

WEBVTT

1

00:00:02.955 --> 00:00:06.725

Welcome to the July 8th, 2025 Arlington School Board

2

00:00:06.725 --> 00:00:07.925

organizational meeting.

3

00:00:08.515 --> 00:00:09.925

This meeting is now in session.

4

00:00:10.335 --> 00:00:11.685

Today I extend a welcome

5

00:00:11.745 --> 00:00:14.485

and thanks to the a PS staff, students, family,

6

00:00:14.625 --> 00:00:16.725

and Arlington community members who've joined us in

7

00:00:16.725 --> 00:00:17.805

person at this meeting.

8

00:00:18.385 --> 00:00:21.485

And to those who may be watching via video livestream,

9

00:00:22.225 --> 00:00:24.285

we rely on your interest, engagement,

10

00:00:24.285 --> 00:00:25.845

and participation to ensure

11

00:00:25.845 --> 00:00:28.165

that we're doing the very best we can for our students,

12

00:00:28.305 --> 00:00:31.125

and we truly value your support and your collaboration.

13

00:00:32.125 --> 00:00:33.805

I also wanna acknowledge some special guests

14

00:00:33.825 --> 00:00:35.525

who joined us today, our colleagues from

15

00:00:35.525 --> 00:00:36.605

the Arlington County Board.

16

00:00:36.605 --> 00:00:40.245

We have Chair TAUs Caroni, vice Chair, Matt Deranti,

17

00:00:40.305 --> 00:00:42.525

and members Susan Cunningham, Maureen Coffee,

18

00:00:42.665 --> 00:00:44.125

and JD Spain Senior.

19

00:00:44.615 --> 00:00:46.125

Thank you so much for joining us.

20

00:00:46.745 --> 00:00:49.285

Um, we also have a warm welcome for our county manager,

21

00:00:49.435 --> 00:00:51.565

Mark Schwartz, and our former school board chair,

22

00:00:51.565 --> 00:00:52.645

Christina Diaz Torres.

23

00:00:52.645 --> 00:00:53.285

Joining us today,

24

00:00:57.625 --> 00:01:00.165

we are so grateful to our county board colleagues

25

00:01:00.165 --> 00:01:01.925

and our county manager for the committed

26

00:01:01.925 --> 00:01:04.605

and collaborative relationship between our school division

27

00:01:04.625 --> 00:01:05.645

and the county government.

28

00:01:05.645 --> 00:01:08.005

Thank you. Please stand at this moment

29

00:01:08.105 --> 00:01:09.245

for our Pledge of Allegiance

30

00:01:15.365 --> 00:01:16.905

Of the United States of America,

31

00:01:17.525 --> 00:01:19.785

and to the republic for which it stands,

32

00:01:20.525 --> 00:01:24.105

one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty

33

00:01:24.285 --> 00:01:25.425

and justice for all.

34

00:01:30.335 --> 00:01:32.965

Thank you. Today's organizational

35

00:01:32.965 --> 00:01:34.205

meeting is an important one.

36

00:01:34.205 --> 00:01:37.365

As we begin another chapter in our collective work, we know

37

00:01:37.365 --> 00:01:39.805

that the decisions that we make in this room reach far

38

00:01:39.825 --> 00:01:40.925

beyond these walls.

39

00:01:41.265 --> 00:01:42.645

We are incredibly mindful

40

00:01:42.865 --> 00:01:46.525

of the responsibility vested in this board by our families

41  
00:01:46.665 --> 00:01:48.445  
who entrust us with the children they love

42  
00:01:48.625 --> 00:01:51.765  
by our staff members who carry out their calling, equipped

43  
00:01:51.765 --> 00:01:54.165  
with the resources and support that we provision

44  
00:01:54.665 --> 00:01:57.325  
by our community that depends upon us to ensure

45  
00:01:57.325 --> 00:02:00.125  
that a PS is an asset that delivers benefits to today

46  
00:02:00.705 --> 00:02:01.965  
and for the next generation,

47  
00:02:02.705 --> 00:02:05.085  
and by our students who rely on us to organize

48  
00:02:05.085 --> 00:02:07.725  
and provide an education that's relevant, rigorous,

49  
00:02:07.945 --> 00:02:10.245  
and responsive to their unique needs and hopes.

50  
00:02:10.985 --> 00:02:13.725  
In the year ahead, we'll continue our work on the priorities

51  
00:02:13.725 --> 00:02:16.325  
of our strategic plan, a roadmap that reflects our vision

52  
00:02:16.465 --> 00:02:19.965  
and our values to ensure that every student has access

53  
00:02:19.965 --> 00:02:22.365  
to opportunity to close gaps where they exist,

54  
00:02:22.625 --> 00:02:24.005

and to create learning environments

55

00:02:24.005 --> 00:02:27.085

where every child feels seen, heard, valued,

56

00:02:27.145 --> 00:02:28.445

and supported to thrive.

57

00:02:29.615 --> 00:02:32.365

We're gonna begin with some organizational items, um,

58

00:02:32.465 --> 00:02:34.725

and the first item is to adopt the school board.

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00:02:34.725 --> 00:02:36.405

Code of conduct may have a motion

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00:02:36.405 --> 00:02:38.005

to adopt our code of conduct.

61

00:02:39.485 --> 00:02:41.645

I move that the school board adopt the school

62

00:02:41.645 --> 00:02:42.685

board code of conduct.

63

00:02:43.065 --> 00:02:46.525

Is there a second? Second. All in favor? Please say yes.

64

00:02:46.625 --> 00:02:49.205

Yes, yes, yes. Any opposed? Please say no.

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00:02:50.505 --> 00:02:53.685

The motion passes five to zero and we now pass around

66

00:02:53.685 --> 00:02:54.925

and sign the code of conduct.

67

00:02:55.215 --> 00:02:56.285

We'll keep the meeting going.

68  
00:02:56.285 --> 00:03:00.085  
While we're doing that work, um, we are now at a point

69  
00:03:00.085 --> 00:03:02.365  
where we're going to accept nominations for our chair.

70  
00:03:03.405 --> 00:03:05.165  
I have a nomination and I'd like

71  
00:03:05.165 --> 00:03:06.805  
to nominate Bethany Zucker Sutton

72  
00:03:06.825 --> 00:03:08.605  
to be our next school board chair.

73  
00:03:09.345 --> 00:03:11.205  
Is there a second to that nomination? Second.

74  
00:03:11.985 --> 00:03:13.565  
Are there any other nominations

75  
00:03:13.565 --> 00:03:15.245  
that board members would like to make?

76  
00:03:17.755 --> 00:03:18.805  
Alright. All right, then.

77  
00:03:18.825 --> 00:03:21.085  
I'd like to take a moment to comment on my nomination.

78  
00:03:22.185 --> 00:03:24.205  
I'm very pleased to nominate my colleague

79  
00:03:24.205 --> 00:03:25.805  
and friend Bethany Zucker Sutton,

80  
00:03:25.805 --> 00:03:27.365  
to be our next school board chair.

81  
00:03:27.905 --> 00:03:30.405

She possesses many qualities that I think make

82

00:03:30.405 --> 00:03:31.565  
for an excellent chair.

83

00:03:31.855 --> 00:03:33.765  
First, I appreciate

84

00:03:33.765 --> 00:03:35.645  
that Bethany is thoughtful and reflective.

85

00:03:36.105 --> 00:03:37.445  
She doesn't rest to judgment

86

00:03:37.585 --> 00:03:39.405  
and she doesn't make decisions lightly.

87

00:03:39.635 --> 00:03:41.525  
Bethany is someone who does her homework

88

00:03:41.745 --> 00:03:43.525  
by seeking out additional information

89

00:03:43.625 --> 00:03:46.725  
and by asking good questions, she reminds herself

90

00:03:46.785 --> 00:03:48.725  
and the rest of us that we need to think about

91

00:03:48.725 --> 00:03:49.805  
who we're not hearing from.

92

00:03:50.075 --> 00:03:51.245  
Seek them out and listen.

93

00:03:52.005 --> 00:03:53.965  
I know as chair she'll be a discerning,

94

00:03:53.965 --> 00:03:55.525  
careful, and inclusive leader.

95

00:03:56.305 --> 00:03:57.965

Second, Bethany works to build

96

00:03:57.965 --> 00:04:00.205

and maintain good relationships with her colleagues,

97

00:04:00.235 --> 00:04:02.285

with a PS staff and with community members.

98

00:04:02.895 --> 00:04:04.925

She's genuinely open to others' ideas

99

00:04:05.025 --> 00:04:06.525

and works to find common ground.

100

00:04:07.285 --> 00:04:09.565

I know as Chair that she will be generous in sharing

101

00:04:09.565 --> 00:04:11.565

information and will act with integrity

102

00:04:11.745 --> 00:04:13.565

to represent the school board as a whole

103

00:04:13.585 --> 00:04:15.405

and herself as an individual contributor.

104

00:04:16.525 --> 00:04:19.445

I also appreciate that Bethany puts in the time, even

105

00:04:19.445 --> 00:04:21.845

before her term on the school board, she put in the time

106

00:04:21.865 --> 00:04:24.485

as a leader in the Randolph Elementary School community

107

00:04:24.785 --> 00:04:26.725

and also as a member and eventually chair

108

00:04:26.945 --> 00:04:28.885



of our advisory council and teaching and learning.

109

00:04:29.345 --> 00:04:32.525

And in many other volunteer roles on the board,

110

00:04:32.575 --> 00:04:34.565

she's been our policy subcommittee chair,

111

00:04:34.825 --> 00:04:36.245

our legislative liaison,

112

00:04:36.305 --> 00:04:39.085

and our board representative on many special

113

00:04:39.085 --> 00:04:40.285

committees and working groups.

114

00:04:41.025 --> 00:04:42.245

She knows this is hard work,

115

00:04:42.465 --> 00:04:44.485

and I know as chair that she'll be thoughtful

116

00:04:44.485 --> 00:04:47.045

and strategic in how she organizes the work of this group

117

00:04:47.065 --> 00:04:48.965

to be most efficient and effective.

118

00:04:49.715 --> 00:04:51.405

Bethany values what's required

119

00:04:51.405 --> 00:04:54.165

to lead complex organizations, including sound policy,

120

00:04:54.685 --> 00:04:57.085

standard operating procedures, a shared understanding

121

00:04:57.085 --> 00:04:58.405

of communication norms

122

00:04:58.785 --> 00:05:01.005  
and having systems for progress monitoring

123

00:05:01.025 --> 00:05:02.445  
and continuous improvement.

124

00:05:02.945 --> 00:05:04.885  
Her work in higher education, recruiting

125

00:05:04.885 --> 00:05:06.165  
and coaching academic leaders

126

00:05:06.185 --> 00:05:08.285  
and working with boards underpins her skills

127

00:05:08.705 --> 00:05:12.285  
and interests in systems change and systems thinking.

128

00:05:12.905 --> 00:05:14.125  
She has the bird's eye view,

129

00:05:14.155 --> 00:05:15.925  
understands the interdependencies,

130

00:05:15.945 --> 00:05:17.725  
and can articulate the necessity

131

00:05:17.725 --> 00:05:19.725  
and benefit of each part to the whole.

132

00:05:20.385 --> 00:05:22.405  
For these reasons and more, I am happy

133

00:05:22.425 --> 00:05:23.445  
to make this nomination

134

00:05:23.465 --> 00:05:26.285  
and to have the opportunity to serve in the Bethany Zucker

135

00:05:26.285 --> 00:05:27.405

Sutton administration.

136

00:05:29.985 --> 00:05:33.605

Any other comments or questions before we go ahead and vote?

137

00:05:34.275 --> 00:05:35.725

With no other nominations?

138

00:05:36.075 --> 00:05:37.325

It's been moved and seconded

139

00:05:37.325 --> 00:05:39.365

that Bethany Ecker Sutton be appointed chair

140

00:05:39.365 --> 00:05:42.165

of the school board for the 20 25 20 26 school year.

141

00:05:42.745 --> 00:05:46.565

All in favor? Please say yes. Yes, yes, yes. Any opposed?

142

00:05:46.565 --> 00:05:50.525

Please say no. The motion passes five to zero.

143

00:05:50.665 --> 00:05:51.925

Congratulations. This

144

00:06:03.745 --> 00:06:05.885

we do the ceremonial passing of the gavel,

145

00:06:05.885 --> 00:06:07.205

so bear with us for just a minute.

146

00:06:49.475 --> 00:06:52.135

The script now calls upon me to say thank you.

147

00:06:54.835 --> 00:06:58.255

Um, let me, uh, let me, uh, continue on.

148

00:06:58.355 --> 00:07:00.535

Um, we all will have some, some additional comments

149

00:07:00.675 --> 00:07:02.335  
to make about our year ahead.

150

00:07:02.435 --> 00:07:06.815  
Um, but we first have the, um, order of business

151

00:07:06.875 --> 00:07:08.895  
to elect a new vice chair.

152

00:07:09.475 --> 00:07:12.135  
Uh, and I will now make that nomination.

153

00:07:12.415 --> 00:07:15.055  
I nominate Miranda Turner to serve

154

00:07:15.055 --> 00:07:17.775  
as vice chair of the school board. Do I have a second?

155

00:07:18.115 --> 00:07:21.175  
Second. Are there any other nominations?

156

00:07:23.165 --> 00:07:27.055  
Okay. Um, I'll comment on my, uh, nomination.

157

00:07:27.275 --> 00:07:29.455  
Um, Mr.

158

00:07:31.435 --> 00:07:33.655  
Ms. Turner brings to the school board a passion

159

00:07:33.675 --> 00:07:35.095  
for excellence in our system.

160

00:07:35.905 --> 00:07:37.295  
She's smart and insightful

161

00:07:37.315 --> 00:07:39.775  
and she cares tremendously about a PS

162

00:07:39.795 --> 00:07:41.215

and the success of our students.

163

00:07:43.185 --> 00:07:47.775

She's also a lawyer. I'll confess that this means

164

00:07:47.775 --> 00:07:51.255

that our brains do not always operate in the same manner.

165

00:07:52.315 --> 00:07:54.215

Uh, and it's a beautiful thing

166

00:07:54.215 --> 00:07:57.095

because we bring, uh, different approaches to the work.

167

00:07:57.115 --> 00:07:59.095

We bring different perspectives on things.

168

00:07:59.155 --> 00:08:01.775

We may in fact be the epitome of being stronger

169

00:08:01.775 --> 00:08:02.815

because of our diversity.

170

00:08:03.675 --> 00:08:07.815

Um, and best of all, we are able to engage in civil doors.

171

00:08:07.815 --> 00:08:11.615

Discourse at it is as it is meant to be with respect

172

00:08:11.715 --> 00:08:13.455

and appreciation for one another.

173

00:08:14.575 --> 00:08:17.375

I am grateful for her willingness, uh, to step into the role

174

00:08:17.375 --> 00:08:20.095

of Vice Chair, although I should hasten to say that

175

00:08:20.095 --> 00:08:22.695

of course, Ms. Turner and I have different perspectives on

176

00:08:22.695 --> 00:08:24.375

what the role of the vice chair actually is.

