

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2023

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 5:30 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
 Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair
 Mary Kadera, Member
 David Priddy, Member
 Bethany Zecher Sutton, Member

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

A. CLOSED MEETING ON THE PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order and *moved that the Board immediately convene in a closed meeting to discuss the performance of a public school employee, as authorized by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1)*. The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres, and it was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Mr. Priddy, and Ms. Zecher Sutton voting affirmatively.

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting.

Mr. Goldstein 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; Mr. Priddy – Aye and Ms. Zecher Sutton – Aye.

Also present were:

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School & Community Relations
 Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
 Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff
 Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer
 Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
 Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel
 Claudia Mercado, Clerk
 Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING (7:04 PM):

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: Posse Scholars and QuestBridge Scholars

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Dr. Tyrone Byrd, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, presented the recipients of four-year, full-tuition scholarships from The Posse Foundation and QuestBridge Scholars to attend college. The Board applauded the students for their accomplishments in earning the prestigious scholarships and acknowledged their hard work and dedication.

C. CONSENT ITEMS (7: 14 PM):

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved for the adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Kadera. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Mr. Priddy, and Ms. Zecher Sutton voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes

[C-1-a Minutes for the February 7, 2023 Closed Meeting and Work Session on Opioids and Substances in APS Education Prevention](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the February 16, 2023 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the February 23, 2023 Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for the February 23, 2023 Closed Meeting, Superintendent's FY 2024 Budget Presentation, and Budget Work Session #1](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 2 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 10 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 7 Appointments
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice
- 1 Retirement

3. Revisions to School Board Policies D-1.33 Community Activities Fund, D-1.31 Financial Management-Budget Savings, D-2.30 Financial Management-General, D-2.31 Financial Management-Revenue Sharing, D-2.33

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Financial Management-Additional County Revenue, D-2.34 Financial Management-Reserve Funds, D-2.35 Financial Management-Budget Direction, D-2.36 Financial Management-Budget Development, D-9 Internal Audit, and J-14 Student Fees, Fines and Charges

4. Establishment of the ACTL – Sub-subcommittee on Dual Language Immersion and Appointment of the Chair

Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent, the School Board appointed Dr. Tyrone Byrd as Interim Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the remainder of the school year. In addition, the Board adopted the merger of School Board Policies D-1.31 Financial Management-Budget Savings, D-2.30 Financial Management-General, D-2.31 Financial Management-Revenue Sharing, D-2.33 Financial Management-Additional County Revenue, D-2.34 Financial Management-Reserve Funds, D-2.35 Financial Management-Budget Direction, and D-2.36 Financial Management-Budget Development into one policy, D-2 Financial Management-Budget. Some of the revisions to the policy merge included alignment to the Strategic Plan, Board Priorities, and replacing the specifics on revenue sharing with a reference to the Revenue Sharing Principles. Furthermore, the Board adopted revisions to School Board Policy D-9 Internal Audit resulting in the renumbering of the policy to B-30 and other updates. Lastly, the Board adopted revisions to Policy J-14 Student Fees, Fines and Charges to clarify practices, among other items. Consequently, the Superintendent approved the Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs) related to these policies accordingly. In addition, under consent, the Board approved the creation of the Dual Language Immersion sub-subcommittee within the Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning (ACTL) to better engage and focus discussion on the immersion program. The Board appointed Ms. Paula Cordero-Salas as the chair of this sub-subcommittee.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:18 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

Mr. Goldstein announced that the School Board was accepting nominations for the Honored Citizens Award through March 13 to recognize individuals who make an enormous difference in our school communities. He also shared about events at some of his liaison schools.

March 7 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 March 7 – Budget Work Session #2, 6:30 PM, Board Room
 March 8 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 8 AM, Board Conference Room
 March 14 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
 March 14 – Budget Work Session #3, 6:30 PM, Board Room
 March 16 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Ms. Diaz-Torres expressed her appreciation for the joint and creative work of the World Language Advisory Committee (WLAC) and Advisory Committee on English Learners (ACEL) to find a solution to facilitate the Dual Language Immersion sub-subcommittee. Mr. Goldstein shared about events at his liaison schools. In addition, Mr. Goldstein spoke about the unfortunate incidents reported in a local news outlet and took the opportunity to correct the information communicated. He noted that the opioid abuse problem is not limited to APS but is a community problem. Nonetheless, he acknowledged that APS plays an important role in the education of substance abuse but highlighted that everyone in the community also plays an important role in combating opioid addiction. He encouraged community collaboration to address this issue. To follow up, Ms. Kadera shared about her attendance at the Kenmore Middle School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meeting and thanked Ms. Jenny Sexton, Substance Abuse Counselor, for her detailed presentation on substance abuse and the challenges in the community.

2. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

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Dr. Durán was excited to announce that APS honored many national recognitions during the month of March, including School Social Worker Week (March 5-11). The Every Student Counts highlight was related to the work of school social workers and their critical partnership between school and family, as well as their work to promote emotional wellness. Regarding substance use and opioid education and prevention, Dr. Durán presented the community conversations underway and shared that APS was awaiting legal and regulatory guidance regarding the question of students carrying naloxone in school and considering the requirements that would need to be in place. Furthermore, the Superintendent shared information on the Summer School Program that included an overview of the program, the summer school locations, and important dates. Dr. Durán then presented the FY 2024 budget calendar, an important process taking place at APS. He concluded his announcements by sharing about a collaboration of music teachers and successfully holding three Choral Pyramid Concerts which resulted in elementary, middle and high school choral students coming together with one voice to experience choral music as a county-wide ensemble.

The Board discussed Summer School, the options available for students, enrollment in the different programs, and staffing demands. Highlighting the Outdoor Lab, Mr. Priddy encouraged families to explore their summer camp as they provide robust nature-related activities and experiences to APS students.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:48 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board:

Name:	School or Affiliation:	Topic:
Michael Folb		Sharing concerns about the proposed budget
Belinda Folb		Requesting decreasing class sizes
Deborah Waldron	Teacher, Yorktown High School	Sharing concerns about planning factors and requesting decreasing class sizes
June Prakash	President, Arlington Education Association	Expressing concerns about compensation in the proposed budget
Jennifer Wheelock	Arlington Parents for Education	Supporting investments for student support and sharing compensation and benefits concerns
Charles Smith		Explaining interview process experience with Transportation
Reg Goeke	Arlington Parents for Education	Requesting a budget that supports instructional resources
Endris Gethum	Bus Driver, Transportation	Explaining interview process experience with Transportation
Melissa Schwaber-Hawkins	Parent, Middle and High School	Requesting better substance abuse curriculum and resources

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:10 PM):

1. English Learners Update

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Ms. Terri Murphy, Director of Office of English Learners, presented information on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement, explaining requirements for instructional professional training and language support. She also presented a summary of the Office of English Learners Five-Year Plan and about the work in partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR). Ms. Rebecca Bergey, Senior Researcher at AIR, spoke about the collaborative process with the Office of English Learners to draft the plan, gather data and information, and engage the community in the public comment period. Furthermore, Ms. Murphy spoke about the development and revisions of the curriculum, supports provided to the schools, and the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) ACCESS assessment. Lastly, she shared about the importance of native language assessments as an entry screener and growth assessment.

Mr. Priddy announced that the deadline for public comment on the Office of English Learners Five-Year Plan was March 7 and encouraged the community to share their feedback. Ms. Zecher Sutton suggested better articulation of a concise goal of the five-year plan. At the request of Mr. Goldstein and unclear about the goals, strategies, and objectives of the five-year plan, Ms. Murphy explained the purpose, timeline, and process of drafting the five-year plan. She clarified that the goal was to create a coherent program with equal access to the full breadth of the curriculum to students, prioritizing students achieving graduation. In addition, Ms. Bergey shared about the process of gathering information from stakeholder groups. Ms. Kadera inquired about budgetary needs and the DOJ settlement. Moreover, Ms. Diaz-Torres expressed her concerns about the complex plan and the scaffolding of support across APS.

G. ACTION ITEMS (9:14 PM):

1. Revisions to School Board Policy K-14.1.10.31 School and Police Relations

Since presented for information at the February 16 School Board meeting, Mr. Steven Marku, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, emphasized an additional revision to the policy- requiring building principals to notify the Superintendent of any police activity, including interrogations or investigations, within 24 hours of being notified.

The Board briefly discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between APS and Arlington County Police Department.

Ms. Kadera moved that the School Board adopt the proposed revisions to School Board Policy K-14.1.10.31 School and Police Relations, seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye; Ms. Zecher Sutton – Aye.

2. Campbell Elementary School Kitchen and Entrance Renovations Construction Contract Award

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

- *Award contract 77FY23 for renovations at Campbell Elementary School to The Matthews Group, Inc. in the amount of \$3,258,092; and*
- *Approve a project budget of \$4,820,000 from the Kitchen and Entrance/Security Vestibule Renovation Program funding to support renovations at Campbell Elementary School.*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Diaz-Torres.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye; Ms. Zecher Sutton – Aye.

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H. INFORMATION ITEMS (9:24 PM):

1. Montessori Public School of Arlington Playground Relocation Construction Contract Award

Mr. Jefferey Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, explained that the existing Montessori Public School of Arlington (MPSA) play areas must be relocated to facilitate construction of the new Arlington Career Center (ACC). The relocation is planned for the 2023 Summer so that the new play areas are available for MPSA in time for or shortly after the start of the 2023-24 School Year.

The Board discussed some of the logistics and funding of the proposed relocation.

I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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