

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and Budget Work Session #5 Meeting Minutes

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Member
Mary Kadera, Member
David Priddy, Member

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer

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 regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(8)*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Priddy, and it was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively.

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Dr. Kanninen moved to certify that pursuant to 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia to the best knowledge of each School Board member, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting just held, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening this 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; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; and Mr. Priddy – Aye.

Dr. Kanninen called for a brief recess at 6:15 p.m. The Board reconvened in an open session at 6:31 p.m.

Budget Work Session #5

Also present were:

Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Bridget Loft, Chief Academic Officer
Leslie Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Management Services
Chuck Rush, Chair, Budget Advisory Committee
Erick Sullivan, Vice-Chair, Budget Advisory Committee
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

Introduction and BAC Presentation

Dr. Kanninen started by reviewing the agenda and introducing the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Chair, Mr. Chuck Rush. He expressed looking forward to discussing investments and shared the BAC's position regarding the Superintendent's FY2023 Proposed Budget. The BAC urged the Board to transition to a financial structure that could operate on a forward-looking basis without yearly firefighting to resolve deficits. Mr. Rush spoke about what should be done for fiscal sustainability and noted the deficit projections over the next three years. Mr. Rush addressed the issue

¹The recording of School Board meetings is posted on the APS Web site following the meetings.

of the Student Progress Dashboard, which could be used as a resource to evaluate how to focus additional resources on those students with the most need. He finalized the presentation by showing areas of risk the School Board should consider.

Superintendent's Budget Updates

Dr. Durán shared updates on the adjustments to Spring enrollment, adding Safety Coordinators and additional staff for the Washington-Liberty Annex. He also gave an update on the Virtual Learning Program (VLP) enrollment, the costs for the program, and the compensation study. Dr. Durán concluded by presenting the revised budget which included the proposed changes. Ms. Peterson talked about staffing updates, clarified the enrollment projections, which may cause staffing changes, and explained the reserve fund balance as of March 31.

Board Discussion

The Board and advisory committee chairs discussed the recommendations that were presented. They discussed the BAC's collaboration with the county in sharing information on the budget and being a part of other school board committees. Dr. Kanninen commented that the Board may want to prioritize planning factors in the future. She also mentioned the need to continue to invest and how taxpayers have vocalized that money should be used on students rather than savings. Dr. Kanninen thanked Mr. Rush and Mr. Sullivan for their presentation.

The discussion then focused on the updates given by the Superintendent. The Board conversed about compensation, the staffing of testing coordinators and the School Board Office, and the math curriculum supervisor position. The conversation was followed by a discussion on stipends for elementary assistant principals who serve as testing coordinators at their schools. They then discussed VLP and Virtual VA expanding its class offerings. Dr. Kanninen proposed adopting the Superintendent's revised FY 2023 Budget on April 7, and finalizing potential changes on May 12, when the final budget would be adopted.

There was a dialogue between School Board members and staff regarding the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Audit. They talked about trauma-informed professional learning and the awareness of the shortage of mental health professionals. They also spoke about Restorative Justice and a training plan to be implemented in the upcoming school year. In addition, the Board discussed the planetarium and clarified information regarding the director, the projector, and costs. The work session was briefly interrupted by a community member who wanted to clarify some information regarding the planetarium. Dr. Kanninen informed the individual that no public comment was accepted during work sessions but was welcome to sign up to speak at a School Board meeting and could send his comments in writing. The work session concluded with a conversation on tutoring services and resources

Dr. Kanninen noted the complexities of the budget and thanked everyone for their hard work. Dr. Durán reviewed the agenda for future work sessions and the Budget Calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

ATTEST:

Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Barbara Kanninen, Chair
Arlington School Board

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