177

00:08:25.075 --> 00:08:27.775

Um, thank you for your willingness, uh, to serve,

178

00:08:27.955 --> 00:08:31.135

and I look forward to our continued partnership

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00:08:31.515 --> 00:08:36.055

and occasional sparring board members.

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00:08:36.235 --> 00:08:41.215

Any other comments on the nomination for Vice chair? Okay.

181

00:08:41.215 --> 00:08:42.895

Seeing, uh, no comments

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00:08:42.955 --> 00:08:44.695

and no other nominations, it has been moved

183

00:08:44.695 --> 00:08:46.855

and seconded that Miranda Turner be appointed vice chair

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00:08:46.855 --> 00:08:50.055

of the school board for the 20 25 26 school year.

185

00:08:50.595 --> 00:08:52.055

All in favor? Please say yes.

186

00:08:52.475 --> 00:08:53.475

Yes, yes, Yes.

187

00:08:53.995 --> 00:08:58.245

Any opposed? Please say no. Motion passes. Five to zero.

188

00:08:58.245 --> 00:08:59.565

Congratulations, Ms. Turner.

189

00:09:07.635 --> 00:09:08.725

Okay, Uh,

190

00:09:08.725 --> 00:09:10.645

we will now act on the organizational meeting.

191

00:09:10.665 --> 00:09:13.645

Agenda items number four through 15.

192

00:09:14.385 --> 00:09:17.045

May I have a motion to adopt the, uh,

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00:09:17.045 --> 00:09:18.685

organizational meeting agenda items?

194

00:09:22.725 --> 00:09:24.885

I move that the board adopt the organizational meeting

195

00:09:24.885 --> 00:09:27.405

Agenda items on number four through 15.

196

00:09:28.065 --> 00:09:32.885

Is there a second? Second. Any questions or comments?

197

00:09:34.385 --> 00:09:36.445

All in favor of adopting the organizational agenda.

198

00:09:36.455 --> 00:09:39.325

Items four through 15. Please say yes. Yes, yes, yes.

199

00:09:39.625 --> 00:09:42.365

Any posts, please say no. Motion passes.

200

00:09:42.395 --> 00:09:46.245

Five to zero With this vote,

201

00:09:46.385 --> 00:09:49.285

the school board readopted existing policies

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00:09:49.285 --> 00:09:51.725

for the administration of Arlington Public Schools.

203

00:09:52.485 --> 00:09:54.045

A current copy of the policies

204

00:09:54.065 --> 00:09:56.485

and policy implementation procedures is available

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00:09:56.545 --> 00:09:58.205

to employees and to the public

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00:09:58.315 --> 00:10:00.525

through the Arlington Public School's website.

207

00:10:00.745 --> 00:10:05.725

At www ww aps va us in compliance

208

00:10:05.875 --> 00:10:09.045

with 22.1

209

00:10:09.545 --> 00:10:13.805

2 5 3 3 7 D of the Code of Virginia,

210

00:10:14.295 --> 00:10:16.565

which requires that school boards shall ensure

211

00:10:16.565 --> 00:10:18.685

that printed copies of such policies

212

00:10:18.685 --> 00:10:21.525

and regulations are available as needed to citizens

213

00:10:21.525 --> 00:10:23.005

who do not have online access.

214

00:10:23.415 --> 00:10:25.725

Paper copies are available upon request

215

00:10:25.865 --> 00:10:29.925

to the school board office at 7 0 3 2 2 8 6 0 1 5,

216

00:10:30.385 --> 00:10:33.645



or school board at APS VA us.

217

00:10:34.905 --> 00:10:36.405

As part of our organizational meeting,

218

00:10:36.465 --> 00:10:38.565

the school board approved several additional items,

219

00:10:38.565 --> 00:10:41.085

including the schedule of regular school board meetings

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00:10:41.085 --> 00:10:42.685

for the 25 26 school year.

221

00:10:42.995 --> 00:10:45.165

This schedule will be posted, uh,

222

00:10:45.185 --> 00:10:47.085

on the school board's website later today.

223

00:10:48.185 --> 00:10:51.445

The board adopted the school board guidelines

224

00:10:51.505 --> 00:10:53.445

for public comment during school board

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00:10:53.445 --> 00:10:54.765

meetings and public hearings.

226

00:10:55.345 --> 00:10:57.925

We also adopted the school board liaison assignments

227

00:10:57.925 --> 00:10:59.965

to schools, programs, advisory committees,

228

00:10:59.965 --> 00:11:00.965

and civic associations.

229

00:11:01.625 --> 00:11:05.805

Lastly, the board reappointed Claudia Mercado as Clerk

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00:11:05.825 --> 00:11:08.645

of the School Board and Carmen Mejia as deputy clerk.

231

00:11:17.315 --> 00:11:19.685

Okay, we will now hold, uh, a brief regular meeting.

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00:11:19.785 --> 00:11:22.325

Um, before we begin, I would like to welcome board members

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00:11:22.325 --> 00:11:24.245

and the superintendent to share any comments

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00:11:24.505 --> 00:11:27.005

as we mark the turn of our fiscal year in the beginning

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00:11:27.065 --> 00:11:29.045

of the 20 25 26 school year.

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00:11:29.585 --> 00:11:32.885

Um, I'd like to first invite, uh, our outgoing chair, Ms.

237

00:11:33.035 --> 00:11:34.245

Cera, to make remarks.

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00:11:35.295 --> 00:11:36.685

Thank you. Chair Zuckers.

239

00:11:36.685 --> 00:11:39.125

Son, it's been a privilege to serve

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00:11:39.145 --> 00:11:40.845

as school board chair over the past year.

241

00:11:41.225 --> 00:11:43.725

I'd like to thank the superintendent for his partnership

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00:11:44.705 --> 00:11:46.085

and his cabinet members for their

243

00:11:46.085 --> 00:11:47.325

leadership and collaboration.

244

00:11:47.865 --> 00:11:49.845

I'm grateful to our vice chair now chair,

245

00:11:49.845 --> 00:11:51.605

Bethany Zucker Sutton for her support,

246

00:11:51.905 --> 00:11:54.485

our school board clerk and deputy clerk for their patience

247

00:11:54.485 --> 00:11:56.885

and skill and my school board colleagues

248

00:11:57.025 --> 00:11:58.965

for their commitment to doing this hard work

249

00:11:59.065 --> 00:12:00.885

for the school division and for our community.

250

00:12:01.795 --> 00:12:04.765

When I began my term as chair last July, I shared my belief

251

00:12:04.765 --> 00:12:07.085

that the board makes its best decisions when it's carefully

252

00:12:07.085 --> 00:12:08.605

attuned to the practical wisdom

253

00:12:08.865 --> 00:12:11.645

and perspectives of all who value public education.

254

00:12:12.355 --> 00:12:15.005

When we're generous in sharing our own ideas, questions,

255

00:12:15.005 --> 00:12:17.565

and experiences, we enrich the collective outcome,

256

00:12:18.425 --> 00:12:20.445

and I'm so proud of those outcomes

257

00:12:20.585 --> 00:12:22.285  
and what we've accomplished together, all

258

00:12:22.285 --> 00:12:25.525  
of us in the past year, through genuine listening, valuing

259

00:12:25.525 --> 00:12:28.645  
what we hear and working together, I'd like to mention some

260

00:12:28.645 --> 00:12:31.445  
of the progress that I believe we've made in the areas

261

00:12:31.585 --> 00:12:34.445  
of community relationship building, stewardship

262

00:12:34.445 --> 00:12:36.205  
of resources, valuing staff,

263

00:12:36.345 --> 00:12:38.125  
and acting in alignment with our values.

264

00:12:38.855 --> 00:12:40.765  
First, I wanna say a little bit about community

265

00:12:41.165 --> 00:12:43.525  
participation and trust building with an eye to ensuring

266

00:12:43.525 --> 00:12:45.045  
that the school board is as well connected

267

00:12:45.065 --> 00:12:46.405  
and responsive as possible.

268

00:12:47.145 --> 00:12:50.125  
As of today, we've streamlined our guidelines

269

00:12:50.125 --> 00:12:53.165  
for public comment and we changed our public comment signup

270

00:12:53.165 --> 00:12:55.725

process, so it'll be easier for people to participate

271

00:12:56.145 --> 00:12:57.405  
during my term as chair.

272

00:12:57.405 --> 00:12:58.965  
I've taken notes during public comment

273

00:12:59.145 --> 00:13:01.125  
and summarized to the concerns brought forward

274

00:13:01.145 --> 00:13:03.845  
during each meeting as one way of demonstrating

275

00:13:03.845 --> 00:13:05.045  
that speakers are listened to

276

00:13:05.145 --> 00:13:08.685  
and their feedback is carefully considered in an effort

277

00:13:08.685 --> 00:13:10.485  
to highlight issues that are top of mind

278

00:13:10.505 --> 00:13:11.725  
for many of our stakeholders.

279

00:13:11.755 --> 00:13:14.045  
This year, we changed the way we present monitoring items.

280

00:13:14.585 --> 00:13:16.325  
We identified a more specific focus

281

00:13:16.385 --> 00:13:18.205  
for each monitoring report, for example,

282

00:13:18.205 --> 00:13:19.965  
chronic absenteeism within the

283

00:13:19.965 --> 00:13:21.365  
broader category of student services.

284

00:13:21.855 --> 00:13:24.045

We've also made an effort to include school staff

285

00:13:24.145 --> 00:13:27.045

as co-presenters of our monitoring items to hear directly

286

00:13:27.105 --> 00:13:29.205

how the issue being discussed manifests in

287

00:13:29.205 --> 00:13:30.285

their classrooms and schools.

288

00:13:31.175 --> 00:13:33.325

We're reinventing our school board advisory council

289

00:13:33.425 --> 00:13:35.085

so they're more relevant, better aligned

290

00:13:35.085 --> 00:13:36.205

to our strategic plan,

291

00:13:36.505 --> 00:13:38.565

and we'll make better use of the volunteer time

292

00:13:38.565 --> 00:13:41.405

and energy that we are so lucky to have in Arlington.

293

00:13:42.065 --> 00:13:43.725

I'm particularly grateful to all those

294

00:13:43.885 --> 00:13:46.365

who participated in the advisory council working group,

295

00:13:46.505 --> 00:13:48.725

and we look forward to sharing more about the proposed

296

00:13:48.725 --> 00:13:49.725

changes this fall.

297

00:13:50.665 --> 00:13:52.965

In this year's budget development process, we

298

00:13:53.165 --> 00:13:55.725

provided expanded opportunities for public engagement,

299

00:13:55.725 --> 00:13:59.045

including drop-in open office hours, last summer, meetings

300

00:13:59.045 --> 00:14:00.565

with community groups last fall,

301

00:14:00.785 --> 00:14:02.925

and multiple meetings that were open to the public.

302

00:14:02.995 --> 00:14:06.605

From July through February, we posted to the a PS website,

303

00:14:06.605 --> 00:14:09.285

an infographic that explains the budget process start

304

00:14:09.285 --> 00:14:11.045

to finish, and we share the template

305

00:14:11.045 --> 00:14:13.405

that a PS department heads used to request changes

306

00:14:13.505 --> 00:14:14.565

to their baseline budget.

307

00:14:15.805 --> 00:14:18.045

A second area of progress has been in good stewardships

308

00:14:18.045 --> 00:14:19.805

of the school division's, financial, human,

309

00:14:19.825 --> 00:14:21.045

and capital resources.

310

00:14:21.145 --> 00:14:23.845

For the first time, we have written guidelines

311

00:14:23.845 --> 00:14:24.885  
that spell out when

312

00:14:24.885 --> 00:14:26.845  
and how our reserve funds should be used.

313

00:14:26.905 --> 00:14:27.925  
In order to get on

314

00:14:27.945 --> 00:14:30.445  
and stay on a more sustainable financial footing,

315

00:14:30.895 --> 00:14:32.125  
we're standing up a hotline

316

00:14:32.145 --> 00:14:33.965  
to report suspected waste and fraud.

317

00:14:34.435 --> 00:14:36.845  
This past year, we conducted rigorous internal audits

318

00:14:36.845 --> 00:14:38.965  
and publicly shared the results of those audits

319

00:14:38.965 --> 00:14:39.965  
as they were finished.

320

00:14:40.825 --> 00:14:43.605  
You can expect to hear the final audit from this school year

321

00:14:43.785 --> 00:14:47.125  
on our information services equipment management next month,

322

00:14:47.145 --> 00:14:48.285  
as soon as it's completed.

323

00:14:49.405 --> 00:14:51.685  
A third area of progress I see is the, the effort we've made

324

00:14:51.685 --> 00:14:54.605



to ensure that our talented staff members have the resources

325

00:14:54.605 --> 00:14:56.645

and support that they need to do their best work.

326

00:14:57.335 --> 00:14:58.765

Early in the year, teachers

327

00:14:58.765 --> 00:15:00.965

and school leaders shared their concerns about the negative

328

00:15:00.965 --> 00:15:03.725

effects of constant access to phones in classrooms

329

00:15:03.875 --> 00:15:05.965

through careful listening and collaboration.

330

00:15:06.025 --> 00:15:09.205

We created a cell phone policy to create better conditions

331

00:15:09.365 --> 00:15:12.165

for teaching, learning, and building positive relationships

332

00:15:12.215 --> 00:15:13.525

among our students and staff.

333

00:15:14.585 --> 00:15:17.685

The audit of and leadership changes in our Human resources

334

00:15:17.685 --> 00:15:20.925

department aim to make HR the consistently responsive,

335

00:15:21.445 --> 00:15:22.725

accurate, and supportive resource

336

00:15:22.725 --> 00:15:24.085

that all of our employees deserve.

337

00:15:24.865 --> 00:15:28.485

We closed a projected \$49 million budget gap this year

338  
00:15:28.635 --> 00:15:31.165  
without instituting an across the board class size

339  
00:15:31.445 --> 00:15:32.965  
increase in the budget.

340  
00:15:33.065 --> 00:15:34.845  
We were able to expand parental leave

341  
00:15:35.065 --> 00:15:36.765  
and offer a better compensation

342  
00:15:37.085 --> 00:15:38.165  
increase than the year before.

343  
00:15:39.585 --> 00:15:41.005  
We followed up on last year's audit

344  
00:15:41.025 --> 00:15:42.045  
of our school activity funds

345  
00:15:42.105 --> 00:15:44.445  
by making changes in our finance department designed

346  
00:15:44.445 --> 00:15:47.325  
to ensure that school administrators, school treasurers,

347  
00:15:47.325 --> 00:15:49.085  
and other staff members have clear guidance

348  
00:15:49.185 --> 00:15:51.045  
and support about how to manage those funds.

