. Kanninen called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 3 - 1. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Nay; and Mr. Priddy – Aye. Mr. Goldstein was not present at the time of the vote.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS (8:35 PM):

1. Revisions to School Board Policies J-51.30 Attendance and J-5.1.31 Full-Day Attendance

Dr. Laura Newton, Director of Student Services, presented the community engagement process to receive feedback on the proposed revisions. The revisions included alignment of the Policy and Policy Implementation Procedure (PIP) to the Virginia Code, providing clarity on specific procedures, and including the appropriate references to other policies.

Ms. Kadera requested clarification on unexcused absences and the window of time students need to be in class to count as present.

2. School Start Time

Ms. Renee Harber, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations, presented that the purpose of the bell study was to review school bell schedules, the start and end times across schools, and to compare instructional minutes across school divisions. The study also intended to ensure APS was maximizing instruction and reducing the variations in start and end times to operate more efficiently. She explained that the last comprehensive bell study was completed during the 1999-2000 school year. Ms. Harber then provided data about transportation services noting that 15,720 students are eligible for transportation services with 152 bus drivers making a total of 161 runs. She spoke about the various challenges in managing transportation and presented highlights from the community survey on the proposed changes to the bell schedule for the 2022-2023 academic year. Ms. Harber presented the proposed Superintendent's school start time recommendations to standardize times and operate fewer runs allowing greater flexibility for drivers. She also presented the suggested Start/End Times for T-Scale Staff in alignment with Policy Implementation Procedure G-1.1 PIP-1, C. Full-time Employee - Regular Work Schedules Contracts and Work Schedules. Ms. Harber concluded by encouraging the community to provide their feedback on the proposed Superintendent's school start time recommendations via the Engage webpage.

The Board discussed the impact of early start times on students and the need to work with Arlington County leadership to secure the appropriate number of crossing guards across the school system. They also discussed engaging with the affected communities and the availability of extended day services.

3. Collective Bargaining Resolution

Dr. Durán expressed his excitement about being the second school district in the Commonwealth to work to adopt a collective bargaining resolution. Dr. Mayo explained that since 1977, collective bargaining was prohibited in Virginia by local governments, including School Boards. In 2020, the Virginia state legislature approved a bill authorizing local governments, including school boards, to adopt an ordinance or resolution to collectively bargain with its employees. He further explained that the proposed resolution sets forth the structure of collective bargaining in APS to formally allow employee groups to organize and express their views through their representatives. APS identified Licensed Personnel, Support Personnel, and Administrative Personnel as bargaining

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units, grouping employees with similar interests. Furthermore, he provided a high-level overview of the proposed resolution. In conclusion, Dr. Mayo shared that the goal was to have collective bargaining agreements in place and in effect for the 2024 fiscal year.

The Board noted that this was a priority of the School Board and thanked staff for their work to bring the resolution to fruition. They encouraged the community to review the resolution and weigh in. The Board requested that information about the resolution be widely shared with staff.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board

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