349  
00:15:51.705 --> 00:15:54.245  
We created a policy implementation procedure on

350  
00:15:54.245 --> 00:15:55.565  
administrative leave so

351  
00:15:55.565 --> 00:15:57.445

that our staff members would have a clear sense

352

00:15:57.445 --> 00:15:58.485  
of the rules of the road.

353

00:15:58.515 --> 00:16:00.325  
When complaints are made about employees

354

00:16:00.345 --> 00:16:01.885  
and investigations need to occur,

355

00:16:02.655 --> 00:16:03.845  
we've launched a more inclusive

356

00:16:03.865 --> 00:16:06.685  
and transparent process for health insurance procurement.

357

00:16:07.005 --> 00:16:09.285  
I wanna thank all the employees who've completed the recent

358

00:16:09.285 --> 00:16:10.725  
survey to inform this process.

359

00:16:11.615 --> 00:16:13.965  
We're now also writing a standard operating procedure

360

00:16:13.995 --> 00:16:16.645  
that will lay out how new principles are hired to ensure

361

00:16:16.645 --> 00:16:18.965  
that staff members and families in those school communities

362

00:16:18.965 --> 00:16:20.405  
have a solid understanding of

363

00:16:20.405 --> 00:16:22.925  
how their interests will be represented in panel interviews

364

00:16:22.945 --> 00:16:23.965  
and by other means.

365

00:16:25.065 --> 00:16:26.965

The school board has also invested energy

366

00:16:26.965 --> 00:16:28.005

in its own improvement.

367

00:16:28.435 --> 00:16:30.365

With the help of our school board office staff,

368

00:16:30.455 --> 00:16:32.485

we've created a comprehensive shared drive

369

00:16:32.485 --> 00:16:34.245

that school board members can reference

370

00:16:34.345 --> 00:16:36.445

and to better preserve institutional knowledge.

371

00:16:36.865 --> 00:16:38.325

The school board is creating a process

372

00:16:38.585 --> 00:16:41.965

to conduct a formal annual self-evaluation, something

373

00:16:41.965 --> 00:16:44.845

that's prescribed in our policy that we have not undertaken

374

00:16:44.845 --> 00:16:46.125

during my time on the board.

375

00:16:46.825 --> 00:16:48.365

Beyond compliance with policy.

376

00:16:48.865 --> 00:16:51.805

In doing self-evaluation, we wanna model a commitment

377

00:16:51.805 --> 00:16:53.605

to reflective practice, growth mindset,

378

00:16:53.825 --> 00:16:55.205

and continuous improvement,

379

00:16:55.295 --> 00:16:57.845

which are important at all levels of our organization.

380

00:16:58.835 --> 00:17:01.365

Finally, in most important, I wanna note that this year,

381

00:17:01.445 --> 00:17:04.565

a PS remains steadfast in its commitment to providing safe,

382

00:17:04.595 --> 00:17:06.525

welcoming, and inclusive environments

383

00:17:06.525 --> 00:17:08.405

for all our students, families, and staff.

384

00:17:08.905 --> 00:17:11.045

In spite of changes being handed down at the federal

385

00:17:11.145 --> 00:17:14.045

and state levels in the wake of a complaint filed

386

00:17:14.045 --> 00:17:16.045

with the US Department of Education in February,

387

00:17:16.135 --> 00:17:17.285

we're defending our policy

388

00:17:17.345 --> 00:17:20.325

and practices that protect LGBTQ plus youth

389

00:17:20.705 --> 00:17:22.205

and ensure that they have access

390

00:17:22.205 --> 00:17:24.765

to every opportunity available to other students.

391

00:17:25.805 --> 00:17:27.765

Although the Virginia Department of Education is limited,

392  
00:17:27.865 --> 00:17:31.645  
how it recognizes student gender in its state level record

393  
00:17:31.645 --> 00:17:33.885  
keeping in our local record keeping,

394  
00:17:33.905 --> 00:17:36.405  
and in all of our schools, we will still affirm all

395  
00:17:36.505 --> 00:17:37.845  
gender identities.

396  
00:17:38.795 --> 00:17:41.405  
Similarly, we remain committed to the values of diversity,

397  
00:17:41.585 --> 00:17:42.765  
equity, and inclusion,

398  
00:17:42.955 --> 00:17:44.805  
even while those values are under attack,

399  
00:17:44.995 --> 00:17:48.005  
because we want a public education system that works for all

400  
00:17:48.005 --> 00:17:51.685  
of our students and prepares them for the diverse, complex

401  
00:17:51.825 --> 00:17:54.445  
and ever-changing world they will inhabit as adults.

402  
00:17:55.235 --> 00:17:57.365  
This winter, we passed a Safe Schools resolution

403  
00:17:57.385 --> 00:18:00.205  
and we created a new policy that details how we will engage

404  
00:18:00.205 --> 00:18:02.285  
with law enforcement representatives outside

405  
00:18:02.285 --> 00:18:04.885

of our local police department, including ICE agents.

406

00:18:05.685 --> 00:18:07.365

I wanna say a special word of thanks here

407

00:18:07.445 --> 00:18:08.645

to our in-house legal team

408

00:18:09.265 --> 00:18:11.525

who trained all employees working at schools

409

00:18:11.665 --> 00:18:13.085

and on school buses, and how

410

00:18:13.085 --> 00:18:15.845

to respond if agents come asking for students and staff.

411

00:18:15.895 --> 00:18:19.445

Thank you. There are new challenges to grapple with as well.

412

00:18:19.475 --> 00:18:21.845

Like the Supreme Court's recent decision in Mahmud versus

413

00:18:21.845 --> 00:18:24.325

Taylor, which casts into doubt are students' ability

414

00:18:24.325 --> 00:18:27.165

to engage with a truly varied culturally rich

415

00:18:27.345 --> 00:18:28.805

and representative curriculum.

416

00:18:29.305 --> 00:18:32.085

The federal spending bill signed into law last week was

417

00:18:32.085 --> 00:18:34.765

slash funding for Medicaid, which provides health insurance

418

00:18:34.865 --> 00:18:37.485

to 37 million school aged children.

419  
00:18:37.945 --> 00:18:40.205  
It is the fourth largest source of federal revenue

420  
00:18:40.425 --> 00:18:41.645  
for school divisions in our country.

421  
00:18:42.235 --> 00:18:45.205  
It's hard to overstate the importance of Medicaid

422  
00:18:45.465 --> 00:18:47.165  
to serving students with disabilities,

423  
00:18:47.165 --> 00:18:49.805  
with mental health conditions and behavioral health needs.

424  
00:18:50.265 --> 00:18:53.245  
The new federal law also limits eligibility for snap,

425  
00:18:53.415 --> 00:18:56.445  
which provides food assistance for over 13 million children

426  
00:18:56.625 --> 00:18:57.965  
and makes kids automatically

427  
00:18:58.205 --> 00:18:59.285  
eligible for free meals at school.

428  
00:18:59.785 --> 00:19:02.085  
It significantly narrows the ways that students

429  
00:19:02.105 --> 00:19:04.805  
and their parents can access federal financial aid

430  
00:19:04.865 --> 00:19:06.045  
for a college education.

431  
00:19:07.025 --> 00:19:09.925  
For all of us who care deeply about our youngest community

432  
00:19:09.925 --> 00:19:11.565



members and wanna see them thrive,

433

00:19:11.655 --> 00:19:13.365

these are disturbing developments.

434

00:19:13.905 --> 00:19:15.485

It feels more important than ever

435

00:19:15.585 --> 00:19:19.605

to live out our core values, which are excellence, equity,

436

00:19:19.625 --> 00:19:24.085

and inclusion, relationships, integrity, stewardship,

437

00:19:24.515 --> 00:19:25.565

valuing our staff,

438

00:19:25.705 --> 00:19:28.805

and providing a world class whole child education

439

00:19:28.825 --> 00:19:31.365

to every young person we welcome into our schools.

440

00:19:32.485 --> 00:19:35.005

I look forward to living that out with my colleagues

441

00:19:35.025 --> 00:19:36.125

for the remainder of my term.

442

00:19:36.335 --> 00:19:37.335

Thank you.

443

00:19:46.285 --> 00:19:48.595

Thank you, Ms. Guera. Uh,

444

00:19:49.095 --> 00:19:51.195

Ms. Turner, thank you.

445

00:19:51.555 --> 00:19:54.715

I was, uh, I was told to be brief, so thanks

446  
00:19:54.715 --> 00:19:56.395  
for finally playing to my strengths guys.

447  
00:19:58.575 --> 00:20:01.435  
Um, I I'm gonna comment only on our outgoing chair

448  
00:20:01.435 --> 00:20:02.435  
and our incoming chair.

449  
00:20:02.695 --> 00:20:05.115  
Um, I get to talk about Mary last year too,

450  
00:20:06.015 --> 00:20:08.235  
and this year I get to thank her for her leadership.

451  
00:20:08.855 --> 00:20:11.275  
Um, Mary has led us this year with determination

452  
00:20:11.275 --> 00:20:13.875  
and through adversity with grace and poise

453  
00:20:13.875 --> 00:20:15.275  
and strength that I couldn't match.

454  
00:20:15.975 --> 00:20:18.475  
She set goals for this year, adjusted courses needed,

455  
00:20:18.495 --> 00:20:20.315  
and made meaningful progress in key areas.

456  
00:20:20.575 --> 00:20:22.115  
We have a robust audit function.

457  
00:20:22.255 --> 00:20:24.155  
We are on a sustainable budget path.

458  
00:20:24.455 --> 00:20:25.835  
We developed a cell phone policy

459  
00:20:25.895 --> 00:20:28.795

and are taking a harder look at EdTech as a board.

460

00:20:28.805 --> 00:20:30.795

We're working on how to define our own goals

461

00:20:30.935 --> 00:20:32.075

and evaluate ourselves,

462

00:20:32.615 --> 00:20:35.515

and Mary has considered continued to set the standard

463

00:20:35.935 --> 00:20:37.955

for responsiveness and communication.

464

00:20:38.745 --> 00:20:40.395

This has been a good year, thank you

465

00:20:42.935 --> 00:20:43.995

to our new leader, Bethany.

466

00:20:44.755 --> 00:20:47.115

I don't even know if it qualifies as a running joke anymore,

467

00:20:47.665 --> 00:20:49.205

uh, or just a baseline reality.

468

00:20:49.675 --> 00:20:51.605

Bethany and I don't always see eye to eye,

469

00:20:52.225 --> 00:20:55.565

but I don't know anyone else for whom that is so often true

470

00:20:55.565 --> 00:20:56.685

where we work as hard

471

00:20:56.905 --> 00:21:00.245

or as well together to find commonality, articulate

472

00:21:00.245 --> 00:21:02.085

and frame differences, and find ways around,

473

00:21:02.515 --> 00:21:03.605  
over and forward.

474

00:21:05.445 --> 00:21:07.245  
I said something last year along the lines of,

475

00:21:07.245 --> 00:21:09.285  
every time I talked to Bethany, I learned something new.

476

00:21:09.595 --> 00:21:11.645  
It's still true. It happened again last night.

477

00:21:12.105 --> 00:21:14.205  
It was not about the policies, though.

478

00:21:17.505 --> 00:21:18.925  
Strong working relationship

479

00:21:19.345 --> 00:21:21.685  
and learning something new every time are pretty good blocks

480

00:21:22.065 --> 00:21:23.645  
on which to build collaboration.

481

00:21:24.405 --> 00:21:26.445  
I look forward to working together in our new roles.

482

00:21:30.085 --> 00:21:33.235  
Thank you, Ms. Turner. Uh, Ms. Clark.

483

00:21:35.255 --> 00:21:37.915  
Um, so first,

484

00:21:38.115 --> 00:21:40.835  
I appreciate our county board colleagues being here,

485

00:21:40.845 --> 00:21:43.075  
which is probably the odd thing to start with,

486

00:21:43.695 --> 00:21:48.315

but I think it represents one of the most important aspects

487

00:21:48.315 --> 00:21:49.755

of being a School Board member,

488

00:21:50.205 --> 00:21:51.995

which is the art of collaboration.

489

00:21:53.375 --> 00:21:54.555

We are joined

490

00:21:54.615 --> 00:21:56.115

and aligned in our vision

491

00:21:56.535 --> 00:21:59.675

for having our school system be a truly strong school system

492

00:21:59.695 --> 00:22:02.995

for every, each of our 28,000 learners.

493

00:22:03.775 --> 00:22:07.355

And so I am grateful to see your support here today.

494

00:22:08.695 --> 00:22:11.435

Uh, to our outgoing chair, Mary Cadra.

495

00:22:11.505 --> 00:22:12.795

Mary and I are neighbors,

496

00:22:13.175 --> 00:22:17.755

and, um, I will not share the details of

497

00:22:17.755 --> 00:22:21.115

how we met, um, which was a very funny day.

498

00:22:21.775 --> 00:22:26.195

But, um, I, what I would like for you to know in listening

499

00:22:26.195 --> 00:22:30.275

to Mary's comments, we've done a tremendous amount of work,

500  
00:22:31.135 --> 00:22:33.875  
the five of us on top of full-time jobs,

501  
00:22:36.655 --> 00:22:39.155  
and Mary still finds the time to do outreach

502  
00:22:40.055 --> 00:22:43.835  
and meet with constituents, teachers,

503  
00:22:45.175 --> 00:22:47.345  
parents, families, and students.

504  
00:22:48.965 --> 00:22:52.105  
The capacity that Mary has in this role to give

505  
00:22:53.605 --> 00:22:54.625  
is simply amazing.

506  
00:22:55.365 --> 00:23:00.065  
And that means you have big fill shoes

507  
00:23:00.085 --> 00:23:02.385  
to fill there, but different, but different.

508  
00:23:03.485 --> 00:23:05.545  
Um, and so I have appreciated

509  
00:23:05.965 --> 00:23:07.425  
how Mary does things differently.

510  
00:23:08.525 --> 00:23:11.465  
Um, and I think the thing that I will miss most is,

511  
00:23:11.525 --> 00:23:13.105  
and I hope that you continue to do this,

512  
00:23:14.325 --> 00:23:17.625  
is send us all the things that you find interesting

513  
00:23:17.855 --> 00:23:22.745

because my email's full of Mary's,

514

00:23:22.925 --> 00:23:27.105

um, thoughts and, uh, um, articles

515

00:23:27.255 --> 00:23:29.185

that she finds interest in,

516

00:23:29.445 --> 00:23:32.345

and all of that helps us become better board members,

517

00:23:33.445 --> 00:23:34.465

um, to Bethany.

518

00:23:35.205 --> 00:23:39.945

She is an absolute trusted colleague on all things policy

519

00:23:40.045 --> 00:23:44.845

and SOP um, she's strategic in ways

520

00:23:45.235 --> 00:23:46.845

that, you know, I I'm an auditor.

521

00:23:47.045 --> 00:23:49.925

I thought I was pretty strategic, and I sit down next to her

522

00:23:50.145 --> 00:23:52.525

and I love watching her thought process

523

00:23:53.265 --> 00:23:55.005

as she's articulating her ideas

524

00:23:55.105 --> 00:23:56.285

and her vision for the board.

525

00:23:56.305 --> 00:23:57.765

She has incredibly strong vision,

526

00:23:58.785 --> 00:24:00.925

and as a new board member, I so appreciated

527

00:24:01.985 --> 00:24:03.405  
the practical advice

528

00:24:04.115 --> 00:24:06.805  
that you shared about being a board member

529

00:24:08.065 --> 00:24:09.805  
or her availability for questions

530

00:24:10.145 --> 00:24:13.125  
and just her overall commitment to getting this right.

531

00:24:14.905 --> 00:24:17.485  
Um, I'm gonna share some things about Ms. Turner

532

00:24:17.595 --> 00:24:18.765  
that you probably know

533

00:24:18.945 --> 00:24:20.645  
and that maybe some of you don't know.

534

00:24:21.395 --> 00:24:26.365  
Brandon demands excellence. Yeah, no, it's all good things.

535

00:24:27.035 --> 00:24:28.645  
Miranda demands excellence,

536

00:24:29.185 --> 00:24:32.245  
and there are people at times that can find

537

00:24:32.245 --> 00:24:33.445  
that to be threatening.

538

00:24:33.765 --> 00:24:36.485  
I find that to be one of the most remarkable traits

539

00:24:36.485 --> 00:24:40.365  
that you have, because it makes me be a better board member,

540

00:24:40.865 --> 00:24:42.525



but it makes our school system better

541

00:24:43.485 --> 00:24:45.655

because you don't leave people out

542

00:24:46.795 --> 00:24:51.015

and in, in a way that inclusion demands, thought processes

543

00:24:51.035 --> 00:24:54.215

of making sure voices are heard, you are looking

544

00:24:54.315 --> 00:24:58.115

for outcomes, and I appreciate that.

545

00:24:58.675 --> 00:25:00.555

I don't know that many people know

546

00:25:00.625 --> 00:25:03.555

that she's the sounding board behind the closed doors,

547

00:25:03.825 --> 00:25:06.035

demanding that we see better outcomes.

548

00:25:07.335 --> 00:25:09.595

Um, and I also go to her as a sounding board.

549

00:25:10.965 --> 00:25:12.475

She's an excellent thought partner

550

00:25:12.475 --> 00:25:13.915

because she will come at you

551

00:25:14.025 --> 00:25:16.115

with the alternative perspective,

552

00:25:17.495 --> 00:25:21.475

but together, like she shared with Bethany, they come,

553

00:25:21.535 --> 00:25:24.395

you know, that that approach works for us.

554

00:25:25.375 --> 00:25:29.275

And so I'm so looking forward to the next six months

555

00:25:29.545 --> 00:25:30.555

with, with you.

556

00:25:31.335 --> 00:25:32.995

Uh, we have a, we've done a lot of work.

557

00:25:33.815 --> 00:25:36.835

Um, there's a lot of work always, um,

558

00:25:36.855 --> 00:25:40.035

but I, I am so grateful to be on this journey with you.

559

00:25:42.965 --> 00:25:46.075

Thank you, Ms. Clark. Ms. Tapia Hadley,

560

00:25:46.325 --> 00:25:47.325

Thank you. Thank you. And first, congratulations

561

00:25:47.325 --> 00:25:48.595

to our,

562

00:25:48.895 --> 00:25:49.995

all of our colleagues here.

563

00:25:50.175 --> 00:25:53.355

Um, chair Cera, thank you for your servant leadership,

564

00:25:53.695 --> 00:25:56.075

and I'm so glad we, like Kathleen said, we continue

565

00:25:56.075 --> 00:26:00.275

to benefit from your, uh, insights and, and information

566

00:26:00.495 --> 00:26:01.715

and just curiosity,

567

00:26:02.215 --> 00:26:03.235

and we get to keep you

568

00:26:03.235 --> 00:26:05.075

for another few months on the board with us.

569

00:26:05.495 --> 00:26:08.795

You broke ground as a leader shaping our budget review

570

00:26:08.795 --> 00:26:10.795

process and making it unlike any other.

571

00:26:10.895 --> 00:26:13.355

In partnership with the superintendent and our, our staff

572

00:26:13.355 --> 00:26:15.995

and our team, it allowed us to think deeply

573

00:26:16.215 --> 00:26:19.555

and creatively to continue to align our resource allocation

574

00:26:19.555 --> 00:26:22.275

with our goals, prioritizing student achievement

575

00:26:22.335 --> 00:26:23.635

and staff compensation.

576

00:26:23.735 --> 00:26:26.035

So, um, it just wouldn't have happened,

577

00:26:26.155 --> 00:26:27.195

I think, without your leadership.

578

00:26:27.215 --> 00:26:29.115

So thank you for, for leading us down that path.

579

00:26:29.295 --> 00:26:31.435

You've been a thoughtful and compassionate

580

00:26:31.575 --> 00:26:34.155

and creative leader, and our board

581

00:26:34.215 --> 00:26:36.075

and a PS has been the better for it.

582

00:26:37.005 --> 00:26:39.595

Thank you for always being an effective listener, open

583

00:26:39.595 --> 00:26:42.635

to new ideas and, and thus an effective chair.

584

00:26:43.865 --> 00:26:46.845

And congratulations to our new chair and vice chair.

585

00:26:47.585 --> 00:26:51.125

Um, Bethany, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity

586

00:26:51.125 --> 00:26:53.645

to work closely with you the last few months, particularly

587

00:26:53.645 --> 00:26:55.325

through a partnership in the policy committee

588

00:26:56.065 --> 00:26:57.845

and generally as a trusted colleague.

589

00:26:58.685 --> 00:27:01.685

I think the best legacy a school board member can have is

590

00:27:01.685 --> 00:27:04.125

something that both you and Mary already have,

591

00:27:04.125 --> 00:27:07.325

which is a deep connection across our entire Arlington

592

00:27:07.325 --> 00:27:10.245

community and a PS and more importantly, the trust

593

00:27:10.245 --> 00:27:13.685

and appreciation of our constituents as elected leaders.

594

00:27:13.775 --> 00:27:15.925

Those connections lead us to make better

595

00:27:15.925 --> 00:27:17.925

and more informed decisions and,

596

00:27:18.065 --> 00:27:19.685

and help us ask the right questions.

597

00:27:20.465 --> 00:27:23.685

So, uh, and Ms. Turner, you have already made your mark

598

00:27:23.705 --> 00:27:26.165

as an a PS school board member achieving

599

00:27:26.175 --> 00:27:27.285

goals that you set out.

600

00:27:27.525 --> 00:27:28.965

I admire that strategic focus

601

00:27:29.065 --> 00:27:31.045

and look forward to continue to work closely with you

602

00:27:31.635 --> 00:27:33.845

this year to continue to support our students

603

00:27:33.845 --> 00:27:36.245

and to make our our schools as excellent as they can be.

604

00:27:36.825 --> 00:27:40.405

Um, I also have the privilege to have gotten to know all

605

00:27:40.405 --> 00:27:43.845

of these incredible leaders as, as friends,

606

00:27:43.985 --> 00:27:45.325

as women, as colleagues.

607

00:27:45.825 --> 00:27:48.565

Um, Ms. Turner's not only a fellow school board

608

00:27:48.565 --> 00:27:49.645  
member, she's my neighbor as well.

609

00:27:49.665 --> 00:27:52.525  
So I I, I get to see her more often with her kids,

610

00:27:52.525 --> 00:27:53.565  
with her family in the neighborhood.

611

00:27:54.145 --> 00:27:57.565  
And I just admire everyone at this table so much

612

00:27:57.565 --> 00:28:01.125  
because, as Kathleen alluded to, we're, we're all working

613

00:28:01.965 --> 00:28:04.525  
multiple full-time roles, balancing family,

614

00:28:04.955 --> 00:28:08.325  
balancing a number of obligations while also caring

615

00:28:08.325 --> 00:28:10.365  
passionately and deeply about this community

616

00:28:10.705 --> 00:28:11.885  
and making our schools better.

617

00:28:12.305 --> 00:28:15.325  
Um, and everyone here for in, in the a PS system.

618

00:28:15.865 --> 00:28:17.765  
So thank you so much for, for that.

619

00:28:17.795 --> 00:28:18.725  
It's, it's really is a

620

00:28:18.725 --> 00:28:19.845  
privilege to get to start with you all.

621

00:28:20.705 --> 00:28:23.805

And collectively, I think something sometimes not everyone

622

00:28:24.125 --> 00:28:25.605  
recognizes is here.

623

00:28:25.625 --> 00:28:26.845  
We have over a hundred years

624

00:28:26.845 --> 00:28:30.085  
of collective experience at this table, at this diocese.

625

00:28:30.145 --> 00:28:34.725  
We have two lawyers, two experts in education, two

626

00:28:34.765 --> 00:28:37.405  
who have led important programs for Fortune 500 companies.

627

00:28:37.785 --> 00:28:41.765  
And again, all of us parents doers, uh, working, uh,

628

00:28:42.185 --> 00:28:44.605  
you know, two experts in the education field and,

629

00:28:44.785 --> 00:28:47.285  
and all of us engaged in Arlington at large.

630

00:28:47.905 --> 00:28:52.565  
So as we start this new board year, um, I think, uh, I,

631

00:28:52.885 --> 00:28:55.645  
I look forward to the continuing excellent work we'll do,

632

00:28:56.145 --> 00:28:57.925  
and this year, really proud of what we've done.

633

00:28:57.925 --> 00:29:00.005  
We responded very quickly to help make schools safer

634

00:29:00.785 --> 00:29:02.605  
and continue to keep a focus on ensuring

635  
00:29:02.605 --> 00:29:03.925  
that schools are welcoming places.

636  
00:29:04.505 --> 00:29:05.725  
I'm proud of how a,

637  
00:29:05.825 --> 00:29:08.845  
how we engage a PS staff meaningfully inquisitively.

638  
00:29:09.465 --> 00:29:13.045  
Um, and I look forward to continuing to be both nimble

639  
00:29:13.665 --> 00:29:16.325  
as a board while keeping a view to the long term.

640  
00:29:17.335 --> 00:29:19.605  
While there are continuing challenges coming our way,

641  
00:29:19.785 --> 00:29:23.005  
be they fiscal social, as, um, as Ms.

642  
00:29:23.115 --> 00:29:25.205  
Cera already mentioned, we have to continue

643  
00:29:25.205 --> 00:29:26.965  
to keep our focus and our priority, which are our students

644  
00:29:26.965 --> 00:29:28.085  
and staff and our schools,

645  
00:29:28.705 --> 00:29:30.525  
and to keep the long view, to continue

646  
00:29:30.525 --> 00:29:32.805  
to build upon the great work that has already been done,

647  
00:29:33.025 --> 00:29:34.925  
not only this year, but prior to that as well,

648  
00:29:35.545 --> 00:29:36.765



and to meet the challenges

649

00:29:36.765 --> 00:29:38.485

that no doubt will be coming our way together.

650

00:29:38.615 --> 00:29:39.615

Thank you.

651

00:29:41.215 --> 00:29:42.565

Thank you, Ms. Tapia Hadley.

652

00:29:44.365 --> 00:29:46.645

I was gonna try to time Mary's comments

653

00:29:46.825 --> 00:29:49.125

and see, you know, which of us went longer,

654

00:29:49.305 --> 00:29:51.245

but it's gonna be, uh, this is, you know,

655

00:29:51.245 --> 00:29:53.565

we have a running joke up here about how long we speak.

656

00:29:53.705 --> 00:29:56.245

Um, I did this at home, it was seven minutes,

657

00:29:56.385 --> 00:29:58.565

so we'll see if I, if I can do this.

658

00:29:59.345 --> 00:30:00.405

Um, Ms.

659

00:30:00.405 --> 00:30:02.485

Cadera, I'm very grateful for the time

660

00:30:02.585 --> 00:30:05.565

and energy you devoted this past year to serving as chair.

661

00:30:06.425 --> 00:30:10.645

Um, as you opened your remarks, I, I have always felt

662  
00:30:10.645 --> 00:30:13.285  
that one of the hallmarks of, of your service has been

663  
00:30:13.285 --> 00:30:16.045  
to be strongly oriented to the voices

664  
00:30:16.225 --> 00:30:17.765  
and input of the community.

665  
00:30:18.265 --> 00:30:21.125  
Um, that was very evident during the budget process, uh,

666  
00:30:21.125 --> 00:30:23.125  
this past year, but in many other ways as well.

667  
00:30:23.665 --> 00:30:26.365  
Um, I appreciate what you've done to

668  
00:30:26.955 --> 00:30:28.605  
elevate community engagement

669  
00:30:28.605 --> 00:30:30.005  
with the work of the school board.

670  
00:30:30.465 --> 00:30:33.125  
Um, and I also wanna say you just have,

671  
00:30:34.145 --> 00:30:36.285  
and a terrific thought partner with me

672  
00:30:36.585 --> 00:30:37.805  
for several years now.

673  
00:30:37.985 --> 00:30:41.205  
Um, many, many deep

674  
00:30:41.345 --> 00:30:43.365  
and expansive conversations, um,

675  
00:30:43.665 --> 00:30:46.125

and it's been, uh, it's been a joy to have that.

676

00:30:46.345 --> 00:30:48.445

Um, there will be more to say in December.

677

00:30:48.665 --> 00:30:51.525

So, um, I will simply say thank you, uh, for now.

678

00:30:52.465 --> 00:30:57.165

Um, as I begin my remarks, I wanna acknowledge a few folks.

679

00:30:57.185 --> 00:30:59.845

So we're here this morning. Um, unfortunately, my daughter,

680

00:30:59.995 --> 00:31:02.285

Kara, who is a rising junior at Wakefield High School,

681

00:31:02.345 --> 00:31:05.445

is unable to be here as she's employed this month

682

00:31:05.625 --> 00:31:06.685

as a camp counselor.

683

00:31:07.385 --> 00:31:08.965

Yes. Thumbs up, right?

684

00:31:10.465 --> 00:31:13.085

Um, my older child, Luna is here.

685

00:31:13.235 --> 00:31:15.365

Luna, can you stand up for a moment?

686

00:31:22.105 --> 00:31:25.805

Uh, Luna is a, a, a product of a PS from kindergarten

687

00:31:25.805 --> 00:31:27.045

through, uh, 12th grade,

688

00:31:27.225 --> 00:31:30.205

and is a, uh, rising, uh, sophomore,

689

00:31:30.205 --> 00:31:32.365

second year student at Dickinson College.

690

00:31:33.025 --> 00:31:37.045

Um, I am sure that my late husband, Ben, is here in spirit.

691

00:31:37.945 --> 00:31:40.685

Uh, and I believe some family members may be watching online

692

00:31:40.785 --> 00:31:43.405

and in the audience are a number of friends

693

00:31:43.465 --> 00:31:45.565

who have been thought partners and supporters,

694

00:31:45.665 --> 00:31:48.845

and, uh, many of whom have taken turns, um,

695

00:31:49.115 --> 00:31:52.925

driving my children places, uh, while I have been here.

696

00:31:53.225 --> 00:31:56.565

Um, so a a big round of applause to all of you.

697

00:31:56.565 --> 00:31:57.645

They're all sitting in the back.

698

00:32:05.105 --> 00:32:07.085

Uh, okay. I appreciate, uh,

699

00:32:07.085 --> 00:32:09.365

very much having our county board colleagues, um,

700

00:32:09.465 --> 00:32:11.125

and our county manager here this morning.

701

00:32:11.125 --> 00:32:12.485

Thank you so much for coming.

702

00:32:13.185 --> 00:32:15.605

Um, I wanna talk for a few minutes about

703

00:32:16.545 --> 00:32:18.725

the larger environment in which we are

704

00:32:19.485 --> 00:32:22.525

carrying out public education in Virginia and in the nation.

705

00:32:22.585 --> 00:32:23.725

And I, I wanna speak to

706

00:32:23.725 --> 00:32:27.445

what a PS will be doing in the coming year, uh, with regard

707

00:32:27.445 --> 00:32:28.485

to our strategic goals

708

00:32:28.505 --> 00:32:30.245

and the needs of our system and our students.

709

00:32:30.865 --> 00:32:32.885

And finally, I'll share a few thoughts about

710

00:32:32.985 --> 00:32:35.085

how the school board can best provide

711

00:32:35.085 --> 00:32:36.445

leadership in the coming year.

712

00:32:39.465 --> 00:32:42.805

It is no secret that public education in Virginia has faced

713

00:32:42.875 --> 00:32:45.685

significant, significant challenges in recent years.

714

00:32:46.825 --> 00:32:50.445

The commonwealth woefully underfunds a PS,

715

00:32:50.945 --> 00:32:53.445

and we are burdened with expectations, requirements,

716

00:32:53.445 --> 00:32:56.565

and rules, some of which are in conflict with our values,

717

00:32:56.745 --> 00:33:01.205

and some of which serve to perpetuate inequitable outcomes

718

00:33:02.035 --> 00:33:05.085

that plague K 12 education across the country.

719

00:33:05.345 --> 00:33:09.645

And here in Arlington, a number of priorities

720

00:33:09.865 --> 00:33:12.245

of the current federal administration related

721

00:33:12.245 --> 00:33:16.125

to public education also are not aligned with our values,

722

00:33:16.425 --> 00:33:19.805

and we face losing critical resources in the coming year.

723

00:33:20.925 --> 00:33:22.165

I believe it is not a question

724

00:33:22.385 --> 00:33:24.125

of whether we will lose funding,

725

00:33:24.185 --> 00:33:27.325

but when the funding we will lose,

726

00:33:27.385 --> 00:33:29.645

likely will cut directly into our work

727

00:33:29.665 --> 00:33:31.205

to support educational outcomes

728

00:33:31.225 --> 00:33:32.725

for our most vulnerable students,

729

00:33:33.825 --> 00:33:35.685

we will have a difficult job to do

730

00:33:36.105 --> 00:33:37.965

and decisions to make in the coming year

731

00:33:37.985 --> 00:33:40.205

to maintain our commitments to equity

732

00:33:40.665 --> 00:33:42.325

and meeting the needs of every student.

733

00:33:44.985 --> 00:33:47.255

Since January, actions

734

00:33:47.255 --> 00:33:49.575

of the federal government have created tremendous

735

00:33:49.885 --> 00:33:53.415

uncertainty and anxiety across many communities.

736

00:33:54.855 --> 00:33:59.035

I have found it painful to watch the dehumanizing of

737

00:33:59.095 --> 00:34:01.475

so many, including federal workers,

738

00:34:02.515 --> 00:34:05.755

economically disadvantaged families, senior citizens,

739

00:34:06.375 --> 00:34:07.475

our friends and neighbors

740

00:34:07.535 --> 00:34:09.035

who have joined us from other countries,

741

00:34:09.495 --> 00:34:12.315

and the members of our LGBTQ plus community.

742

00:34:13.995 --> 00:34:15.955

I see a retrenchment of a society

743

00:34:15.985 --> 00:34:18.435  
that assigns hierarchy to human value.

744

00:34:20.255 --> 00:34:23.775  
I also see a systematic retreat from a country that values

745

00:34:23.875 --> 00:34:26.815  
and cares for all to one that advances the wealth

746

00:34:26.835 --> 00:34:27.855  
and power of a few.

747

00:34:30.955 --> 00:34:34.075  
A PS has the opportunity

748

00:34:34.175 --> 00:34:37.755  
to stand up in the face of unprecedented challenges

749

00:34:37.755 --> 00:34:40.795  
to public education, including the disinvestment in

750

00:34:40.795 --> 00:34:42.235  
communities with the greatest needs.

751

00:34:43.335 --> 00:34:46.795  
We have the gift of being a tremendously strong

752

00:34:47.255 --> 00:34:48.915  
and highly regarded system

753

00:34:50.375 --> 00:34:52.075  
in our region and across the state.

754

00:34:52.575 --> 00:34:56.275  
We are a leader in, in providing high quality education,

755

00:34:56.785 --> 00:34:58.515  
employing a talented workforce,

756

00:34:59.175 --> 00:35:00.795



and carrying out with a high level

757

00:35:00.795 --> 00:35:02.995

of quality the operations of our system.

758

00:35:03.525 --> 00:35:06.915

Great. I remain deeply committed to our mission

759

00:35:07.375 --> 00:35:10.955

of holistically serving the full range of needs of all

760

00:35:10.955 --> 00:35:13.595

of our students and supporting our employees

761

00:35:13.735 --> 00:35:15.795

as the valuable professionals that they are.

762

00:35:18.155 --> 00:35:21.335

In the coming year. A PS will continue to pursue goals

763

00:35:21.335 --> 00:35:23.855

and strategies as outlined in our strategic plan.

764

00:35:24.525 --> 00:35:26.695

This includes considering boundary changes

765

00:35:26.995 --> 00:35:29.535

to better align school school capacity

766

00:35:29.535 --> 00:35:31.415

with Arlington's public population.

767

00:35:32.115 --> 00:35:34.975

We will engage in the ongoing renewal of our buildings

768

00:35:34.975 --> 00:35:37.310

through major and minor facilities updates,

769

00:35:37.310 --> 00:35:40.525

and we will consider significant facilities renovations.

770  
00:35:41.665 --> 00:35:44.845  
We will approve our next CIP, achieve a balanced budget

771  
00:35:45.305 --> 00:35:49.045  
for FY 27, and work intensively on policies

772  
00:35:49.065 --> 00:35:51.125  
and policy implementation procedures

773  
00:35:51.265 --> 00:35:53.405  
for the overall improvement of our school system.

774  
00:35:55.845 --> 00:36:00.065  
We will do our best work together across our system

775  
00:36:00.605 --> 00:36:04.425  
if we operate in a culture of trust, stability,

776  
00:36:04.845 --> 00:36:06.865  
professionalism, and clarity.

777  
00:36:09.005 --> 00:36:12.185  
We also will do our best work together if we focus on a

778  
00:36:12.185 --> 00:36:14.745  
shared understanding that the best outcomes

779  
00:36:14.885 --> 00:36:17.625  
for students will only come under the right conditions.

780  
00:36:19.075 --> 00:36:22.865  
Continuing to address absenteeism, bullying,

781  
00:36:22.915 --> 00:36:25.905  
behavioral challenge and suspensions is critical.

782  
00:36:27.245 --> 00:36:29.705  
Our energy must be focused on creating an environment

783  
00:36:29.705 --> 00:36:32.825

where both students and staff feel a sense of belonging.

784

00:36:33.355 --> 00:36:35.425

Where we are attentive to their wellbeing

785

00:36:35.885 --> 00:36:37.825

and where they feel supported in their

786

00:36:37.825 --> 00:36:39.025

efforts to do their best.

787

00:36:40.605 --> 00:36:43.785

We need to remember that our facilities are both student

788

00:36:43.985 --> 00:36:46.545

learning environments and the workspaces of our staff.

789

00:36:47.885 --> 00:36:51.105

Our attention to the conditions that yield the best outcomes

790

00:36:51.125 --> 00:36:54.585

for students must be grounded also in awareness

791

00:36:55.245 --> 00:36:58.945

of the disparate outcomes we continue to see among students

792

00:36:58.945 --> 00:37:00.905

with disabilities, English learners,

793

00:37:01.325 --> 00:37:03.825

and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds

794

00:37:07.715 --> 00:37:09.855

to, to achieve our goals.

795

00:37:10.405 --> 00:37:14.415

It's the school board's responsibility to provide stability,

796

00:37:15.365 --> 00:37:17.015

calm, and thoughtful leadership,

797

00:37:17.395 --> 00:37:19.695  
and proactive planning and engagement.

798

00:37:21.055 --> 00:37:23.615  
I feel the school board's primary areas of focus

799

00:37:23.675 --> 00:37:26.775  
for this coming year should include partnering

800

00:37:26.775 --> 00:37:28.295  
with the superintendent and leadership

801

00:37:28.355 --> 00:37:29.935  
to advance our strategic goals

802

00:37:30.095 --> 00:37:33.355  
and priorities, providing policies

803

00:37:33.825 --> 00:37:37.395  
that enable leaders in both the central office

804

00:37:37.615 --> 00:37:40.595  
and in our schools and programs to problem solve

805

00:37:41.015 --> 00:37:45.595  
and address issues, listening to teachers, principals,

806

00:37:45.605 --> 00:37:48.355  
staff, parents, and community members, so that their input

807

00:37:48.355 --> 00:37:51.955  
and perspective perspectives inform our decisions.

808

00:37:53.725 --> 00:37:57.275  
Monitoring critical areas using our audits and the reports

809

00:37:57.635 --> 00:38:00.035  
provided by staff on areas such as academic outcomes,

810

00:38:00.045 --> 00:38:02.875

enrollment projections, facilities, capacity

811

00:38:02.875 --> 00:38:04.635

and utilization, safety and security

812

00:38:04.635 --> 00:38:08.675

and human resources standing up

813

00:38:09.255 --> 00:38:12.915

as leaders in the community, creating a culture of trust

814

00:38:13.415 --> 00:38:16.475

and conducting our work with clarity for everyone

815

00:38:16.475 --> 00:38:19.315

to understand what we're doing and why we're doing it.

816

00:38:21.055 --> 00:38:22.835

And finally, I believe the school board needs

817

00:38:22.835 --> 00:38:26.995

to focus in the coming year on maintaining our unwavering

818

00:38:26.995 --> 00:38:29.115

commitment to marginalized populations

819

00:38:29.255 --> 00:38:33.155

by proactively engaging with them, attending to their needs,

820

00:38:33.815 --> 00:38:36.045

and advocating for them at all levels.

821

00:38:36.195 --> 00:38:38.365

From the classroom to the State House,

822

00:38:38.425 --> 00:38:39.685

to the federal administration.

823

00:38:41.545 --> 00:38:45.605

We should center the students with the highest level of need

824  
00:38:45.605 --> 00:38:49.525  
because what will serve them well will serve everyone well.

825  
00:38:51.815 --> 00:38:53.845  
Thank you Dr. Duran, for your leadership.

826  
00:38:54.065 --> 00:38:56.805  
And thank you colleagues for your support and partnership.

827  
00:38:57.265 --> 00:39:00.125  
Uh, thank you to everyone here this morning, uh, and online.

828  
00:39:00.865 --> 00:39:03.765  
Um, I'm honored and humbled to serve as chair,

829  
00:39:03.825 --> 00:39:07.005  
and I look forward to working collaboratively with families,

830  
00:39:07.325 --> 00:39:10.205  
educators, and our broader community to advance the success

831  
00:39:10.345 --> 00:39:12.325  
of every student in Arlington.

832  
00:39:21.265 --> 00:39:22.805  
Dr. Duran, would you like to make some comments?

833  
00:39:23.115 --> 00:39:24.925  
Well, thank you. First of all, good morning

834  
00:39:24.985 --> 00:39:26.245  
to everyone who's here with us today.

835  
00:39:26.365 --> 00:39:29.685  
I wanna first start by extending my appreciation to Ms.

836  
00:39:29.915 --> 00:39:32.205  
Cera for your work that you've done working closely

837  
00:39:32.275 --> 00:39:34.045

with me this year as our school board chair.

838

00:39:34.795 --> 00:39:38.045

What I want to call out for the community is your compassion

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00:39:38.045 --> 00:39:40.405

and care for our community, our students, and our staff.

840

00:39:40.985 --> 00:39:43.205

And that is a commitment that both you and I share

841

00:39:43.225 --> 00:39:44.565

and we valued, uh,

842

00:39:44.565 --> 00:39:46.405

working together on the commonality of that.

843

00:39:46.745 --> 00:39:49.605

You've been a strong advocate for protecting the rights

844

00:39:49.605 --> 00:39:52.245

of every student and family to the work we did this year

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00:39:52.535 --> 00:39:55.805

where we had to pivot in in January to go even further.

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00:39:55.905 --> 00:39:58.005

But before that, regardless of the changes

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00:39:58.005 --> 00:39:59.525

that occurred in January, we were

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00:39:59.525 --> 00:40:01.125

already strongly focused on that.

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00:40:01.145 --> 00:40:04.165

And you were, you were very strong in that pursuit.

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00:40:04.805 --> 00:40:05.805

I also wanna recognize

851  
00:40:05.825 --> 00:40:08.325  
how you really have focused on community engagement.

852  
00:40:08.785 --> 00:40:11.285  
Um, you have been relentless in your efforts to ensure

853  
00:40:11.285 --> 00:40:13.565  
that all voices in our community were heard.

854  
00:40:13.715 --> 00:40:15.805  
Whether that came to you at a board meeting,

855  
00:40:16.125 --> 00:40:18.085  
speaking an email, office hours

856  
00:40:18.225 --> 00:40:20.965  
or just comments that you heard, you always made sure

857  
00:40:20.965 --> 00:40:23.285  
that we addressed that, whether you agreed with it

858  
00:40:23.285 --> 00:40:25.765  
or not, you wanted us to listen and understand.

859  
00:40:25.865 --> 00:40:27.165  
And so thank you for that

860  
00:40:27.345 --> 00:40:29.325  
and for helping all of us be better at listening

861  
00:40:29.325 --> 00:40:31.485  
to our voices in our community to make sure

862  
00:40:31.485 --> 00:40:32.605  
that even when there are voice,

863  
00:40:32.605 --> 00:40:34.685  
that maybe something is shared that's not accurate,

864  
00:40:34.715 --> 00:40:37.725



that we've make sure we, um, address the inaccuracy

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00:40:37.905 --> 00:40:40.085

and if it was that we could put new policies in place

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00:40:40.185 --> 00:40:41.445

or something to address it.

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00:40:41.445 --> 00:40:44.245

So I really appreciated that as, uh, our chair,

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00:40:44.245 --> 00:40:46.805

that you helped all of us appear to go in that way.

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00:40:46.865 --> 00:40:49.285

So thank you again for your work, and I guess be Ms.

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00:40:49.285 --> 00:40:51.005

Zucker Sutton said we'll share more in December.

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00:40:51.545 --> 00:40:54.125

Uh, congratulations to our new school board chair, Ms.

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00:40:54.305 --> 00:40:57.325

Zucker Sutton. I really look forward to working together

873

00:40:57.325 --> 00:40:59.125

with you to strengthen the opportunities

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00:40:59.225 --> 00:41:00.485

and outcomes for every student.

875

00:41:01.065 --> 00:41:02.285

Uh, you and I share.

876

00:41:02.465 --> 00:41:04.765

And I remember meeting you, the first time I met you was

877

00:41:04.765 --> 00:41:07.685

during the pandemic at Randolph, when you were out, uh,

878

00:41:07.685 --> 00:41:09.445  
working at the food bank and getting all,

879

00:41:09.445 --> 00:41:11.125  
and you brought, you didn't know who I was at first,

880

00:41:11.325 --> 00:41:13.525  
I don't think, and you, I thought I was a volunteer

881

00:41:13.525 --> 00:41:15.045  
and you put me to work, and then you realize,

882

00:41:15.105 --> 00:41:16.165  
oh, you're this new superintendent.

883

00:41:16.185 --> 00:41:17.885  
I'm sorry, I'm sorry. But that didn't matter to you

884

00:41:17.885 --> 00:41:20.325  
because you were focused on what was at hand

885

00:41:20.325 --> 00:41:21.605  
to make sure our families got

886

00:41:21.605 --> 00:41:23.525  
what they needed since that day.

887

00:41:23.635 --> 00:41:27.285  
Then later on, working as the chair of A CTL, you continue

888

00:41:27.285 --> 00:41:30.125  
to always make sure what is the priority that needs

889

00:41:30.125 --> 00:41:33.405  
to get done As we think about the out, um, outcomes

890

00:41:33.465 --> 00:41:35.965  
and opportunities that we see, our challenges with regards

891

00:41:35.965 --> 00:41:37.845

to our students with disabilities, our English learners,

892

00:41:37.905 --> 00:41:40.285

our black and Latino student data that we're seeing,

893

00:41:40.425 --> 00:41:42.365

you have been a champion and a focus on that.

894

00:41:42.365 --> 00:41:45.205

And so I look forward to going deeper on how we'll support

895

00:41:45.205 --> 00:41:48.485

that Ms. Turner look forward to working with you.

896

00:41:48.785 --> 00:41:51.685

Um, you and I share many of the same priorities.

897

00:41:51.705 --> 00:41:53.365

We don't always agree how to get there,

898

00:41:53.365 --> 00:41:56.405

but what we do have is a very collaborative conversation

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00:41:56.475 --> 00:41:58.085

each and every time about

900

00:41:58.105 --> 00:42:01.285

how we can drive academic progress, the outcomes

901

00:42:01.285 --> 00:42:03.445

that are necessary, and how you challenge

902

00:42:03.465 --> 00:42:06.325

and push us to make sure we're using our resources in the

903

00:42:06.325 --> 00:42:09.565

most effective way, whether it's financially, uh,

904

00:42:09.695 --> 00:42:12.165

volunteers, community members, or our staff.

905

00:42:12.545 --> 00:42:13.805

And I know that working together,

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00:42:13.985 --> 00:42:15.125

we will continue to do that.

907

00:42:15.125 --> 00:42:17.485

And I appreciate your constant questioning

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00:42:17.545 --> 00:42:20.005

and your concern for what is the outcome,

909

00:42:20.035 --> 00:42:21.125

what are we getting from this,

910

00:42:21.425 --> 00:42:23.485

and are we using our resources in the right way?

911

00:42:24.145 --> 00:42:25.205

Um, I recently

912

00:42:25.525 --> 00:42:27.805

provided an end of the year report at our last board

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00:42:27.805 --> 00:42:29.845

meeting, which highlighted many of the strides

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00:42:29.995 --> 00:42:32.365

that our schools and our staff have made.

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00:42:32.365 --> 00:42:34.845

And I wanna give a big shout out to the amazing group

916

00:42:34.845 --> 00:42:37.645

of staff that we have in a PS who have

917

00:42:38.315 --> 00:42:41.245

once again shown many outcomes that are very,

918

00:42:41.245 --> 00:42:42.765

very positive for our community.

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00:42:43.185 --> 00:42:44.365

We also highlighted some

920

00:42:44.365 --> 00:42:46.165

of the challenges and the work ahead.

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00:42:46.435 --> 00:42:48.325

Some of them are our own internal challenges,

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00:42:48.345 --> 00:42:50.885

and some are the challenges that have been discussed today

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00:42:51.075 --> 00:42:52.605

with regards to the federal government

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00:42:52.605 --> 00:42:55.565

and our state that we have to all band together on.

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00:42:55.905 --> 00:42:58.525

And so as we start off the new year, we are looking

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00:42:58.665 --> 00:43:01.765

to kick off a new volunteer community outreach program,

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00:43:01.765 --> 00:43:04.045

which I'll hear more information about over the summer.

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00:43:04.345 --> 00:43:08.245

And I want to invite our community to join us in making sure

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00:43:08.245 --> 00:43:11.365

that we're doing all we can to not just stand up

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00:43:11.365 --> 00:43:13.645

for our students, but to really stand up for our community.

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00:43:14.025 --> 00:43:16.245

And with that in mind, I think our county board members

932  
00:43:16.265 --> 00:43:19.325  
who are here, who have been second to none in their support

933  
00:43:19.325 --> 00:43:21.925  
of public education, I have many superintendent colleagues

934  
00:43:21.925 --> 00:43:24.725  
around the commonwealth that I talk with regularly and,

935  
00:43:24.725 --> 00:43:26.285  
and across the nation through national

936  
00:43:26.285 --> 00:43:27.565  
groups that I belong to.

937  
00:43:27.625 --> 00:43:29.925  
And I can say without pause

938  
00:43:30.355 --> 00:43:33.365  
that we have a amazing group of individuals

939  
00:43:33.365 --> 00:43:35.845  
who are on our county board who understand the role

940  
00:43:35.845 --> 00:43:38.925  
of public education, that public schools are our community,

941  
00:43:38.945 --> 00:43:40.525  
and you are strong supporters

942  
00:43:40.705 --> 00:43:42.125  
of making sure that that happens.

943  
00:43:42.345 --> 00:43:45.885  
So thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Schwartz.

944  
00:43:46.065 --> 00:43:49.445  
Uh, my dear colleague who we talk every week, I want

945  
00:43:49.445 --> 00:43:51.285

to thank you for the partnership

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00:43:51.285 --> 00:43:53.445

and relationship we've developed over the last several years

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00:43:53.905 --> 00:43:57.045

to also stay focused on success of our community

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00:43:57.345 --> 00:43:59.045

and your, um, guidance.

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00:43:59.155 --> 00:44:01.645

Your advice and your support are something

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00:44:01.725 --> 00:44:04.845

that I cherish very much in this role in the year ahead.

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00:44:04.865 --> 00:44:06.565

We have a lot of areas to focus on,

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00:44:06.565 --> 00:44:08.205

whether it's using our data

953

00:44:08.625 --> 00:44:11.325

and our strategies more intently around

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00:44:11.385 --> 00:44:12.765

how we focus on reading

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00:44:12.765 --> 00:44:14.565

and math outcomes for some of our students

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00:44:14.635 --> 00:44:16.805

that are not seeing some of the successes we saw,

957

00:44:17.195 --> 00:44:20.885

whether it's how we continue to go deeper into strengthening

958

00:44:20.885 --> 00:44:22.885

and supporting our human resources department

959

00:44:23.145 --> 00:44:26.445

and ensuring that our staff feel heard, valued,

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00:44:26.445 --> 00:44:27.725

and listened to and supported.

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00:44:28.155 --> 00:44:30.605

Whether it's addressing the political

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00:44:30.625 --> 00:44:32.925

and fiscal challenges that we are going to have

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00:44:32.925 --> 00:44:35.725

to be talking more about in the upcoming year to ensure

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00:44:35.995 --> 00:44:38.525

that all of our students have the needs met

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00:44:38.715 --> 00:44:40.005

that are, they're entitled to.

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00:44:40.305 --> 00:44:43.205

And unfortunately, there are some, uh, at the federal level

967

00:44:43.225 --> 00:44:44.685

and at the state level who do not think

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00:44:44.685 --> 00:44:47.365

that all students belong in our school system, number one.

969

00:44:47.705 --> 00:44:49.125

And number two, that they all deserve

970

00:44:49.365 --> 00:44:50.565

the resources that they do.

971

00:44:50.825 --> 00:44:53.925

But I'm proud working with the board members at this dais,

972

00:44:54.145 --> 00:44:55.685



our county board members and the audience

973

00:44:55.795 --> 00:44:57.045

that we do not agree with that.

974

00:44:57.045 --> 00:44:59.205

And we are going to continue. It's not gonna be easy.

975

00:44:59.305 --> 00:45:02.685

It will be a challenge. Also, building on our successes.

976

00:45:02.745 --> 00:45:05.325

One area of still concern is chronic absenteeism.

977

00:45:05.785 --> 00:45:08.805

And that is where we need to implement new strategies.

978

00:45:08.805 --> 00:45:11.085

We need our community support, we need our volunteers,

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00:45:11.385 --> 00:45:13.365

and we need to go deeper looking at the data of

980

00:45:13.365 --> 00:45:15.645

what can be done if our students are not in school.

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00:45:15.645 --> 00:45:17.725

We have so much data we produce to show

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00:45:18.155 --> 00:45:21.925

that missing school means a lot of negative outcomes,

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00:45:22.105 --> 00:45:25.605

not just academic outcomes, mental health, in some cases,

984

00:45:25.795 --> 00:45:28.725

even outcomes for them not having access to food

985

00:45:28.745 --> 00:45:30.565

and resources that are not so necessary.

986  
00:45:31.585 --> 00:45:34.085  
So this is an area of challenge that we have not yet solved,

987  
00:45:34.105 --> 00:45:35.405  
but we've made progress on.

988  
00:45:35.505 --> 00:45:37.765  
And we must move forward more in thinking

989  
00:45:37.765 --> 00:45:39.205  
about collaboratively.

990  
00:45:39.205 --> 00:45:42.565  
What can we do to make sure all students feel safe to want

991  
00:45:42.565 --> 00:45:44.845  
to come to school, and also have the resources

992  
00:45:45.005 --> 00:45:46.645  
and strategies for their families

993  
00:45:46.645 --> 00:45:48.885  
who may have challenges getting them to school.

994  
00:45:49.875 --> 00:45:52.685  
Also, wanna think about our mental health work that we need

995  
00:45:52.685 --> 00:45:54.965  
to continue to do, whether it's the support

996  
00:45:55.025 --> 00:45:56.725  
around additional services

997  
00:45:57.025 --> 00:45:58.805  
or whether it's our afterschool programming

998  
00:45:58.805 --> 00:46:00.085  
that we are collaborating with the county.

999  
00:46:00.395 --> 00:46:03.165

This is an area that is a major concern to mind

1000

00:46:03.265 --> 00:46:05.165

as we see more and more students

1001

00:46:05.265 --> 00:46:07.205

and staff who need support in the

1002

00:46:07.205 --> 00:46:08.245

area of mental health services.

1003

00:46:08.665 --> 00:46:09.805

And so I want us to continue

1004

00:46:09.805 --> 00:46:11.205

to find ways to work through that.

1005

00:46:11.835 --> 00:46:14.645

Finally, how we strengthen our school safety,

1006

00:46:15.045 --> 00:46:16.365

security emergency responses.

1007

00:46:16.385 --> 00:46:19.045

Our community support in that area is so important.

1008

00:46:19.385 --> 00:46:21.845

But the training that we've had with our county government,

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00:46:21.945 --> 00:46:24.445

the support and partnership with our police department,

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00:46:24.455 --> 00:46:28.085

which I wanna recognize is an opportunity for us to continue

1011

00:46:28.085 --> 00:46:29.525

to celebrate, but to strengthen.

1012

00:46:29.865 --> 00:46:32.805

Uh, we have did a wonderful job this, uh, year,

1013  
00:46:32.805 --> 00:46:35.485  
as was commented by several board members about making sure

1014  
00:46:35.485 --> 00:46:37.485  
immigrant families felt safe and welcome.

1015  
00:46:37.865 --> 00:46:41.045  
We have many of our L-G-B-T-Q families who don't feel that

1016  
00:46:41.065 --> 00:46:42.525  
yet and need to feel some more support.

1017  
00:46:42.945 --> 00:46:44.565  
And so we have a lot of work to do in that area.

1018  
00:46:44.705 --> 00:46:47.685  
But working together with our county, working together

1019  
00:46:47.685 --> 00:46:49.685  
with our community, and working together with staff,

1020  
00:46:49.875 --> 00:46:51.845  
that is an area I want to accomplish this year.

1021  
00:46:52.865 --> 00:46:55.645  
And thinking in closing, as we think about the, uh,

1022  
00:46:55.965 --> 00:46:59.445  
challenges that we're have facing ahead of us, we know

1023  
00:46:59.445 --> 00:47:00.445  
that we can do it.

1024  
00:47:01.005 --> 00:47:02.965  
A PS is up to the task.

1025  
00:47:03.225 --> 00:47:05.405  
We are able to collectively come together.

1026  
00:47:05.865 --> 00:47:09.285

We have an outstanding group of staff who are committed

1027

00:47:09.985 --> 00:47:11.485

coming back each and every year.

1028

00:47:11.485 --> 00:47:13.885

We have a very high retention of our staff

1029

00:47:14.085 --> 00:47:15.925

'cause they are committed to our community.

1030

00:47:16.385 --> 00:47:17.445

We can make this work.

1031

00:47:17.875 --> 00:47:20.205

It's not gonna be easy, but we can do it together.

1032

00:47:21.065 --> 00:47:22.965

And I want to just remind all of us, again,

1033

00:47:22.965 --> 00:47:27.285

I've said it twice, public education is one way

1034

00:47:27.555 --> 00:47:30.125

that we can truly make a difference for this world.

1035

00:47:30.435 --> 00:47:34.165

There's so much that goes on turning on the news sometimes

1036

00:47:34.215 --> 00:47:35.605

where you feel overwhelming.

1037

00:47:36.035 --> 00:47:38.045

What can I do? What can I give?

1038

00:47:38.205 --> 00:47:39.885

I I don't, I feel helpless at times.

1039

00:47:40.085 --> 00:47:42.805

I I hear from many individuals, teachers, uh,

1040  
00:47:42.805 --> 00:47:45.565  
community members who are just really, really in a state of,

1041  
00:47:45.595 --> 00:47:46.605  
what can I do?

1042  
00:47:47.035 --> 00:47:49.445  
Well, one thing we can do is support our school system.

1043  
00:47:49.825 --> 00:47:52.405  
One thing we can do is develop the opportunity

1044  
00:47:52.465 --> 00:47:55.205  
for our students to be successful and remind

1045  
00:47:55.305 --> 00:47:58.285  
and show that public schools are the way that democracy

1046  
00:47:58.825 --> 00:48:02.085  
can survive, are the way that opportunities can be created,

1047  
00:48:02.545 --> 00:48:05.525  
are the way that doors can be opened for students

1048  
00:48:05.865 --> 00:48:07.765  
and for families and coming together.

1049  
00:48:07.835 --> 00:48:09.325  
This is a year more than any year.

1050  
00:48:09.685 --> 00:48:11.685  
I know a PS has been strong in supporting

1051  
00:48:11.685 --> 00:48:13.885  
what our motto says, every student counts,

1052  
00:48:14.105 --> 00:48:16.645  
but we really need to continue to double down in that area

1053  
00:48:16.915 --> 00:48:21.165

because public education is at focus

1054

00:48:21.345 --> 00:48:23.685

of many individuals wanting it to not be successful.

1055

00:48:24.345 --> 00:48:27.325

So with that, I wanna thank everyone who I know is going

1056

00:48:27.325 --> 00:48:29.045

to continue with this work with us,

1057

00:48:29.545 --> 00:48:31.645

and I know that together we can overcome

1058

00:48:31.705 --> 00:48:35.085

and we will overcome those obstacles because we are a PS.

1059

00:48:35.415 --> 00:48:36.415

Thank you.

1060

00:48:42.615 --> 00:48:43.645

Thank you Dr.

1061

00:48:43.655 --> 00:48:45.085

Deron, and thanks, uh, to all

1062

00:48:45.085 --> 00:48:46.205

of my colleagues for the comments.

1063

00:48:46.525 --> 00:48:50.165

I think we, I hope that you all can see, uh, an a high level

1064

00:48:50.185 --> 00:48:53.205

of dedication and, and, uh, enthusiasm and,

1065

00:48:53.345 --> 00:48:54.565

and preparation

1066

00:48:54.625 --> 00:48:56.645

to roll up our sleeves and do the work ahead.

1067  
00:48:57.225 --> 00:49:02.165  
Um, we, uh, continuing now through our, um, we said brief,

1068  
00:49:02.465 --> 00:49:03.805  
uh, this, this meeting.

1069  
00:49:03.805 --> 00:49:05.405  
We are now at consent. May I have a motion

1070  
00:49:05.425 --> 00:49:06.765  
to adopt the consent agenda?

1071  
00:49:08.125 --> 00:49:10.485  
I move to adopt the consent agenda. Is there a second?

1072  
00:49:11.545 --> 00:49:14.685  
Second. All in favor? Please say yes. Yes, yes.

1073  
00:49:15.265 --> 00:49:17.975  
Any opposed? Please say no. Motion passes.

1074  
00:49:18.635 --> 00:49:20.295  
Uh, five to zero.

1075  
00:49:21.095 --> 00:49:22.615  
I would like to announce that under consent,

1076  
00:49:22.635 --> 00:49:25.175  
the school board approved new appointments in various

1077  
00:49:25.615 --> 00:49:27.295  
positions at Arlington Public Schools

1078  
00:49:27.515 --> 00:49:29.695  
as displayed on this slide

1079  
00:49:30.795 --> 00:49:32.455  
to those new members of our community.

1080  
00:49:32.475 --> 00:49:33.815



We are so happy that you chose

1081

00:49:33.815 --> 00:49:35.255  
to work in Arlington Public Schools.

1082

00:49:35.675 --> 00:49:37.055  
We have every confidence

1083

00:49:37.205 --> 00:49:39.815  
that you will make a real contribution to our system.

1084

00:49:39.965 --> 00:49:41.455  
Welcome to a PS.

1085

00:49:42.875 --> 00:49:45.655  
In addition, the school board appointed Mr.

1086

00:49:45.785 --> 00:49:48.855  
Jorge Velas, Velas, excuse me, Velasquez,

1087

00:49:49.275 --> 00:49:51.495  
as the budget director, effective July 16.

1088

00:49:51.495 --> 00:49:52.855  
Mr. Velasquez is here.

1089

00:49:52.855 --> 00:49:54.255  
Would you like to join us at the podium?

1090

00:50:01.675 --> 00:50:03.615  
Mr. Velasquez brings over two decades

1091

00:50:03.835 --> 00:50:05.855  
of experience in public sector finance,

1092

00:50:05.855 --> 00:50:07.695  
international economic development,

1093

00:50:07.695 --> 00:50:09.335  
and strategic budget management.

1094

00:50:09.725 --> 00:50:10.975

Most recently, he has served

1095

00:50:10.995 --> 00:50:13.535

as the senior budget analyst in the Department of Finance.

1096

00:50:14.315 --> 00:50:17.175

Um, anything that you'd like to, to say,

1097

00:50:17.355 --> 00:50:19.175

uh, this, this morning? Yeah.

1098

00:50:19.435 --> 00:50:20.735

I'm, I'm truly honored

1099

00:50:20.835 --> 00:50:22.855

and grateful for the to be appointed

1100

00:50:22.955 --> 00:50:25.255

as a budget director for APAs.

1101

00:50:25.255 --> 00:50:28.765

Having served for these districts for over 14 years

1102

00:50:29.345 --> 00:50:31.845

in various financial roles, it is a privilege

1103

00:50:32.225 --> 00:50:34.485

to now step into this leadership position

1104

00:50:34.945 --> 00:50:37.085

and to continue supporting a school system

1105

00:50:37.155 --> 00:50:38.485

that I care about deeply.

1106

00:50:39.475 --> 00:50:41.525

Over the years, I have had the opportunity

1107

00:50:41.525 --> 00:50:43.405

to work alongside great analysts,

1108

00:50:43.895 --> 00:50:46.365

department leadership teams, cabinet members,

1109

00:50:46.905 --> 00:50:49.405

and of course, an outstanding budget director

1110

00:50:49.425 --> 00:50:50.685

in Tamika Love Miller.

1111

00:50:51.565 --> 00:50:54.445

Together we have navigated complex budget cycles,

1112

00:50:55.055 --> 00:50:57.565

align our resources with the strategic goal

1113

00:50:57.565 --> 00:51:01.005

of the school district and center equity, efficiency,

1114

00:51:01.005 --> 00:51:04.045

and transparency in our financial planning.

1115

00:51:04.825 --> 00:51:06.125

I'm proud of that work

1116

00:51:06.145 --> 00:51:08.445

and even more excited of what lies ahead.

1117

00:51:08.865 --> 00:51:09.885

As budget Director,

1118

00:51:10.005 --> 00:51:14.365

I will concentrate on building a collaborative data informed

1119

00:51:14.785 --> 00:51:16.765

and a student-centered budgeting process.

1120

00:51:17.845 --> 00:51:20.445

I look forward to working closely with the school board,

1121

00:51:21.145 --> 00:51:23.005  
the superintendent cabinets,

1122

00:51:23.345 --> 00:51:25.205  
and our school communities to ensure

1123

00:51:25.205 --> 00:51:29.005  
that every dollar we allocate supports our Sure mission,

1124

00:51:29.235 --> 00:51:32.045  
providing excellent equitable education

1125

00:51:32.105 --> 00:51:33.645  
for every a PS student.

1126

00:51:34.615 --> 00:51:36.245  
Thank you again to the superintendent

1127

00:51:36.265 --> 00:51:37.925  
and the school board for this

1128

00:51:37.925 --> 00:51:39.525  
opportunity and for your trust.

1129

00:51:39.525 --> 00:51:43.205  
Finally, I would like to acknowledge the presence

1130

00:51:43.265 --> 00:51:47.045  
and support of my wife, Maria, my kids, uh, Sebastian

1131

00:51:47.045 --> 00:51:49.125  
and Camilla, my mother-in-law, Clemencia

1132

00:51:49.585 --> 00:51:50.285  
and my parents,

1133

00:51:55.265 --> 00:51:57.085  
And also, and also my parents.

1134

00:51:57.375 --> 00:51:59.845

Jorge and Cecilia. I am lucky.

1135

00:52:00.065 --> 00:52:03.005

I'm very proud and happy to have the opportunity

1136

00:52:03.025 --> 00:52:04.525

to share this moment with them.

1137

00:52:04.985 --> 00:52:08.805

My parents were just happened to be here visiting the us.

1138

00:52:09.625 --> 00:52:12.565

Uh, they came here the last time they were here was seven

1139

00:52:12.565 --> 00:52:14.765

years ago, so by incident, they are here.

1140

00:52:14.865 --> 00:52:18.045

So I can share this moment with them as well. Thank you.

1141

00:52:18.655 --> 00:52:19.125

Thank you.

1142

00:52:22.545 --> 00:52:24.365

Congratulations on your new role.

1143

00:52:25.505 --> 00:52:27.005

Uh, the school board also appointed Mr.

1144

00:52:27.005 --> 00:52:30.005

Jeremy Spikes as the Assistant Director of the Department

1145

00:52:30.005 --> 00:52:31.765

of Finance, effective July 23rd.

1146

00:52:31.825 --> 00:52:33.405

Mr. Spikes, I think you are here,

1147

00:52:33.405 --> 00:52:35.645

and if you'd like to join us at the podium, Mr.

1148

00:52:35.785 --> 00:52:37.485

Spikes brings over 15 years

1149

00:52:37.505 --> 00:52:40.565

of progressive leadership experience in public budgeting,

1150

00:52:40.565 --> 00:52:42.525

capital planning, financial operations,

1151

00:52:42.525 --> 00:52:43.925

and strategic analysis.

1152

00:52:44.435 --> 00:52:47.045

Most recently, Mr. Spikes served as the budget officer

1153

00:52:47.305 --> 00:52:49.165

for the District of Columbia, office

1154

00:52:49.305 --> 00:52:50.885

of the Chief Financial Officer.

1155

00:52:51.545 --> 00:52:52.965

Mr. Spikes welcome. Would you like

1156

00:52:52.965 --> 00:52:54.045

to share any remarks with us?

1157

00:52:55.935 --> 00:52:58.175

Good morning everyone. Um, I'm truly honored

1158

00:52:58.315 --> 00:53:00.215

and excited to accept the position

1159

00:53:00.215 --> 00:53:01.735

of Assistant financial Director

1160

00:53:01.735 --> 00:53:02.855

for Arlington Public Schools.

1161

00:53:03.515 --> 00:53:05.895

Um, I want to express my sincere gratitude

1162

00:53:05.915 --> 00:53:07.335

for the trust you've placed in me.

1163

00:53:08.165 --> 00:53:10.335

It's a privilege to join a team so deeply committed

1164

00:53:10.335 --> 00:53:11.775

to the success and wellbeing

1165

00:53:11.835 --> 00:53:14.135

of every student in the school district.

1166

00:53:14.975 --> 00:53:17.575

I recognize the responsibility that comes with this role,

1167

00:53:17.785 --> 00:53:19.215

which is to ensure

1168

00:53:19.215 --> 00:53:21.535

that our financial decisions reflect our values,

1169

00:53:22.125 --> 00:53:23.375

support our educators,

1170

00:53:23.435 --> 00:53:25.285

and make every dollar count for the the students

1171

00:53:25.465 --> 00:53:26.565

and families we serve.

1172

00:53:27.525 --> 00:53:29.445

I look forward to collaborating with all of you

1173

00:53:29.985 --> 00:53:32.485

to build on this district's strong financial foundation,

1174

00:53:32.915 --> 00:53:34.565

support strategic initiatives,

1175  
00:53:35.025 --> 00:53:36.965  
and contribute to a fiscally responsible

1176  
00:53:36.985 --> 00:53:38.165  
and transparent process

1177  
00:53:38.555 --> 00:53:41.205  
that prioritizes equity and excellence.

1178  
00:53:41.655 --> 00:53:43.365  
Thank you again for this opportunity.

1179  
00:53:44.055 --> 00:53:45.565  
Thank you. Congratulations.

1180  
00:53:49.865 --> 00:53:51.165  
And the school board appointed Ms.

1181  
00:53:51.185 --> 00:53:53.725  
Brandy Ellard as the Assistant Director of the Office

1182  
00:53:53.725 --> 00:53:55.965  
of Safety, security, and Emergency Management,

1183  
00:53:55.965 --> 00:53:57.325  
effective August 1st, Ms.

1184  
00:53:57.525 --> 00:53:58.805  
Ellard, would you like to come join us

1185  
00:54:04.275 --> 00:54:06.485  
With more than 20 years of experience in safety,

1186  
00:54:06.595 --> 00:54:09.165  
emergency preparedness, and public safety operations?

1187  
00:54:09.225 --> 00:54:11.645  
Ms. Brandy Allard brings a deep commitment

1188  
00:54:11.645 --> 00:54:15.125



to protecting school communities through proactive planning,

1189

00:54:15.605 --> 00:54:17.765

strategic leadership, and cross-agency collaboration.

1190

00:54:18.035 --> 00:54:19.045

Most recently, Ms.

1191

00:54:19.045 --> 00:54:21.965

Allard served as Director of Emergency Management

1192

00:54:21.965 --> 00:54:24.565

and Safety at the University of Mary Washington.

1193

00:54:25.225 --> 00:54:27.445

Ms. Ard, would you like to say any remarks this morning?

1194

00:54:27.915 --> 00:54:29.445

Good morning. Thank you for having me today.

1195

00:54:29.445 --> 00:54:30.485

It's nice to meet you all.

1196

00:54:30.985 --> 00:54:33.725

Um, this is an exciting opportunity to be under Dr.

1197

00:54:33.725 --> 00:54:35.885

Duran's leadership and to work closely with Chief Graves

1198

00:54:35.885 --> 00:54:37.925

and Director Queen, uh, on

1199

00:54:38.565 --> 00:54:40.445

building upon the already robust programs

1200

00:54:40.445 --> 00:54:42.205

that you have in place in Arlington Public Schools.

1201

00:54:42.305 --> 00:54:43.765

And I look forward to working with all

1202

00:54:43.765 --> 00:54:45.485

of the stakeholders in and around Arlington.

1203

00:54:45.895 --> 00:54:48.125

Thank you. Thank you. Congratulations again.

1204

00:54:52.595 --> 00:54:54.965

Okay. I think there are some folks in the front row

1205

00:54:54.985 --> 00:54:56.165

who are gonna be excited here.

1206

00:54:56.905 --> 00:55:00.285

The school board appointed Dr. Megan Lynch as the principal

1207

00:55:00.285 --> 00:55:02.925

of Taylor Elementary School, effective July 16th.

1208

00:55:03.505 --> 00:55:05.245

Dr. Lynch, will you please join us

1209

00:55:13.065 --> 00:55:13.725

of Of course.

1210

00:55:13.725 --> 00:55:15.445

Anyone else is welcome to join us too.

1211

00:55:15.505 --> 00:55:20.485

If they would like to come up a little shy.

1212

00:55:20.985 --> 00:55:23.885

Dr. Lynch brings nearly two decades of education, of,

1213

00:55:23.905 --> 00:55:25.245

of experience as a committed

1214

00:55:25.245 --> 00:55:27.205

and student centered educational leader

1215

00:55:27.205 --> 00:55:28.485

through throughout her career,

1216

00:55:28.585 --> 00:55:30.845

she has focused on supporting multilingual learners

1217

00:55:30.905 --> 00:55:32.845

and promoting instructional excellence

1218

00:55:32.845 --> 00:55:34.045

across school communities.

1219

00:55:34.635 --> 00:55:36.405

Most recently, Dr. Lynch served

1220

00:55:36.425 --> 00:55:39.005

as assistant principal at Nottingham Elementary.

1221

00:55:39.585 --> 00:55:41.765

Dr. Lynch, do you have comments you'd like to share?

1222

00:55:42.155 --> 00:55:44.765

Sure, just a few. I'd like to thank the school board

1223

00:55:44.865 --> 00:55:45.965

and Dr. Duran

1224

00:55:45.965 --> 00:55:47.805

and his staff for the honor

1225

00:55:47.825 --> 00:55:49.285

of being appointed principal of Taylor.

1226

00:55:49.865 --> 00:55:53.085

Um, I'd also like to thank my Nottingham, uh, community,

1227

00:55:53.345 --> 00:55:55.405

my friends and my Nottingham family.

1228

00:55:55.985 --> 00:55:58.285

Uh, for the past seven years, it's been an honor

1229

00:55:58.345 --> 00:56:00.765  
to work alongside such a talented staff

1230

00:56:01.385 --> 00:56:04.445  
and I wanna thank, uh, Dr. Gardner, a friend

1231

00:56:04.505 --> 00:56:05.965  
and a mentor, uh,

1232

00:56:05.965 --> 00:56:07.845  
for her leadership over the past seven years.

1233

00:56:08.465 --> 00:56:11.245  
Um, special shout out to my family who's here with me today,

1234

00:56:11.985 --> 00:56:15.885  
and we're very supportive

1235

00:56:16.025 --> 00:56:17.205  
and, uh, encouraging.

1236

00:56:17.745 --> 00:56:19.845  
And finally, I'm looking forward to working

1237

00:56:19.845 --> 00:56:21.885  
with the Taylor community, getting to know them

1238

00:56:22.265 --> 00:56:24.965  
and to see the great work that they're doing firsthand.

1239

00:56:25.265 --> 00:56:26.685  
So thank you for this opportunity.

1240

00:56:27.375 --> 00:56:28.885  
Thank you. Congratulations.

1241

00:56:30.665 --> 00:56:32.885  
And lastly, the school board appointed Ms.

1242

00:56:32.885 --> 00:56:36.565

Mary Claire Mo Mole, um, as the assistant principal

1243

00:56:36.565 --> 00:56:38.885

of Campbell Elementary School, effective July 16th.

1244

00:56:38.905 --> 00:56:40.965

Ms. Moll, please join us at the podium.

1245

00:56:45.585 --> 00:56:48.045

Um, Ms. Moola brings over 18 years

1246

00:56:48.045 --> 00:56:49.245

of experience in education

1247

00:56:49.245 --> 00:56:51.845

with a strong background in literacy instruction,

1248

00:56:51.845 --> 00:56:54.245

instructional leadership, and family engagement.

1249

00:56:54.555 --> 00:56:55.645

Most recently, Ms.

1250

00:56:55.645 --> 00:56:57.445

Moley served as the reading specialist

1251

00:56:57.445 --> 00:57:00.565

and literacy coach at Abingdon Elementary School.

1252

00:57:01.095 --> 00:57:02.805

Would you like to share a few remarks with us?

1253

00:57:02.945 --> 00:57:05.085

Yes. Thank you. Um, I'd like to start

1254

00:57:05.105 --> 00:57:07.445

by thanking the school board and Dr. Duran

1255

00:57:07.545 --> 00:57:09.685

and Ms. Graves, um, and Ms.

1256  
00:57:09.685 --> 00:57:13.845  
Nestle Road. I am, um, very excited for this opportunity

1257  
00:57:14.345 --> 00:57:16.685  
to serve as assistant principal at Campbell.

1258  
00:57:17.465 --> 00:57:21.245  
Um, I have been here for 17 years in a PS

1259  
00:57:21.245 --> 00:57:22.565  
and it's not just where I work.

1260  
00:57:23.025 --> 00:57:25.805  
Um, it's where I've grown, where I've learned

1261  
00:57:25.905 --> 00:57:28.605  
and built lasting relationships with many colleagues,

1262  
00:57:29.365 --> 00:57:32.885  
families, other staff, and uh, students.

1263  
00:57:33.345 --> 00:57:35.085  
So I look forward to working at Campbell

1264  
00:57:35.545 --> 00:57:38.485  
and continuing to grow and, um, learn

1265  
00:57:38.745 --> 00:57:40.925  
and work together. Thank you.

1266  
00:57:41.335 --> 00:57:42.885  
Thank you. Congratulations.

1267  
00:57:46.445 --> 00:57:49.645  
Additionally, under consent, the board adopted the FY 2027

1268  
00:57:49.645 --> 00:57:50.885  
budget development calendar.

1269  
00:57:51.505 --> 00:57:53.805

The board approved the annual membership in the Virginia

1270

00:57:53.835 --> 00:57:56.605

High School League, purch our purchasing resolution

1271

00:57:56.625 --> 00:57:58.605

and the superintendent's salary adjustment.

1272

00:57:58.825 --> 00:58:01.565

Lastly, the board adopted revisions to school board policy

1273

00:58:02.085 --> 00:58:04.645

J dash 5.330 admissions.

1274

00:58:04.985 --> 00:58:07.405

The revisions to that policy include language

1275

00:58:07.405 --> 00:58:09.725

and reference updates, clarification of practices,

1276

00:58:09.725 --> 00:58:11.245

and better alignment with the Virginia Code.

1277

00:58:12.545 --> 00:58:15.245

The superintendent has approved the policy implementation

1278

00:58:15.485 --> 00:58:16.725

procedures related to this policy.

1279

00:58:16.725 --> 00:58:18.965

Accordingly, the revised policy will be

1280

00:58:18.965 --> 00:58:20.285

posted on board docs.

1281

00:58:21.345 --> 00:58:24.765

We are now at our announcements. I'm sorry.

1282

00:58:26.335 --> 00:58:27.485

We'll be quick. Okay.

1283  
00:58:28.305 --> 00:58:30.325  
Um, the, the board will hold the following meetings.

1284  
00:58:30.555 --> 00:58:33.925  
July 8th, a policy subcommittee meeting at 8:30 AM

1285  
00:58:33.925 --> 00:58:35.005  
in the board conference room.

1286  
00:58:35.475 --> 00:58:38.165  
July 24th, a closed meeting at 5:30 PM in the board

1287  
00:58:38.165 --> 00:58:40.405  
conference room July 24th,

1288  
00:58:40.825 --> 00:58:43.485  
school board meeting 7:00 PM in the board room.

1289  
00:58:44.235 --> 00:58:45.525  
Also like to remind our community

1290  
00:58:45.525 --> 00:58:47.805  
that the school board is accept accepting applications

1291  
00:58:47.825 --> 00:58:49.045  
for our advisory committees.

1292  
00:58:49.425 --> 00:58:52.205  
Please visit the a PS website for more information

1293  
00:58:52.225 --> 00:58:54.805  
and to learn how you can join, join a committee.

1294  
00:58:55.455 --> 00:58:59.425  
Board members, do you have any announcements? No.

1295  
00:58:59.885 --> 00:59:02.185  
Dr. Duran? No. Okay. Not to that.

1296  
00:59:02.685 --> 00:59:04.145



Uh, um,

1297

00:59:04.325 --> 00:59:07.225

we are now at public comment on agenda and non agenda items.

1298

00:59:07.385 --> 00:59:10.185

I would like to remind our community that public comment

1299

00:59:10.185 --> 00:59:12.105

during today's meeting and the July 24th

1300

00:59:12.165 --> 00:59:13.825

and August 7th school board meetings will

1301

00:59:13.825 --> 00:59:14.905

be limited to 30 minutes.

1302

00:59:15.205 --> 00:59:16.985

If there is a need to extend the comment period,

1303

00:59:17.045 --> 00:59:18.185

we will gladly reconsider

1304

00:59:18.205 --> 00:59:19.905

and adjust the time back to one hour.

1305

00:59:20.245 --> 00:59:22.605

Before we begin, I'm going to read some of the guidelines

1306

00:59:22.605 --> 00:59:24.845

for public comment because they are important to reiterate.

1307

00:59:25.465 --> 00:59:27.725

The Arlington School Board welcomes public comment at most

1308

00:59:27.725 --> 00:59:29.685

regular meetings and at board public hearings.

1309

00:59:29.705 --> 00:59:32.445

The school board expects that each speaker will be courteous

1310  
00:59:32.965 --> 00:59:34.645  
modeling for our students, how one can

1311  
00:59:34.645 --> 00:59:36.525  
respectfully disagree with others views.

1312  
00:59:37.265 --> 00:59:39.045  
The school board encourages speakers

1313  
00:59:39.045 --> 00:59:42.165  
to also provide their comments in writing by emailing them

1314  
00:59:42.185 --> 00:59:45.245  
to school board at APS va us.

1315  
00:59:45.635 --> 00:59:47.485  
Each speaker may speak for up to two minutes.

1316  
00:59:47.945 --> 00:59:50.405  
The clerk will start the timer when the speaker begins,

1317  
00:59:50.405 --> 00:59:52.205  
and the speakers should conclude their remarks.

1318  
00:59:52.205 --> 00:59:55.365  
When the buzzer sounds speaker substitutions are not

1319  
00:59:55.365 --> 00:59:57.365  
permitted, a speaker may not yield their time

1320  
00:59:57.505 --> 01:00:00.085  
to another individual before or during their remarks.

1321  
01:00:00.405 --> 01:00:02.085  
I believe we have one speaker today.

1322  
01:00:02.145 --> 01:00:04.405  
Ms. Mercado, will you please announce the speaker?

1323  
01:00:05.345 --> 01:00:06.485

Uh, major Webb

1324

01:00:27.175 --> 01:00:28.175

Goin Morgan.

1325

01:00:28.365 --> 01:00:29.545

And we please

1326

01:00:29.565 --> 01:00:32.065

and treat your indulgence for our rather colorful

1327

01:00:32.065 --> 01:00:34.545

and informal apparel as

1328

01:00:35.295 --> 01:00:37.145

like probably many in the summary season

1329

01:00:37.445 --> 01:00:39.905

and the comical Negro entertainer in the film.

1330

01:00:40.055 --> 01:00:41.265

Beverly Hills Cop.

1331

01:00:41.645 --> 01:00:45.105

We are on the vacation at all parents,

1332

01:00:45.205 --> 01:00:47.345

we send a postcard having a great time.

1333

01:00:47.455 --> 01:00:49.505

Wish you were here just yesterday.

1334

01:00:49.525 --> 01:00:51.945

We received a wonderful letter from the White House,

1335

01:00:52.765 --> 01:00:54.985

our defendant in court to let us know

1336

01:00:54.985 --> 01:00:56.225

that he needs more time and he's

1337

01:00:56.225 --> 01:00:57.305  
also doing wonderful things.

1338

01:00:59.085 --> 01:01:01.785  
Uh, but also on yesterday,

1339

01:01:01.785 --> 01:01:03.825  
we found ourselves in beautiful Norfolk.

1340

01:01:04.045 --> 01:01:07.985  
The first place of my Uncle Sam, who grew up as he says just

1341

01:01:07.985 --> 01:01:09.545  
above the scratch line, but went on

1342

01:01:09.545 --> 01:01:11.265  
to become the first Negro Board member

1343

01:01:11.265 --> 01:01:12.265  
of the Fort Boulder Company

1344

01:01:12.685 --> 01:01:14.745  
and president of Virginia Union University

1345

01:01:15.045 --> 01:01:16.345  
in HBCU in Richmond.

1346

01:01:17.005 --> 01:01:19.825  
All things are possible with a good education.

1347

01:01:20.765 --> 01:01:23.065  
We must agree. And his dear mother used

1348

01:01:23.065 --> 01:01:24.865  
to tell him each time he prepared to go out

1349

01:01:24.865 --> 01:01:26.625  
to begin some adolescent mischief.

1350

01:01:27.265 --> 01:01:31.025

Remember, you are a Proctor Samuel was not my biological

1351

01:01:31.465 --> 01:01:35.185

relation, and so while I cannot claim qual relation to

1352

01:01:35.215 --> 01:01:37.185

that familial lineage,

1353

01:01:37.595 --> 01:01:40.105

while attending the most competitive college in Virginia,

1354

01:01:40.625 --> 01:01:43.505

I did have the opportunity to serve as a proctor

1355

01:01:43.885 --> 01:01:44.905

for the SATs.

1356

01:01:46.045 --> 01:01:48.905

And most appropriate segue for this agenda item topic.

1357

01:01:48.905 --> 01:01:51.785

With respect to awarding appropriately past performance,

1358

01:01:52.075 --> 01:01:54.785

quite often the best predictor for future success

1359

01:01:55.245 --> 01:01:57.505

or in the alternative disparities and outcomes

1360

01:01:57.605 --> 01:02:00.385

and achievements, we are informed that in the public schools

1361

01:02:00.385 --> 01:02:03.025

with unparalleled per student expenditures,

1362

01:02:03.335 --> 01:02:06.185

finding only return on investment of being second best

1363

01:02:06.685 --> 01:02:08.825

as Indic year of efficiencies and effectiveness.

1364

01:02:08.845 --> 01:02:11.945

In this, uh, 13th largest division, some 35%

1365

01:02:12.005 --> 01:02:14.345

of our most diverse and inclusive public high school

1366

01:02:14.745 --> 01:02:16.665

students ranked ninth in the state.

1367

01:02:16.855 --> 01:02:21.405

Some 35% of those graduates cannot read, unacceptable,

1368

01:02:21.755 --> 01:02:22.765

call it elitist,

1369

01:02:22.765 --> 01:02:27.005

but my reading had been a prerequisite in aptitude

1370

01:02:27.505 --> 01:02:32.005

to just attend my high school. Thank you very much.

1371

01:02:32.215 --> 01:02:36.605

Thank you for your comments. The sign up to speak form

1372

01:02:36.665 --> 01:02:38.885

for the July 24th school board meeting will be posted

1373

01:02:38.885 --> 01:02:40.485

between between July 18th

1374

01:02:40.485 --> 01:02:45.025

and July 23rd at 4:00 PM It's a little anticlimactic.

1375

01:02:45.165 --> 01:02:48.505

Are we at? We are now at new business board members.

1376

01:02:48.605 --> 01:02:52.225

Is there any new business? Seeing none.

1377

01:02:52.225 --> 01:02:53.185

This meeting is adjourned.